

ADULT SCRUTINY COMMITTEE
16 APRIL 2024

**REVIEW OF ADULT SOCIAL CARE DURING THE COVID PANDEMIC TASK AND FINISH GROUP –
FINAL REPORT**

SUMMARY REPORT

Purpose of the Report

1. To provide the final report of the Review of Adult Social Care during the Covid Pandemic Task and Finish Group, established by this Scrutiny Committee on 20th April 2021.

Summary

2. At a meeting of the Adults Scrutiny Committee held on 20th April 2021, Members gave consideration to a Quad of Aims submitted by Councillor Holroyd, which aimed to ascertain how Adult Social Care services coped during the pandemic, how service users and their families felt about the services provided, and identify any changes needed in relation to future waves of Coronavirus and associated restrictions / lockdowns, or any other future disease outbreak response which may be required, or identify any ongoing need. Members of the Scrutiny Committee agreed that a Task and Finish Group be established to examine the areas identified within the Quad of Aims.
3. An initial meeting of the Task and Finish Group was held on 21st May 2021, with further meetings being held on 11th June 2021, 9th July 2021, 14th January 2022, 11th March 2022, 9th August 2022, 4th November 2022 and culminated in a series of hearings held on 24th February 2023. The notes of these meeting are appended to the submitted report.
4. The final report of the Review of Adult Social Care during the Covid Pandemic Task and Finish Group is appended at **Appendix 1** of this report.

Comments of the Assistant Director, Adult Services

5. The findings of the Task and Finish Group report are noted. It is acknowledged in the report that staff, providers, and people were experiencing unprecedented challenges during the covid pandemic. These challenges have continued in the following years with demand and complexity for care required increasing. Adult Social Care services will endeavour to learn from the feedback received and continue to strive to improve outcomes for people to retain and/or regain their independence where possible by working closely alongside people, their carers and the wider community.

Acknowledgements

6. The Task and Finish Group acknowledges the support and assistance provided in the course of their investigations and would like to place on record its thanks to the following :-

- (a) Christine Shields, Assistant Director, Commissioning, Performance and Transformation;
- (b) Joss Harbron, Assistant Director, Adult Social Care;
- (c) Linda Thirkeld, former-Assistant Director, Adult Social Care;
- (d) Sharon Raine, Head of Performance and Transformation;
- (e) Phillipa Pacey (now Layfield), Quality Assurance Lead;
- (f) Yvonne Hall, Service Manager, Contracts and Brokerage;
- (g) Neale Kipling, Data and Performance Analyst;
- (h) Hannah Fay (now Miller), Democratic Support Officer; and
- (i) Paul Dalton, Democratic and Elections Officer.

Recommendation

7. It is recommended that the Adults Scrutiny Committee considers, recognises and endorses the work of the Review of Adult Social Care during the Covid Pandemic Task and Finish Group.

Joss Harbron
Assistant Director, Adult Services

Background Papers

None

Paul Dalton : Extension 5805

S17 Crime and Disorder	This report has no implications for Crime and Disorder
Health and Wellbeing	This report has implications on the Health and Wellbeing of residents of Darlington.
Carbon Impact and Climate Change	There are no issues which this report needs to address
Diversity	There are no issues relating to diversity which this report needs to address
Wards Affected	All wards
Groups Affected	The impact of the report on any individual Group is considered to be minimal
Budget and Policy Framework	This report does not represent a change to the budget and policy framework
Key Decision	Not a key decision
Urgent Decision	Not an urgent decision
Council Plan	This report does not impact directly on the Council Plan.
Efficiency	The outcome of this report does not impact on the Council efficiency agenda
Impact on Looked After Children and Care Leavers	This report has no impact on Looked After Children or Care Leavers