

## **COUNCIL 18 JULY**

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### **OVERVIEW OF ADULT SOCIAL CARE PORTFOLIO**

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#### **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. Carers Week took place between 10 and 16 June 2019, with a number of activities and events taking place across Darlington, including drop in sessions at Sainsburys and EE. These sessions were aimed at working carers, with information and support being made available on the day. On 12 June, a Carers Well Being Event was held at King William Street Community Centre where information was made available about the variety of relaxation techniques that are available to carers living in Darlington.
3. 'Caring Matters', the regular newsletter published by the Council's contracted Carer Support provider (Darlington Carers Support) coincided with Carers Week and contained information regarding not only the events taking place in Carers Week but also events, services and support available to carers throughout the year.
4. In addition, Officers continue to participate in the ADASS North East Regional Carers Strategic Network, where the current work plan is focussing on assistive technology which can be used to support carers in their caring roles. The group is also focussing on how to identify and support working carers, including those who are employed by Darlington Borough Council.

#### **Adult Social Care – Operational Developments**

5. Adult Social Care continues to achieve good performance in key areas relating to the Adult Social Care Outcomes Framework (ASCOF). In particular, we continue to reduce reliance on permanent residential placements, and are supporting more people to live independently at home. In 2018/19, 43 per cent of people who needed adult social care received a direct payment. This performance compares favourably with our statistical neighbours, 27 per cent, our North East neighbours at 25 per cent, and England average at 28 per cent. This demonstrates that we are supporting people to remain at home and enabling them to have more choice and control with regards to how their care needs are met.
6. Adult Social Care continues to deliver good performance in delayed transfers of care (DTC), which means that people do not remain in hospital beds for longer than they need to. Throughout 2018/19 we have consistently achieved our national target of no more than 155 delayed day per month. As a local authority area we have remained within the top ten performers nationally and as a system we are currently ranked four out of 151 areas. This shows our ongoing

commitment to working in partnership with NHS colleagues to ensure that people are discharged from hospital in a timely manner.

### **Darlington Safeguard Adult Partnership Board**

7. The Board met on 30 April 2019. This was the last meeting of the Safeguarding Adults Board, as future meetings will be joint with members of the Safeguarding Children's Board in preparation for the new safeguarding arrangements. A joined up approach will allow the best use of resources and will enable the partnership to deliver consistent standards. The new partnership will be known as Darlington Safeguarding Partnership.
8. The structure for the new arrangements will consist of a wider multi-agency partnership group and Ann Baxter has been appointed as Independent Scrutineer/Chair. Ann will provide robust scrutiny and challenge across the partnership. There will be two standing sub groups, the Learning and Review Sub Group, whose remit will be to identify multi-agency safeguarding learning and practice needs and to oversee Safeguarding Adult Reviews and the Quality Assurance and Performance Sub Group which will use data intelligence and audit activity to ensure safeguarding arrangements in Darlington are robust and effective. Working groups will also be established, dependent on focus and priorities to support key pieces of work. There will also be opportunities to establish safeguarding links with forums and wider groups
9. Full details of the arrangements are available in the plan which was published on the [Safeguarding Boards website](#) on 24 May 2019. The arrangements will be in place from 1 July 2019. A flexible approach is being taken as arrangements are likely to evolve over the coming months.

**Councillor Rachel Mills**  
**Cabinet Member with Portfolio for Adult Social Care**