

**COUNCIL
5 DECEMBER 2019**

OVERVIEW OF ADULTS 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 Adults.

Strategic Commissioning

2. Building on the findings of a consultation event with people with dementia and their families/carers, work is ongoing to support the development of a more Dementia Friendly Darlington. The Report from this event has been distributed widely to a range of partners and a number of actions have been identified to take this piece of work forward.
3. A new residential care home, Auguste Care Communities, has opened on the outskirts of Middleton St George providing support for older people and older people with dementia. The provider has initially made 21 beds available, although there are plans to increase this to 83 beds, as the home becomes more established. The opening of the home offers older people additional choice when selecting a care home, and in this particular instance offers a more rural location, than the existing contracted care homes.

Operational Services

4. Occupational Therapy Week 2019 took place from 4 to 10 November, and focused on the theme: *Small Change, Big Impact*. The aim of the week was to celebrate and champion the impact of occupational therapy on the lives of service users and to recognise the positive difference that our Occupational Therapy Team makes. For example, Occupational Therapists are a central part of our Reablement Service, which works with people to maximise their independence, enabling them to remain at home for as long as possible.
5. Our short break centre for adults with learning disabilities, Holicote, was inspected on 11 September 2019 by the Care Quality Commission (CQC). It is pleasing to report that the CQC have, once again, rated Holicote as 'Good'. The inspection highlighted that individuals and their families find the service to be a positive and enjoyable experience. The people who attend receive person-centred support and the staff know them well. It was also recognised that individuals are supported to build and maintain important personal relationships which matter to them. The inspection found that individuals are supported to have a high level of choice and control over how their support is provided.

Workforce Development

6. Relational Practice training is being delivered across Adult Services. This forms part of our strength based practice model and promotes the development of strong professional relationships with the individuals and families that we work with, enabling a culture of 'High Support, High Challenge'. This approach is being mirrored across the Directorate and staff from different teams and sectors are working closely to develop whole family approaches to issues, with a focus on developing independence.

Darlington Safeguarding Partnership

7. The first meeting of the Multi-Agency Safeguarding Partnership Group took place on 7 October 2019. This was a well-attended meeting with wider partners coming together under the new Darlington Safeguarding Partnership arrangements.
8. The Chairs of the sub groups provided assurance that key pieces of work are progressing well. The Terms of Reference and membership of each group has now been finalised, ensuring that they are fit for purpose with the right people engaged with the work programme.
9. A discussion took place regarding the recent issues highlighted at Whorlton Hall, Newbus Grange and West Lane Hospitals. Assurance was provided in respect of any ongoing investigations being undertaken by the police and regulators.
10. Group members highlighted that there is a real appetite to do things differently and future agendas will focus on key themes identified locally, as well as issues highlighted regionally and nationally.

Councillor Rachel Mills
Cabinet Member with Portfolio for Adults