
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. With the changes introduced by the General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR) from 25th May 2018, an exercise has been undertaken to ensure all contractual agreements have been varied accordingly.
3. Commissioners have recently received the second in a series of Care Home Experience reports produced by Healthwatch Darlington. During May/June 2018, Healthwatch visited five of the 18 commissioned residential care homes in Darlington and from discussions with residents, families and staff, has produced its report on the quality of life and choices offered to Darlington residents. The full report is available on the Healthwatch Darlington website.
4. The report clearly demonstrates that within the five homes which were visited, individuals were very happy with the care and support that they received and relatives felt that their family member was looked after. Interaction between residents and staff was very kind and caring.
5. The findings were very similar to those outlined in the first report and it is pleasing to note that, within Darlington, residential care provision continues to be delivered to a good standard by well trained and committed staff.

Operational Developments

6. The number of people benefitting from the Council's reablement service has continued to increase. This highlights the positive work social care staff are undertaking in working with people to maximise their independence. The reablement approach assists in helping individuals regain their confidence, which is especially important after a period of ill health.
7. Darlington continues to perform well in supporting people who use social care to receive self-directed support and to access Direct Payments, the aim of which, is to promote independence by offering flexibility in how services are provided. This enables people to have more control over their care and support.

8. I have recently attended the Adult Social Care Validation Forum. The Forum is an opportunity for practitioners to present proposed packages of care to senior managers. It is positive to see the utilisation of a strength based approach within the work presented and to observe the professional support in assuring good standards of practice.
9. Quarter 1 performance results in relation to permanent admission to residential care, continue to evidence the positive shift to community based support, where appropriate.

Safeguarding Adults Partnership Board

10. At the Board meeting on 2 August 2018, there was a focussed discussion on the performance management framework. The Board acknowledged the work undertaken by the sub group so far and are satisfied the data set is progressing in the right direction. However, it was acknowledged there is a requirement for greater analytical input and it was requested that partner agencies identify analysts to further support the work of the sub group.
11. Board were advised of the new Working Together Guidance that was published in July, which sets out the new safeguarding arrangements for the Local Safeguarding Children's Board. The Director of Children and Adult Services advised discussions will be picking up pace over the coming months between the key strategic leads of the responsible statutory agencies. Arrangements need to be in place by September 2019 and the Board will be updated as work progresses.
12. A draft annual report was presented to the Board and members identified a number of amendments and suggestions in how the report should look and requested it be revised accordingly.
13. The Board endorsed a Modern Slavery and Human Trafficking at a Glance leaflet. Reporting skin damage guidance was also endorsed, here there are concerns that presenting skin damage is due to neglect/self-neglect and/or poor practice through the Safeguarding Adults procedure.

Councillor Sue Richmond
Cabinet Member with Portfolio for Adult Social Care