

**COUNCIL**  
**12 MAY 2022**

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**OVERVIEW OF ADULTS SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**

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

**Covid-19 Response**

2. We received a verbal update from the Assistant Director – Commissioning, Performance and Transformation on the ongoing response to the Covid-19 pandemic, specifically in relation to care providers.
3. It was pleasing to hear that pressures on the care sector were easing, although it was recognised that Covid-19 was still common in society, and Care Homes were still using Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) and utilising visiting arrangements for relatives. We heard that outbreaks were being managed in conjunction with the Infection Control Team, and that the Spring Booster vaccine was in the process of being rolled out to Care Home residents.
4. We remain conscious of pressures around workforce capacity, however it was reassuring to learn that the Rapid Response Service had been extended until June 2022.

**Adult Social Care External Funding Sources**

5. The Committee received a report which provided an overview of external funding sources for Adult Social Care Services in 2021/22, however the report excluded core Central Government funding received through the Revenue Support Grant and additional funding secured through the 3% Council Tax precept for Adult Social Care Services.
6. Members were keen to establish the number of people assisted by the Better Care Fund and the Disabled Facilities Grant, were pleased to hear that the Adult Social Care Infection Control funding was spent within required deadlines, and examined whether there were any other funding sources available to assist with the provision of Adult Social Care.

**Darlington Safeguarding Partnership Annual Report 2020/21**

7. Members received a copy of the Annual Report of the Darlington Safeguarding Partnership (DSP) for the period 2020/21, and the Independent Chair, Ann Baxter, attended our meeting to speak to the report.
8. It was reported that the Local Safeguarding Partnership was required to produce an Annual Report to account for the Partnership's achievements over the previous year and make an assessment of the effectiveness of multi-agency safeguarding arrangements within the local area. The report outlined what the Partnership had done over the period 2020/21, drawing

upon a range of data and information to outline the progress made, and illustrate the effectiveness of multi-agency safeguarding partnership arrangements.

9. We welcomed the report, and the opportunity to hear from Ann, and we were pleased to note an emphasis on coercive control, and Members suggested that more should be done to highlight this form of abuse. Members also discussed the number of referrals in terms of Domestic Violence, particularly throughout the pandemic period, and suggested that there may be further delays in reporting. Members were also keen to establish whether the rationale for a joint safeguarding board was being borne out in practice.

### **Work Programme**

10. Members gave consideration to the Work Programme items scheduled to be considered by this Scrutiny Committee for the Municipal Year 2021/22 and to any additional areas that Members would like to be included.

**Councillor Bob Donoghue**  
**Chair of Adults Scrutiny Committee**