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**OVERVIEW OF ADULT SOCIAL CARE PORTFOLIO**

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**Purpose of the Report**

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

**Strategic Commissioning**

2. During May and June 2018, the Commissioning and Contracts team has worked closely with the administrators of a residential care home for older people in Darlington to manage its closure. The home closure was achieved within the agreed timescales, with both the individuals affected and their families being involved in the de-commissioning, having a reassessment carried out by social work staff and being offered a choice of alternative care homes.
3. Throughout the process, communication with the individuals and their families was maintained and a safe and dignified transition to alternative care homes was achieved for all of the residents.

**Carers Week**

4. Carers Week took place from 11<sup>th</sup> – 17<sup>th</sup> June. A number of activities took place including an information day at Firthmoor Community Centre, hosted by Darlington Carers Support and attended by a range of partners including Darlington CAB, Age UK Darlington and North Yorkshire, NECA, the Alzheimer's Society and Darlington Young Carers. Carers were able to obtain benefit and other advice and enjoy a light lunch. A first aid course also took place, which was very well received and a drop in session was also held at Blacketts Medical Centre.
5. The new national Carers Action Plan 2018-20 was published in June. This covers 5 main areas for action:
  - (a) Services and systems that work for carers
  - (b) Employment and financial wellbeing
  - (c) Supporting young carers
  - (d) Recognising and supporting carers in the wider community and society
  - (e) Building research and evidence to improve outcomes for carers

The national Action Plan will be considered by Darlington Carers' Strategy Steering Group and our local plan will be reviewed in line with the recommended areas for action.

## **Operational Developments**

6. Agile working is being rolled out within all adult service teams. To support new ways of working, staff within the service are being provided with mobile IT equipment. This equipment enables them to access IT systems and complete work from a variety of community settings. Early feedback has been very positive, with colleagues stating that access to the IT equipment has allowed them to be more flexible and efficient in their role. The benefits of agile working are being actively promoted amongst teams to ensure that we share any learning identified.
7. Operational staff attended a workshop on 11 June 2018, with a wide variety of colleagues and stake holders, including health, police, fire service and the voluntary sector, in relation to social isolation and loneliness. The workshop highlighted recent research that social isolation is becoming an increasingly concerning issue which impacts on adults across the age span and in particular older adults. The workshop is part of a series of initiatives aimed at mapping the issue out in the town and identifying what current and future support could be provided. This included a table top exercise where ideas for community initiatives were explored. Operational staff will continue to contribute to the development of these initiatives in future planned workshops.

## **Darlington Safeguarding Adults Partnership Board**

8. The Board met on 17 April and 4 June, 2018. Members were informed of the findings of the biennial safeguarding audit. The audit was an opportunity for organisations across Darlington to carry out a health check on their safeguarding arrangements to recognise their strengths and weaknesses. The Board was advised that the responses to the audit were positive and the findings, analysis and moderation gave a good level of assurance that multi-agency safeguarding arrangements in Darlington are clear and effective. Further work will be carried out on the themes that were highlighted as well as to encourage more responses from the third sector and faith organisations.
9. The Safeguarding Adults Board has produced a leaflet to explain abuse and neglect and how to report concerns and what action will be taken. The leaflet explains that the views and wishes of the adult at the centre of the enquiry will always be sought and no decisions made without their involvement. A poster is also being developed to deliver the same message which will be circulated across the partnership.
10. At the meeting in June, the Board received a presentation from the Police, Crime and Victim Commissioner (Durham and Darlington) on the work in bringing together agencies with responsibility for delivering criminal justice services in the two areas and the interface with the Safeguarding Boards. The purpose is to ensure that criminal justice agencies work effectively together to deliver positive outcomes for both victims and witnesses of crime and people who offend. A joint collaborative criminal justice team has been formed to work across Cleveland and Durham to support the partnership and undertake analysis to better understand how to improve services collectively and develop innovative services.

11. A report was presented to Board advising of the multi-agency strategies to reduce the prevalence of domestic abuse in Darlington, including the co-ordinated response on prevention, support and protection services. Members had been encouraged to attend the Big Conversation on 6 June, Tackling Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence in Darlington which, combined with the report, defined roles and responsibilities of the key strategic partnerships and organisations across Darlington to ensure a co-ordinated approach.

**Councillor Sue Richmond**  
**Cabinet Member with Portfolio for Adult Social Care**