

COUNCIL
30 JANUARY 2020

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. Following completion of an ADASS Carers Policy Network and Carers UK Self - Assessment Tool for Councils to assess their performance against the requirements of the ADASS publication 'A Guide to: Efficient and effective interventions for implementing the Care Act 2014 as it applies to carers', a regional event organised by the NE ADASS Carers Network took place on 28th November 2019 to look at the findings of the collated responses across the region. Darlington representatives attending were a Commissioning Officer, staff from Darlington Carers Support, Darlington Young Carers, Healthwatch and North East Commissioning Support. Key issues identified included: the need for health partners to identify and support carers; the need for Councils and health partners to recognise their own staff as carers and to offer signposting/support as appropriate; the need for carers to be recognised as equal partners in care provision/planning.
3. A successful Provider Event focussing on how best to support individuals with complex needs was held at the Dolphin Centre. This was well attended by home care, residential care providers and social work staff. The findings of this event will inform future commissioning intentions and market development, with a focus on strengths-based approaches. Further Provider Events are planned for April 2020.

Operational Services

4. Performance in key areas continues to be strong. The Reablement service continues to support people to maximise their independence and well-being, resulting in 64 per cent of people who used the service having no ongoing care needs following the completion of their support plan. This gives us an assurance that our strengths-based approach to support is achieving positive impact.
5. We continue our focus on supporting younger adults with support needs to remain at home, wherever possible. This is demonstrated by the low numbers of adults, aged 18-64, who are placed in permanent residential care (with only 3 adults in 2019). This is in line with the trend that we have established over the 3 years and gives assurance of our commitment to support people to develop their independence and remain active citizens within their own communities.
6. Adult Social Care plays an integral role in supporting children with Special Educational Needs and Disability (SEND) to transition into adulthood, and service developments are underway via a sub group of the multi-agency SEND Steering

Group. Work that is being undertaken was presented to the Parent/Carer conference in early December. The sub group have led the way in co-producing a vision statement and action plan with young people and parent/carers. The co-production event this year attracted over 70 participants. The model of co-production developed has been highlighted as a model of good practice by the Department of Education Preparing for Adulthood support programme.

Darlington Safeguarding Partnership

7. The Statutory Safeguarding Partners continue to meet, in line with the new arrangements. Issues that have been addressed include updates on the investigation into Whorlton Hall. The police investigation and CQC internal review are on-going.
8. The position regarding Newbus Grange was also discussed and it was confirmed that the Care Quality Commission has suspended the registration for Newbus Grange, which has now closed.
9. NHS England was the commissioner for both settings and a National Working Group has been established and is looking to ensure local commissioners have oversight of settings such as these.
10. Key pieces of work are progressing within the sub groups, including the development of revised performance scorecards and dashboards. These are being delivered through the Quality Assurance and Performance Management Sub Group. Further work will be undertaken with a Quarter 3 themed report being presented in April.

Councillor Rachel Mills
Cabinet Member with Portfolio for Adults