

COUNCIL
26 SEPTEMBER 2024

OVERVIEW OF ADULTS PORTFOLIO

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

General Overview

2. The Adult Social Care web pages have been updated, with clear information, signposting and guidance.
3. CQC Local Authority Information Return (LAIR) was submitted on 12 July 2024 and preparation is underway in readiness for the site inspection including briefing sessions for Members.
4. The latest performance reports identify the average age of individuals moving to permanent residential, or nursing care is 86, which is an increase from the previous 2 years where the figure was 84. This illustrates that people are maintaining their independence for longer.
5. From April - June 2024 the percentage of individuals who have no ongoing care needs following a period of Reablement has increased from 54.2% to 56.1%, whilst people whose level of need has decreased is 34.5% compared to 27.1% the previous year. This corresponds to the increase in the percentage of individuals who feel that they have improved. During this time 96.2% people who provided feedback said that they felt they had improved, this is compared to 88.1% last year and 89.3% during 2022-23. Reablement is continuing to achieve positive outcomes for people achieving optimum independence; not requiring care and support following intervention.
6. **Hospital discharges** - pressures continue however referrals continue to progress in a timely and safe manner. Recruitment is now aligned to the in reach reablement project working within Short Break stay placements with care home homes and individuals with the aim of earlier discharge home. We aim to analyse the data to review the impact of this project which is still in its infancy so unable to review at this time.
7. Meetings are regularly scheduled with the ICB and TEWV to observe opportunities to progress discharges where delayed transfers of care are identified. DBC housing also attend to observe general housing stock and housing options support within the independent housing market where appropriate.
8. **Safeguarding** - We have one care home currently within the Executive Strategy Process and improvements are being evidenced. Two care homes have recently concluded positively following successful evidenced improvement.

9. Safeguarding referral numbers have reduced when compared with the same period last year. However, we anticipate an increase throughout the school summer holidays which is reflective of a national and regional pattern.
10. **Occupational therapy (OT)** Referrals have increased significantly across the last three months. Referrals awaiting allocation for further assessment following triage and priority rated by an OT are currently at 160, this has reduced from 168 in March, this position is significant in view of received referrals of 288 over the last three months. There were 78 DFGs major works completed since April 2024: 55 level access showers/bathroom work 22 stairlifts 3 extension work 12 steps/access work 5 internal works/joinery (some of which was multiple works for one household).
11. **Sensory** - visual impairment officer is now in post and cases awaiting allocation have reduced.
12. **Blue Badges** - there are 240 referrals awaiting an OT assessment. Within the same period last year this was between 40-60. Agreement was reached to amend the current criteria list to remove the need for OT assessment for some long-term health conditions where medical evidence has been provided (COPD and Osteoarthritis). Customer Services are also supporting to progress approx. 112 referrals within agreed additional hours to create capacity and reduce backlog.

Commissioning and Contracts

13. The Commissioning Team is working with the 12 locally based Working Age Adults Residential care services to jointly develop new contracts for care arrangements. These providers meet the care needs of our most vulnerable and complex residents including people with learning, mental health and physical disabilities. The contracts will be tailored to each individual care home to reflect their different models of care. Commissioning is also working alongside our finance colleagues to develop a new sustainable and affordable fee model going forward. It is expected that the new arrangements will come into effect from 1 October 2024.
14. A joint Day Opportunities initiative is underway with Healthwatch Darlington. Day Opportunity services provide a range of community-based activities for older people, and people with learning disabilities, autism, physical disabilities and mental health support needs. They allow people to pursue activities and interests that fit around their daily lives and are essential in supporting health and wellbeing. Healthwatch are facilitating an engagement and consultation exercise over the next few months consisting of a survey as well as face to face meetings which will gather the views of service users, families/carers and providers in order to gain an in- depth understanding of people's current experience of services and how this can be improved. The outcome of the review will help shape the new Day Opportunities contract which is due to be renewed in 2025.

Darlington Safeguarding Partnership

15. The Statutory Safeguarding Partners met on 25 June. Keith Wanley, Independent Author provided an update on progress of the Learning Lessons Review 'Philip & Loraine'. Key themes identified include self-neglect and hoarding disorder and Mental Capacity. Partners highlighted these issues are being reflected nationally. The report will be published once signed off by the Partnership.

16. Right Care, Right Person (RCRP) is a national model changing the way emergency services respond to welfare and medical calls and Partners discussed the responsibility they have to monitor and ensure partner agencies carry out their roles in the RCRP process.
17. The Partnership held its first conference on 2 July, this was in response to work carried out after several learning reviews in Darlington that involved aspects of self-neglect and hoarding. The conference featured a range of speakers which focussed on evidence-based research, challenging practice issues, hoarding disorder and indicators linked to self-neglect.
18. The Multi-Agency Safeguarding Partnership Group met on 9 July 2024 and Chairs of sub groups provided an overview of ongoing activity which highlighted how busy the groups have been. The group received presentations which provided an: overview of 'eyes on the baby', SUDI (Sudden Unexpected Death in Infancy) prevention training being rolled out across Darlington, applicable to a wide workforce to educate on safe sleeping and an overview of preventing homelessness and rough sleeping agenda for Darlington.

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