

COUNCIL
14 JULY 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 provides care and support to the most vulnerable adults in the community. This includes adults with learning disabilities, physical disabilities, sensory impairments, and older people with long term conditions. The majority of what we do is governed by the Care Act 2014 and associated regulations and guidance. We actively seek to promote the well-being of the people that we work with and take a personalised approach to providing support. We also work closely with the NHS and other partners.
3. As a service we take a 'Strength Based' approach to practice and assessment. This means that we support people to become more resilient in meeting their care needs by developing their networks and personal strengths. We take this approach because it is the right thing to do and it is also consistent with our duty to 'prevent, delay or reduce ' the need for formal support.
4. As we move into recovery mode following the covid pandemic we are seeing people who have increasingly complex needs, who are requiring intensive social work support and intervention. Nationally there is significant workforce capacity issues in social work, social care, and occupational therapy. However, we have an active recruitment campaign to fill our vacancies.

Communications

5. The May edition of One Darlington has now been fully distributed to addresses in Darlington, it is also available online and as an audio.
6. Adult Social Care features on page 15 with an Adult Social Care recruitment advert and a short introductory piece on Darlington Xtra (the website linked to DBC which shares recruitment activity, learning and skills relating to Adult Social care).
7. Page 16 is a Meet the Team feature focussing on the Reablement Team. Page 17 is a case study from the Reablement Team. Page 37 discusses the adult social care survey which is being overseen by the Adults Overview and Scrutiny committee to seek peoples view on the impact of covid.
8. Link to [Darlington Borough Council - One Darlington](#)

9. We also launched the wellbeing packages with an article in the Northern Echo - [Darlington carers thanked for hard work with wellbeing packages | The Northern Echo.](#)
10. To date we have had over 400 queries and/or applications for the well-being packages. We plan to monitor the update and the impact of these and will produce some further articles for One Darlington and for social media by the Autumn.
11. Through social media we have shared several articles, e.g:
 - (a) Autism Awareness week 2 April – post focussing on what we’re doing to help people better understand autism and help those with autism. The post reached 9684 people.
 - (b) Wellbeing packages 26 April – we posted to announce the release of the wellbeing package initiative. This received fantastic engagement reaching 25,674 people.
 - (c) Dementia Action Week 12 May – we posted a series of upcoming events to highlight Dementia Action Week. The post reached 4,235 people.
 - (d) Dementia Action Week 16 May – another post promoting the events, reaching 4,780 people.
 - (e) Dementia Action Week 18 May – a post detailing where to go to for support and the signs to look out for. This reached 2144 people.
 - (f) Mental Health Awareness week 12 May – a post to signpost people and explaining how loneliness can trigger mental health issues - reaching 5813 people.
 - (g) Mental Health Awareness Week 13 May – a post sharing the Hippodrome being lit up to support the week – reaching 6719 people.

Commissioning and Contracts

12. The Council has embarked upon a “Market Sustainability and Fair Cost of Care Exercise” as part of the Government’s adult social care reform agenda. This is a major and complex undertaking and the exercise in Darlington is being jointly led by the Council’s Finance and Commissioning and Contracts Team. In summary, the Council is required to arrive at a shared understanding with care providers of the local cost of providing care. It will do this by working with the care sector to submit a cost of care return (including staff pay, travel time, operational costs, return on capital, operational costs) for both residential and domiciliary care. The Council is also required to submit an interim Market Sustainability Plan by 14 October 2022 and a final plan by no later than February 2023.
13. The theme for this year’s Carers Week (6 to 12 June) was “Making Caring Visible, Valued and Supported.” Darlington’s Town Clock was lit up to raise the profile of Carers Week and an article also featured in the “One Darlington” magazine. Darlington’s Carers Support arranged a series of events including a Carers week awareness for staff; a “Tea and Tech” drop-in session at the King William Community Centre to support unpaid carers online devices; a “meet and greet” session with Darlington Carers Support in the Cornmill Centre and an online Young Carers awareness session arranged with Humankind Young Carers Service.

Climate Change

14. We continue to promote climate change and environmental awareness with all teams. The theme for the summer is recycle, reuse, and recover e.g., garden and household waste – use for projects, compost etc...

Darlington Safeguarding Partnership

15. The Statutory Safeguarding Partners have not met in this period and therefore no adult safeguarding updates to provide at this time.

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