

**COUNCIL**  
**18 JULY 2024**

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**OVERVIEW OF ADULTS PORTFOLIO**

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**Purpose of the Report**

1. Since the last meeting of Council, the following are the main areas of work undertaken under the Adults Portfolio.

**Operational Services**

2. The waiting list for the Adult Contact Team continues to be reviewed and risk assessed to ensure there is robust oversight. The current wait list stands at 75, which is a small increase from 65, with no high priorities waiting.
3. The Occupational Therapy waiting list has reduced to 155, all those waiting have had an initial contact and assessed as low priority, e.g. Bathing (117), Stair access (10), Banister rails (10), Access and Egress (8), Rehousing (4) Other (5). The number of people awaiting blue badges renewals or new applications continues to increase, however each application is being risk assessed to manage the most urgent first. A paper will be presented to Cabinet in September to alleviate the requirements of the current policy with the purpose of reducing the backlog and streamlining the application and renewal process.
4. The team have successfully recruited to the sensory Impairment officer and the waiting list has reduced for visual impairment from 35 and is now 27. There is no wait currently for hearing impairment.
5. The teams have recently benefited from training including Continuing Healthcare, Care Act Refresher. We have also rolled out Best Interest Assessor (BIA) refresher training. We also have x2 current Social Workers completing their Advanced Mental Health Professional (AMHP) training which will further enhance the AMHP rota to enable prompt response to Mental Health Act Assessments.
6. The teams continue to respond well to hospital discharge demand. Hospital admission rates have not reduced following winter pressures and we continue to achieve a strong discharge performance.
7. Right Care Right Person stage 1 concerns for safety went live on 10 June 2024 for Durham Constabulary. In readiness for this Adult and Children Social care have launched a joint practice guidance which identifies police risk assessment and triage to enable Practitioners to articulate relevant information to inform a decision for police attendance. An escalation process is identified initially via management structures then via Darlington Safeguarding Partnership (DSP). We have developed monitoring arrangements to support data collection and analysis of police attendance requests in relation to appropriateness and outcomes for the individual.
8. Three care homes were within our Executive Strategy Procedures (ESP) at the beginning of the year, and we are pleased to identify that two were closed to ESP this month with one

remaining. Positive joint working with CQC, commissioning and contracting colleagues, Public Health and Adult Social Care alongside the providers has supported positive outcomes and improvements.

9. Adult Social Care Senior Leadership team have introduced briefing sessions for the wider team to support regular updates and further build on our readiness for the Care Quality Commission inspection of Adult Social Care.

### **Commissioning and Contracts**

10. The Council received 82 tender submissions for the Homecare and Supported Living contract procurement. The range of services included in this contract consist of home care, specialist supported living arrangements and “shared lives” arrangements. Commissioning and Contracts staff will now work with Procurement and Adults Services operational colleagues to evaluate the tenders during the next few months. It is expected that the new contract will be awarded to successful care providers on 5 November, with the contract being mobilised and operational by 2 February 2025.

### **Darlington Safeguarding Partnership**

11. An Adult Learning Lessons Review is ongoing following the death of two individuals in a house fire. An Independent Author has been appointed to lead the review to understand how agencies worked together to identify key learning opportunities to help promote and improve multi-agency practice. A draft report has been presented to the Statutory Partners on the 25 June and discussions will take place as to what will be published in due course.
12. The Statutory Safeguarding Partners and the Multi-Agency Safeguarding Partnership Group have not met in this period and therefore, there are no further adult safeguarding updates to provide at this time.

**Councillor Anne-Marie Curry**  
**Cabinet Member with Portfolio for Adults**