

COUNCIL
25 APRIL 2019

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 (ASC).

Adult Social Care – Strategic Commissioning

2. The local Residential Care Home market remains stable, although one recently made a business decision to de-register their dementia nursing beds from March 2019. The remainder of the care home remains fully operational. The Commissioning and Contracts Team is working closely with adult services colleagues and the NHS Darlington Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) to find suitable alternative placements, and comprehensive care reviews have been completed for all residents affected. This will ensure that residents and their families' wishes are fully taken into account and that the moves are undertaken as sensitively as possible. In addition, the Council is undertaking a joint strategic review with Darlington CCG to ensure that there continue to be sufficient nursing care beds in Darlington.
3. The Care Quality Commission recently reported their Inspection outcomes for Older People Care Homes, which in Darlington there are 95 per cent of homes rated as Good or Outstanding.
4. The Commissioning and Contracts Team are working with local care home and domiciliary care providers and the NHS over the Easter period to ensure that people continue to be discharged from hospital in a safe and timely manner. Alongside Christmas, the Easter holiday period also requires our local providers to ensure that there is sufficient care capacity to support hospital discharge arrangements.
5. A twelve-month Assistive Technology pilot is due to start shortly. The products identified were chosen for their perceived simplicity/ease of use, with a particular emphasis on products that could be used outside a person's home, in order to maximise their independence, or on products that would enable family members to monitor activity easily. An additional focus was on products that would support people with a broader range of needs than those traditionally addressed by telecare. The intention was that the products chosen would enable people to live as independently as possible for as long as possible and support family carers to continue in their caring role.

Adult Social Care – Operational Developments

6. At the end of Quarter 3, performance across Adult Social Care continues to be strong. The provision of Direct Payments is particularly positive, at 43 per, demonstrating that individuals have good choice and control of how their care

needs are met. This level of performance is well above the North East (25 per cent) and England (28 per cent) averages and, in the national context, Darlington is ranked eleventh out of 151 areas for the provision of Direct Payments.

7. Adult Social Care and Health partners are in the process of evaluating how services have managed winter pressures across the local health and social care system. The system as whole has seen an increase in demand during the winter months, which has placed services under significant pressure. Adult Social Care has responded well to the increase in demand and have improved performance relating Delayed Transfers of Care (DTC). For example, in December there were 44 delayed days reported against our nationally set target of 155 delayed days. This is a high level of performance and, as a result, Darlington were ranked fifth out of 151 areas nationally.
8. Work is underway to strengthen the Council's reablement service, which will ensure that we continue to work with individuals to maximise their independence so that they can remain at home where possible.

Darlington Safeguarding Adult Partnership Board

9. At the Board on 15 February 2019, a report was presented regarding the proposed structure for the new Safeguarding Partnership This must be in place by 29 September 2019 and replaces Local Safeguarding Children Boards. This will be a joint partnership covering both Children and Adult safeguarding, allowing the best use of resources, in the interests of delivering consistent standards. Plans will be finalised and submitted to DfE by the deadline in June. The Board were happy to support the direction of travel that is being proposed and requested details of the draft plan be shared at the next meeting.
10. There was a themed discussion at on Financial Abuse, DC Tony Murray, from City of London Police, delivered a presentation on the financial abuse of vulnerable adults. This demonstrated why working in partnership is important to protect and empower communities to reduce the harm from scams, fraud and cybercrime. DC Murray outlined the technology that is available to protect vulnerable people from scams and frauds. There are two campaigns in place 'Take 5' and 'Tell 2' which the Board will raise awareness of.
11. Durham and Darlington Fire and Rescue Service provided a presentation on Safe and Wellbeing Visits within the community. The presentation provided an overview of the visits which are routinely conducted by the Fire Service and cover issues such as fuel poverty, dementia awareness, alcohol harm and reduction, loneliness and isolation as well as fire safety. There have been in excess of 18,000 visits across Darlington and County Durham which has resulted in improved outcomes for vulnerable people.

Councillor Sue Richmond
Cabinet Member with Portfolio for Adult Social Care