

OVERVIEW OF ADULT SOCIAL CARE PORTFOLIO

Purpose of the Report

1. To inform and update Members on progress within Adult Social Care since the last meeting of Council. The following are the main areas of work under the Portfolio for Adult Social Care.

Adult Social Care –Strategic Commissioning

2. The Commissioning and Contracts team have provided support during the winter period by commissioning a Rapid Response service to ensure that people can be discharged from hospital in a safe and timely manner. A recent review of this service confirmed that the support offered by the service is highly effective.
3. The local provider market remains stable and occupancy levels across local Residential Care homes are such that people are able to choose which home they would like to reside in. The local Homecare contract also continues to work well, and unlike many areas across the country with them having capacity to deliver support.

Adult Social Care – Operational Developments

4. The National Social Work awards recognise the success of the profession's most innovative social workers and is the leading celebration of its kind in the sector. As I noted in November's report, two social workers from Darlington had been announced as finalists for awards. Reaching the final is a significant achievement in itself, so I am very pleased to report that one of our colleagues was presented with a Silver award in the category of Mental Health Social Worker of the year.
5. Operational staff continue to work closely with NHS colleagues to plan for the potential winter pressures ensuring that the health and social care system could manage surges in activity over the Christmas period. An enhanced level of support was provided during the festive period, which included social workers proactively working within Darlington Memorial Hospital during weekends and bank holidays. This has enabled us to successfully facilitate 44 hospital discharges, 50% more than in 2017/18, with no delays attributable to adult social care.

Darlington Safeguarding Adults Partnership Board

6. The Board met on 6 December 2018. There were presentations from the Care Quality Commission (CQC), Tees, Esk and Wear Valley NHS Foundation Trust (TEWV) and an overview from County Durham and Darlington NHS Foundation Trust. CQC provided an overview of the Local System review of services. The review took place in a number of local authority areas and focussed on the pathway for people aged over 65 years and, in particular, on the interface between social care, general practice and acute services.

7. TEWV provided a presentation on Stopping over-Medication of People with a Learning Disability, Autism or both (STOMP). STOMP is a National Campaign led by NHS England and came about as a result of the Winterbourne View abuse enquiry, which highlighted serious concerns about reliance on psychotropic medication. TEWV signed up to the STOMP healthcare pledge in April this year. A discussion took place on local learning from Learning Disability Mortality Reviews (LeDeR) following the publication of the LeDeR Annual Report. A lead nurse for Learning Disabilities from CDDFT provided an overview to board on the organisations commitment to review all deaths prior to the introduction of LeDeR. A programme of awareness raising and training, as well as a flagging system for patients with a learning disability, has been introduced.
8. The Board also received a presentation and workshop facilitated by Suzanne Joyner, Director of Children and Adult Services, on the new safeguarding arrangements that are required to be in place by September 2019, replacing the existing Local Safeguarding Children Board. The presentation highlighted, under the new legislation, the three safeguarding partners, Darlington Borough Council, Durham Constabulary and Darlington CCG will have a shared and equal duty to make arrangements to work together to safeguard and promote the welfare of children in Darlington. A shadow Executive Group has been established with chief officers of the three partners. A delivery plan has been established which will be monitored and updated by the Executive Group with updates to be provided to future children and adult Board meetings.

Councillor Sue Richmond
Cabinet Member with Portfolio for Adult Social Care