

COUNCIL
29 SEPTEMBER 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. Demand remains high for adult social care assessments and support. The flow of referrals, allocation to caseloads, safeguarding, crisis work, and hospital discharges is steady. There has been some covid related sickness and staff absence due to leave which has created further pressure on workload.
3. The RIACT (Responsive, Integrated Assessment care) team and Reablement team continue to work with CDDFT (County Durham and Darlington Foundation Trust) to support the discharge flow from hospital with continued success. Since April, the percentage of clients who have completed a reablement package with an outcome of 'No Service Provided or Identified, Long Term Support Ended or Universal Services /Signposted' is 49.9%. In terms of actual numbers, out of the 415 clients who have completed a reablement package, 207 had no ongoing care needs. This is a slight increase from last year. There continues to be an increase in individuals receiving reablement packages who have a higher level of need e.g., individuals requiring MCA (Mental Capacity Assessments), best interest, MDT (Multi-Disciplinary Team Meetings) and Safeguarding.
4. There has been a targeted recruitment campaign which has had some positive outcomes with most of the vacant Reablement posts filled (7 out of 8) as well 6 of the 8 vacancies within the Adult Contact team also successfully recruited too. Start dates are planned for Sept and October 2022.

Communications

5. The Ongoing Intervention and Assessment team (OIAT) are feature in this quarter's One-Darlington magazine. The goal of the service is to maximise a person's independence which often involves extensive work with occupational therapists, hospitals and doctors' surgeries, housing providers, and community based services. By working together with other necessary agencies, the support that is provided will not only help to develop the clients' personal strengths but also to expand the persons networks to prevent, delay or reduce the need for long term intervention.
6. The next publication will include a feature on the Mental Health Team.
7. A recruitment event was held during the Pride week. There were several roles advertised with significant interest.

Care reforms

8. The Government have published a set of mutually reinforcing reforms including the Health and Care Act 2022. The key elements of these reforms will include:
 - (a) The return of Care Quality Commission inspections of Adult Social Care Services.
 - (b) The implementation of the Integrated Care Boards (ICB) replacing the Clinical Commissioning Groups (CCGs).
 - (c) The review of payments to providers to ensure a fair and consistent methodology is applied (Fair cost of care).
 - (d) A cap on care cost.
9. Implementation of these reforms will be from April 2023.
10. A programme of actions has commenced to prepare for implementation of these reforms and a communications strategy is in development to ensure partners, stakeholders, Council Members and Adult Social Care teams are kept informed of the changes.
11. The Fair Cost of Care programme is progressing well in Darlington. The Council is on course to meet the deadline for submission to central government of the the Interim Market Sustainability Plan (MSP) by 14 October 2022. A key element of the Fair Cost of Care exercise is the submission of cost data by the care sector. All home care data has been returned by our main home care providers. In residential care, 90% of our care home providers have also submitted their cost data using the nationally prescribed tool. This represents a higher level of engagement as compared to other parts of the country. Work is continuing with care home providers to validate the submissions in readiness for the interim MSP.

Commissioning and Contracts

12. The Commissioning and Contracts Team has completed this year's quality standards assessment process for our older people's care homes. Again this year, the Covid

Pandemic Emergency has had a significant impact. Whilst outbreaks have continued across all Older Persons care homes, the impact on the residents has been significantly less than at the onset of the pandemic in 2020. This is due to the combined efforts of the vaccination programme and infection control. The results demonstrate that a high percentage have achieved an A grade, with 13/19, (68%) achieving the highest A Grade. A detailed report setting out the analysis and outcome of this year's quality standards assessment will be presented to the Adults Scrutiny Committee on 25 October 2022.

13. The Team is also working closely with Public Health and colleagues in the Health Service to coordinate the seasonal flu vaccination programme in care homes together with the Autumn Covid Booster programme. Support and guidance to care is continuing to be provided to the care sector to monitor the outbreaks in both residential and domiciliary care sectors.
14. The Council has agreed to a temporary increase in the homecare mileage rates for care staff that work in our domiciliary care services for people aged 65 and over. This is to support our key home care staff to help address the unprecedented rise in fuel costs. Home care services play a critical role in supporting as many people with care needs to live as independently as possible in their own homes. The scheme is being backdated to June and a payment mechanism has been designed with Finance to ensure that the increase in rates is not passed on to people receiving care services. No person receiving care will see any change to financial contributions to their care arrangements. The scheme is being closely monitored to track fuel costs in Darlington and to ensure that the additional fee increase is being passported direct to care staff to assist with their travel costs.

Climate Change

15. We continue to review and discuss across all teams ways to support energy efficiency, e.g., how to cut waste and encourage small changes such as use of energy-saving devices and unplugging electrical equipment.

Darlington Safeguarding Partnership

16. The Statutory Safeguarding Partners met in June and discussed the Modern Slavery Network, a joint group established to provide a coordinated response to modern slavery and human trafficking across County Durham and Darlington. The Statutory Partners were approached by the network to establish links with Darlington and to help understand where the governance for the group might sit. Partners agreed it should sit within the Safeguarding Partnership, however the Community Safety Partnership (CSP) also has a role to play. Partners agreed they should be sighted on any issues relating to modern slavery first hand to ensure an appropriate response is provided and they will liaise with the CSP as and when required. There are no further safeguarding updates to provide currently.

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Cabinet Member with Portfolio for Adults