

COUNCIL
26 SEPTEMBER 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.

Strategic Commissioning

2. The Commissioning, Contracts and Brokerage service has successfully completed the annual Quality Standards review programme and results have been sent to each care home. This review consists of annual Quality Standards visits to the 18 Care Homes in Darlington, who provide Residential Care for Adults and Older People and Older People with a Mental Health Problem.
3. The Quality Standards review is a long-standing programme where council staff visit every care home and make an assessment against ten quality standards including effective recruitment procedures, nutrition, management of medication and health and safety. This is an important element of the Council's duty to ensure that quality is assured in all of its commissioned placements. Initial findings show that the overall quality of care homes continues to improve since the review was undertaken last year. All care homes will have subsequent improvement plans in place which will continue to be monitored by contracts officers over the coming year.

Operational Services

4. Services continue to achieve good performance in key areas relating to the Adult Social Care Outcomes Framework (ASCOF). For example, there has been no admissions to residential care for people aged between 18-64 in Quarter 1. This good performance demonstrates that adult social care is focussed towards supporting people to maximise their independence and, where possible, remain in their own homes.
5. We continue to make good progress in enabling carers to achieve control over the support provided to enable them to continue in their caring role. For example, 87 per cent of the carers that we support directly, receive a direct payment.
6. In July, colleagues in adult social care facilitated the 'Preparing for the Future' event. The event gave 60 young people and their parents/carers, the opportunity to discuss the support that is available to help them prepare for adulthood. The aim is to ensure that young people have good life chances, which can be developed and built upon, as they transition to adulthood.
7. The Links day service opportunity, successfully provided the catering for the 'Preparing for the Future' event. Volunteers from the Links 'Café Express' ensured that those attending the event had a good quality lunch and refreshments. The

Express café has been developed to support people with learning impairments to learn life skills and maximise their independence. The feedback from those attending was really positive and the event provided a genuine opportunity for the volunteers to showcase their new skills and talents.

Workforce Development

8. Darlington is now offering the new Social Work apprenticeship scheme, which gives unqualified officers the opportunity to obtain a professional social work qualification. This is an exciting opportunity for our dedicated unqualified social care staff, enabling them to develop their careers in adult social care.

Darlington Safeguarding Partnership

9. The new safeguarding arrangements were implemented on 1 July 2019. The new partnership will be known as Darlington Safeguarding Partnership (protecting Children and Adults). The vision for the new partnership is '*Darlington is a place where children and adults can live their lives safely*'.
10. A new Multi-Agency Safeguarding Partnership Group has been established and will meet a minimum of four times in the first year. It will include the Statutory Safeguarding Partners and members of the wider partnership and will be chaired by Ann Baxter, Independent Scrutineer/Chair, the first meeting is taking place on 7 October 2019.
11. Two sub-groups have been established to support the Partnership, taking forward the safeguarding child and adult agendas. The Quality Assurance and Performance Management sub-group will monitor and evaluate the effectiveness of the multi-agency safeguarding arrangements to highlight areas for concern as well as identifying where the partnership is performing well. The Learning and Review sub-group will oversee all child and adult reviews, take forward opportunities for learning and refresh policy and procedure to help improve the quality of multi-agency frontline practice.

Councillor Rachel Mills
Cabinet Member with Portfolio for Adult Social Care