

**COUNCIL**  
**31 MARCH 2022**

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**OVERVIEW OF ADULTS PORTFOLIO**

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**Purpose of the Report**

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

**Operational Services**

2. Adult Social Care teams remain incredibly busy with referrals through the Adult Contact team this is not unusual for this time of the year when demand can be higher due to winter pressures such as sickness and covid however this is being managed.
3. We are using the Workforce recruitment and retention fund to support additional hours and agency cover.
4. There is some absence due to Covid infections within the ASC teams but low numbers, and majority of staff continue to work from home if well whilst isolating.
5. County Durham and Darlington Foundation Trust ( Darlington Memorial Hospital ) maintain bed availability with no delays (due to adult social care) in discharges of people returning home.
6. Referrals for people requiring reablement support following discharge from hospital remain constant but this is managed through daily multi-disciplinary meetings to discuss and agree each person's discharge pathway.
7. The CCG commissioned rehab beds at Ventress will cease being utilised by end of March and replaced with Rydal Care.

**Workforce Challenges**

8. There has been a number of vacancies within the Adult Contact Team. However, a recruitment campaign is underway and a communication strategy to develop a greater awareness of adult social care services.
9. The Government have launched "**Made with Care**", a new social care recruitment campaign in England to encourage many more people to pursue careers in social care. It's estimated there will be almost half-a-million extra job opportunities in adult social care by 2035 and more than 105,000 vacancies to be filled. This is set to run until April 2022 and will be utilised to support the local campaign.

10. There is a double page spread in the March edition of One Darlington. This will focus on the Adult Contact Team ( the team where all referrals for adult social care are made). It will include information on:
  - (a) The team – what do they do, who are they here for, how do people get in touch
  - (b) Case study
  - (c) Testimonials – quotes from team member(s) / service user(s)
  - (d) Photos
  - (e) Signpost re recruitment

### **Commissioning and Contracts**

11. Contracts and Commissioning staff continue to support the residential care homes to ensure that they are fully compliant with the current Covid 19 Regulations. Care homes have been supported to ensure that all care staff who were able to self-certify in respect of non-uptake of the Covid 19 vaccine, had a formal Covid 19 Exemption Pass in place by the 24 December 2021 deadline. In response to the most recent guidance, work is also ongoing to ensure that all care staff and residents in care homes have been offered and taken up the offer of the Covid 19 Booster vaccine. As of 13 February, 88% of all residents in care homes had received the booster vaccine. 64% of all care home staff had also received the booster vaccine with further work being planned by Darlington's Primary Care Network.
12. A change to the Government's intention for all care workers to be fully vaccinated as a condition of their employment has meant that staff in domiciliary care, supported living and extra care are no longer required to have had both doses of the Covid vaccine.
13. The Government recently allocated a further £626,465 to the Council through the Workforce Recruitment and Retention Fund (Round 2). This in addition to the initial allocation in Round 1 of £339, 335. A total of £965,800 has now been allocated to the Council with funds that must be spent on eligible activity up to 31 March 2022. This fund is designed to allow local authorities to support measures that generate additional or retain existing adult social care workforce capacity through recruitment and retention activity. This Workforce Recruitment and Retention Fund (Rounds 1 and 2) are paid in instalments in November 2021 through to February 2022.
14. The funds received from the Government have been targeted towards the domiciliary care and care home sectors by the Council. These sectors continue to experience staff capacity issues due to Covid infections staff absences and recruitment and retention including supporting contingency arrangements in the domiciliary care sector. The funds will continue to support these sectors to facilitate timely discharge from hospitals and support local people with care needs in the community.
15. Central Government has confirmed additional funding to support the delivery of accommodation-based support duties arising from the Domestic Abuse Act (2021) for 2022/23. The Council will receive £222, 980 to support a number accommodation schemes and support services which aim to support victims and survivors of domestic abuse. This funding will ensure that services in Darlington are sustained in the longer term.

## **Climate Change**

16. We continue to promote awareness of climate change within the teams. The theme of the month is to recycle household waste.

## **Darlington Safeguarding Partnership**

17. Statutory Safeguarding Partners met in January and were updated on the work of the sub-groups which continue to meet virtually and drive forward the work of the partnership. Adult safeguarding data for the 2nd quarter period of 2021/22 provided partners with assurance that there were no real exceptions or problems being highlighted and discussed the benefit of having trend data over several years to help understand where there are any continuing or emerging trends.

**Councillor Lorraine Tostevin**  
**Cabinet Member with Portfolio for Adults**