
OVERVIEW OF ADULT SOCIAL CARE PORTFOLIO

Purpose of the Report

1. To inform and update Members on progress within Adult Services since the last meeting of Council. The following are the main areas of work under the Portfolio for Adult Social Care.

Strategic Commissioning

2. The Council and NHS partners have embarked upon a joint transformation programme of Intermediate Care Services in Darlington. Intermediate care is a multi-agency service which has a key focus on independence, prevention and timely intervention in the community to help avoid the development of greater health and social care needs.
3. This programme will build on the work undertaken by the Council during 2017-18 as part of the Adult Social Care Transformation Programme, which has resulted in an improved and strengthened re-ablement service. It also incorporates the findings of the review of Intermediate Care beds available within the Borough which was undertaken by the Darlington Clinical Commissioning Group during 2017-2018.
4. The joint Intermediate Care transformation programme will help deliver a key Darlington Health and Wellbeing Plan Priority for 2018/19 by providing support and rehabilitation to people who are at risk of hospital admission or who have been in hospital. It also aims to ensure that people transfer from hospital to the community in a timely manner and to prevent unnecessary admissions to hospitals and residential care.

Operational Services

5. Winter can be a challenging period for Adult Services as it is often associated with increased demand for health and social care services. Officers have been, and continue to work closely with health partners to prepare for potential 'winter pressures', to ensure that, wherever possible, people are discharged in a timely way and are supported at home. Performance relating to Delayed Transfers of Care remains positive for the Darlington system (Social Care and NHS). The latest official data relates to August 2018 which showed 133 days delayed for the system against a target of no more than 171 days.

6. Two Darlington social workers have been successful in being shortlisted for the Social Worker of the Year award, one being from Adult Services, who is a finalist for Mental Health Social Worker of the Year. These national awards recognise the success of the profession's most innovative social workers, and is the leading celebration of its kind in the sector. The awards ceremony is on 30 November, 2018, when the winners will be announced.
7. Work continues to further embed strengths based practice, and staff have been engaged in a series of developmental workshops to further support their knowledge and skills. Strength based practice looks first at how people can achieve their aspirations by using their skills and resources. This is key to promoting well-being, maximising independence and promoting self-worth.
8. We celebrated the achievement and commitment to public service throughout the Directorate, and were pleased to note that one of our longest serving members of staff has worked in Darlington for 40 years, with all of that time being in adult social care. This will be featured in an upcoming article in our newsletter.
9. In October, our in house Reablement and Supported Living services received an inspection from the Care Quality Commission (CQC). I am very pleased to report that we have achieved an overall rating of 'Good'; with 'Good' being achieved in each of the individual categories relating to Safe, Effective, Caring, Responsive and Well-led services. This means that the service has retained a 'Good' rating since the last inspection in July 2016, which demonstrates our commitment to maintaining good quality services for the most vulnerable people in Darlington.

Safeguarding Adults Partnership Board

10. The Board met on 4 October 2018 and endorsed the Safeguarding Adult Partnership Board's (SAPB) 2017-18 Annual Report. The report has been shared with the Leader and Managing Director of the Council, Chairs of the Safeguarding Children's Board, the Health and Wellbeing Board and the Community Safety Partnership as well as the Police and the Crime and Victims Commissioner. Ann Baxter, the SAPB Independent Chair, presented the report to the Adults and Housing Scrutiny Committee on 30 October 2018 and will also be presenting to the Health and Wellbeing Board in early 2019. The report will be made available on the Board's website.
11. The Board had a focussed discussion on the business plan, including new actions identified by the sub groups for the current year. There were no new significant pieces of work highlighted and the board were assured that the sub groups will be working on streamlining this work. Board endorsed the work plan for the period 2018-19.
12. Following a focused discussion at the Board in August on the performance management framework, the Quality and Performance Sub Group undertook an extensive piece of work to present the exception report in an infographic style. There was consensus at Board that the new format made it much easier for members to identify performance priorities.

13. The Board is being kept apprised of the changes arising from the implementation of the Children and Social Work Act 2017, in relation to those specifically regarding the new Local Partnership statutory arrangements that will replace the Local Safeguarding Children Board in September 2019.

Councillor Sue Richmond
Cabinet Member with Portfolio for Adult Social Care