
OVERVIEW OF ADULTS AND HOUSING SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

1. Since the last meeting of the Council, the following are the main areas of work the Adults and Housing Scrutiny Committee has undertaken.

Healthy New Towns

2. Scrutiny received a presentation on Healthy New Towns (HNT), a NHS England sponsored programme which is about building healthy communities through the built environment, community empowerment and new models of health and social care supported by digital technology.
3. Darlington is one of ten Healthy New Town sites across England and is the only one in the North East, with the initial focus of work being on the eastern growth zone, including Red Hall, Burdon Hill and Lingfield Point, which had been chosen because of the economic and housing development opportunities the area presented, along with the significant challenges in terms of health inequalities compared to the rest of Darlington.
4. The presentation covered the progress on the three workstreams within the programme of regeneration and housing, new models of care and digital empowerment, with particular reference being made at our Scrutiny Committee to the regeneration and housing workstream and the work being undertaken to encourage the building of homes which met the lifetime home principles, enabling houses to be adapted to meet the changing needs of residents over their life course, keeping them as independent as possible for as long as possible.
5. Reference was made to how the HNT initiative fitted in with the Red Hall Masterplan and we were advised of the significant regeneration work on the Red Hall Estate to improve the image and attractiveness of that estate, the work and community initiatives undertaken to date within that community and the partnership work with Keepmoat Homes for the development of the stables site that reflected the revised design principles of lifetime homes.
6. The potential of the programme stretches beyond the health and care sector. Digitally-enabled 'smart' towns and neighbourhoods, supported by integrated and effective public services, are attractive places to live and work in and they are also attractive to businesses and entrepreneurs, offering to encourage innovation and economic growth. This third year of the Healthy New Towns is focussed on delivery but also on the legacy of the programme.

Quality Assurance – Domiciliary Care Contract

7. We have been updated on the new Home Care and Support Contract which commenced on 2 October 2017.
8. The Contract is a three-year contract, operating within a new model, with the Borough being divided into two geographical zones (east and west) with a single prime provider delivering support within each zone.
9. The successful providers are Careline and Positive Life Choices (PLC), however, there is also a safety net of ten additional framework providers who are offered packages, in instances where either of the prime providers are unable to meet the demand, with a further four framework agreements in place to meet the needs of people with learning disabilities, mental health issues and dementia, autism and vulnerable families with children.
10. It is pleasing to note that a smooth transition to the new contract had been achieved and that the Officers were, overall, pleased with the performance of the providers to date.

Homeless Reduction Act

11. Scrutiny was also advised of the implications of delivering homeless related services following the introduction of the Homeless Reduction Act 2017, which came into force on 3 April 2018.
12. The Homeless Reduction Act, amends the existing Homelessness legislation, and requires Council's to try and prevent people from becoming homeless, intervening early and encouraging other public sector bodies to actively assist in identifying and referring those at risk of homelessness.
13. Actions are being taken by the Council to address the provisions, together with the challenges faced.

Performance Indicators Quarter 4 2017/18

14. Members examined the outturn against key performance indicators under the remit of our Scrutiny Committee for 2017/18 and gave consideration to the proposed basket of performance indicators for 2018/19, together with the proposed schedule of performance reporting for 2018/19.

Councillor Marjory Knowles
Chair of Adults and Housing Scrutiny Committee