

COUNCIL
12 MAY 2022

OVERVIEW OF ADULTS 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 some of the areas of work under the Portfolio for Adult Services.

Operational Services

2. Adult Social Care teams continue to see high demand this can be related to winter pressures and issues such as sickness and covid. This continues to be proactively managed with Teams and managers working across the system.
3. Absence due to Covid infections continues to present within the ASC teams. We are supporting staff, ensuring that safe systems are in place where staff attend the workplace, We also continue to support staff to work agile from home.
4. RIACT and Reablement and Rapid Response have continued to maintain hospital flow by supporting discharge from hospital and preventing admissions where appropriate. They have continued to ensure there are no delayed discharges from Darlington Memorial and Community Hospitals which is greatly appreciated by system partners.
5. We have 2 young people who have commenced a 6 month placement with Adult Social Care within Holicote. This is part of the kickstart scheme. They are receiving support from Workforce development and colleagues at Holicote in developing skills within social care that should assist in widening future employment opportunities.

Workforce Challenges

6. 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.
7. We continue to develop and implement a recruitment campaign for Adult Social Care. There will be a double-page spread in the May edition of One Darlington. This will focus on the Responsive Integrated Assessment Care Team (RIACT) and Reablement Team, who are responsible for providing short-term intervention for up to six weeks and who work in partnership with health to maximise prevention

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 Contract

8. The Local Government Financial Settlement in December 2021 announced that all local authorities would be required during 2022 to carry out a Fair Cost of Care Exercise and also produce a provisional Market Sustainability Plan. The Fair Cost of Care exercise will cover both older person's residential care and home care and support. A national Toolkit will be available for each of these exercises and guidance will be produced for both the providers of the services and the local authorities who will need to ensure the exercises are completed.
9. The purpose of the exercises is to determine a sustainable fee rate for different care settings. Exercises will need to accurately reflect local costs such as staff pay and travel time, and provide for an appropriate return on capital or return on operations. Local authorities will be expected to publish the exercises.
10. The provisional market sustainability plan will set out the local strategy for the next 3 years (2022 to 2025) – using the cost of care exercise as a key input. The provisional plan will demonstrate the pace at which the local authority intends to move towards a sustainable fee rate, in particular taking account of the impact of the requirement to contract on behalf of self-funders as well as other pressures they have identified. It will also include strategic planning for changes in types of provision in response to local need with other local areas, taking into consideration the role of new models of care (including housing).
11. This will be a significant piece of work that will need resourcing using the allocation received from Government in order to undertake data collection and analysis, costing, consultation, reporting and sign off. It is planned that a Project Team will be established with clear Terms of Reference.
12. Contracts and Commissioning staff continue to support the residential care homes to ensure that they are fully compliant with the current Covid 19 Regulations. Outbreaks in care settings are continuing to occur in line with the recent surge in cases nationally. We continue to monitor this with assistance from colleagues in Public Health.
13. County Durham Clinical Commissioning Group have agreed to provide non-recurrent funding to implement a pilot scheme for an automated telephone system to follow up and monitor the usage of items of community equipment. The CCG have generously agreed that that the pilot scheme will also be extended to cover Darlington residents who are issued with items of equipment from the commissioned service provider.
14. It is anticipated that the pilot will evidence that savings can be made by following up with residents as to whether they still require the items of equipment or whether those no longer used can be returned. Items which are returned will be decontaminated and recycled for future use, thus assisting to manage the expenditure on community equipment.

Climate Change

15. We continue to promote awareness of climate change within the teams.
16. All Adult Social Care Teams have been made aware to direct residents to available energy support services and provide advice and support

Darlington Safeguarding Partnership

17. Statutory Safeguarding Partners met in February and March and were provided an overview of the measures in place to address the Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG) agenda. Partners heard how funding has been secured to make public spaces safer for all through projects to help women and girls (and men) feel safer on the streets in Darlington. Funding will be used to increase the safety of public spaces and support projects in local communities and schools to help raise awareness. Partners agreed it is an impressive menu of investment and every risk faced by women and girls has been considered and Darlington should see a significant impact.

Councillor Lorraine Tostevin
Cabinet Member with Portfolio for Adults