

# Update on CQC Assurance Framework

Adult Scrutiny Committee

7<sup>th</sup> January 2025

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**DARLINGTON**  
Borough Council

# CQC -Assessment framework for local authority assurance

The Health and Care Act 2022 gave CQC (Care Quality Commission) new regulatory powers to assess local authorities

CQC's role is to assess how well a local authority is delivering duties under part 1 of the Care Act.

The assessment framework for local authorities has 4 Themes which are further broken down into 9 quality statements .

Each Theme has quality statements set out which will be used by CQC for assessment and assurance. They consist of We and I statements.

- We statements are quality statements the local authority must commit to.
- I statements are what people expect.



# Care Quality Commission

## Four Key Themes and Quality Statements

- Assessing needs
- Supporting people to live healthier lives
- Equity in experience and outcomes

Working With People

Providing Support

- Care provision, integration and continuity
- Partnerships and communities

- Safe systems, pathways and transitions
- Safeguarding

How we ensure safety within the system

Leadership

- Governance, management and sustainability
- Learning, improvement and Innovation



# Care Act Principles



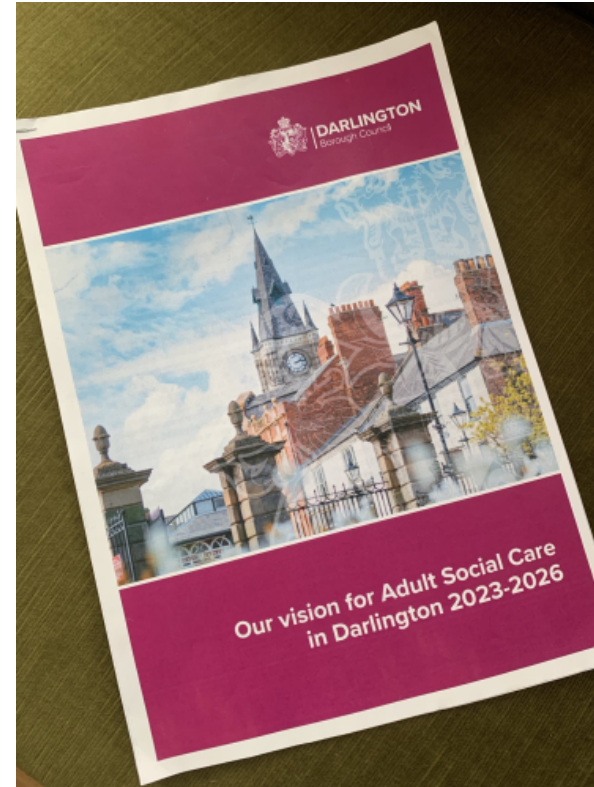
# Status of Inspections in North East (November 2024)

Council	Current status	Date notified	On site visit to commence	Deadline for on-site activity (6 month rule)	Assessment Report Published	Overall Rating
County Durham	Complete	30/01/2024	20/06/2024	30/07/2024	<a href="#">County Durham: local authority assessment - Care Quality Commission (cqc.org.uk)</a>	GOOD
Northumberland	Awaiting Report to be published	19/02/2024	05/08/2024	19/08/2024		
Gateshead	Site visit completed	18/03/2024	28/10/2024	18/09/2024		
Middlesbrough	Site visit completed	22/05/2024	28/10/2024	22/11/2024		
Redcar and Cleveland	Site visit completed	22/05/2024	04/11/2024	22/11/2024		
Hartlepool	Site Visit completed	22/05/2024	11/11/2024	22/11/2024		
Sunderland	Site visit completed	24/06/2024	25/11/2024	24/12/2024		
Stockton-on-Tees	Site visit completed	24/06/2024	25/11/2024	24/12/2024		
Darlington	Site Visit planned	24/06/2024	20/01/2024	24/12/2024		
Newcastle upon Tyne	Awaiting date of site visit	15/07/2024		15/01/2025		
North Tyneside	Awaiting date of site visit	09/09/2024		09/03/2025		
South Tyneside	Awaiting notification			30/06/1900		
Cumberland	Awaiting notification			30/06/1900		



# Darlington Self-Assessment

- Our aim is to:  
“Create a warm and welcoming town where adults and families stay as independent as possible for as long as possible”.
- Our intention is to:  
“Know ourselves and know our adults and families”
- Based on THRIVE principles and our Vision for adult social care in Darlington
- Our vision for Adult Social Care in Darlington 2023-2026.



# Self Assessment Strengths

<p><b>Working with people</b> Strength Based Practice Framework Quality Assurance and Improvement Framework Prevention approach Strong local partnerships with the Integrated care Board, County Durham and Darlington Foundation Trust, Tees and Esk Wear Valley Trust, Care Providers and the local Voluntary and Community Sector Darlington Commitment to Carers Strategy 2023- 2028</p>	<p><b>Providing support</b> Darlington’s Market Position Statement (MPS) and Commissioning Strategy 2024 – 2027 Revised Quality Monitoring and Assurance process Accommodation with Care and Support Needs Strategy Retendered outcome-based commissioning frameworks Developed effective hospital discharge arrangements Supported the VCSE in developing Darlington Connect hub TASC</p>
<p><b>Ensuring safety</b> DSP website training offer is now up to date and clear navigation in relation to Making Safeguarding Personal Good governance systems in place for each stage of safeguarding decision-making Developed a risk notification process to enable identification of patterns and themes Practice Support Forum for high-risk decision making Risk Prioritisation Tool used to support allocations and managing risk</p>	<p><b>Leadership</b> Governance framework Practice Support Forums Annual training needs analysis of the workforce Strength-based practice approach to workforce development. SCIE (Social Care Institute for Excellence) Strength Based Practice Training Relational and Strength Based Training Darlington Academy Community Care Inform licences for all staff The Validation Forum is used to assure progress in working in strength-based ways and that the Wellbeing Principle is being considered across all work within Adult Services</p>



# Self Assessment Areas of Development

## Working with people

Improve monitoring performance on waiting lists levels and urgency  
Develop formal guidance around caseloads  
Reviewing and updating our internet pages to describe the person's journey  
Exploring the expansion of the Trusted Assessor processes  
Revising direct payment practice and process guidance  
Developing a new strategy and action plan for Promoting Equality, Diversity, and Inclusion in practice

## Providing support

Strengthen our engagement and coproduction work  
Finalise the review of our current digital service directory offer  
Review the efficacy of Direct Payments  
Review the current day service offer and develop a clear model for future service provision  
Review the current community equipment contract  
Modelling of our costs to understand the financial value of the services  
Promote access to reablement among younger adults

## Ensuring safety

Darlington Safeguarding Partnership are reviewing and updating their website  
Plan to further develop the Preparing for Adulthood Pathway  
Early discussion has started around joint commissioning opportunities for young people transitioning in adult services  
Organisational Safeguarding pathway to be embedded  
Safeguarding procedures to be reviewed

## Leadership

Developing a co-production and engagement strategy  
Developing a vision and set of values for adult social care  
Implementation of the Carers Strategy  
A new Health and Wellbeing Strategy 2025 is currently under development  
Developing learning and development opportunities for aspiring and newly recruited Registered Managers  
Proposed in 2024 to add peer review to case file audits  
Relaunch of Quality Practice Forums





# Outline of Activity

Notification  
of  
Assessment  
24<sup>th</sup> June  
2024

Preparation  
for  
Inspection.  
50 cases.

December  
11<sup>th</sup> 2024  
DBC Briefing  
session with  
CQC

March 2025  
outcome of  
inspection  
published



Completion  
and  
submission  
of LAIR and  
Self  
Assessment

12<sup>th</sup> July  
2024

Notification  
of onsite  
inspection  
November  
2024  
Submission  
of cases.

20<sup>th</sup>-24<sup>th</sup>  
January  
2025  
Onsite  
Inspection



# Outline of Inspection Activity - January 2025

Prep meetings  
with specific  
members  
(undertaken in  
Sept/October  
2024)

Onsite 20<sup>th</sup> Jan  
for up to 4  
days.  
Meet with  
DASS (James  
on 20<sup>th</sup>)

27<sup>th</sup> Jan  
Feedback  
session with  
DASS (James)

March 2025  
outcome of  
inspection  
published



Contact from  
CQC to  
partners and  
people/carers  
(Nov - Jan  
2025)

Focus Groups  
with the social  
care teams  
and managers  
20<sup>th</sup> - 24<sup>th</sup> Jan

Initial  
feedback  
submitted to  
DBC - Feb  
2025



# Key Documents

- [CQC Assurance Framework- Local authority assessments - Care Quality Commission \(cqc.org.uk\)](https://www.cqc.org.uk)
- [Strength Based Practice in Darlington - Adults Social Care Services](#)
- [ASC Engagement and Co-Production Stronger Together Strategy Final 2024-2028 \(darlington.gov.uk\)](https://www.darlington.gov.uk)
- [Adult social care prevention strategy 2024-28 \(darlington.gov.uk\)](https://www.darlington.gov.uk)
- [Promoting equality diversity and inclusion in adult social care practice \(darlington.gov.uk\)](https://www.darlington.gov.uk)
- [Darlington BC - Adult Social Care](#)



# Any Questions?



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