

COUNCIL
26 MARCH 2020 (This meeting is cancelled)

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. The annual Quality Standards monitoring visits to the 19 Older Persons Care Homes will be conducted from April – June 2020.
3. There is currently one home under Executive Strategy process due to concerns. Contract officers are working with operational officers, along with the Care Quality Commission (CQC) and the Provider to ensure that positive and sustainable improvements are made.
4. Following the publication of 'Smiling Matters' by CQC, commissioners have been working in partnership with Public Health to support the providers of residential care to ensure that they are able to comply with National Institute for Health and Care Excellence (NICE) guidance – "Oral Health for adults in Care homes". Following a presentation by the Oral Health Promotion Team and the Consultant in Dental Public Health at the Residential Care Provider Forum, care home providers completed a baseline self-assessment and questionnaire. Analysis of the responses has led to the delivery of two training sessions for care homes as well as bespoke support delivered in individual care homes where required.
5. A well-attended 'Supporting Carers in the Workplace' event took place jointly with Durham County Council. The focus of the event was to enable employers to support their staff who are juggling paid employment with providing unpaid care to a family member or friend. The main speaker was Katherine Wilson from Employers for Carers, and there was also a speaker from County Durham and Darlington Carers Support, and presentations on Workplace Mental Health and from a working carer.

Operational Services

6. Our reablement service continues to support individuals to maximise their independence. This is evidenced by the increase in the number of individuals benefitting from the service. For example, in the last quarter, 325 individuals have completed a reablement package, resulting in 221 individuals having no on-going care needs. In the recently published regional figures for 2018-19, Darlington continues to be one of the top performing areas in reducing numbers of both younger and older adults, admitted on a permanent basis to residential or nursing care. Maximising independence and supporting people at home, where possible, remains our priority.

Darlington Safeguarding Partnership

7. The Multi-Agency Safeguarding Partnership Group met on Monday 13 January 2020. The Statutory Safeguarding Partners continue to develop relationships and are meeting quickly and flexibly to address and discuss issues and make prompt decisions. The Statutory Safeguarding Partners continue to focus on finalising our multi-agency data-set.
8. Police provided an update in respect of the Whorlton Hall criminal investigation and are working alongside the Crown Prosecution Service to decide what charges should be brought. Whorlton Hall will no longer be used as a care facility. A safeguarding Adult Review is underway in the Durham partnership, and lessons will be shared with wider partners.

Councillor Rachel Mills
Cabinet Member with Portfolio for Adults