

COUNCIL
26 MARCH 2020 (This meeting is cancelled)

OVERVIEW OF ADULTS SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

1. Since the last meeting of the Council, the following are the main areas of work the Adults Scrutiny Committee has undertaken.

‘Living Well with Dementia’ – Dementia Task and Finish Review Group Update

2. We received a report which enabled Members to give consideration to the work of the Dementia Task and Finish Review Group and receive an update on the progress made in terms of the recommendations, and to determine whether the recommendations remained relevant and viable.
3. Members entered into discussion on how we could understand how well services were working from the perspective of an individual living with dementia, and we were informed about the reporting process. Members were also informed about schemes and good practice, and of other services which were accessible to those living with dementia.
4. We were keen to recognise and acknowledge that an enormous amount of work had previously been undertaken, however many of the recommendations from the original review required refreshing, and that there was still much work to be done. Members were keen to see further work undertaken in relation to care for those living with dementia in care homes, domiciliary care, the Dementia Action Alliance, and the Good Friends Scheme, and Members have been encouraged to give further consideration to any areas of work that they wish to bring forward, with topics proposed in the appropriate manner.

Support to Carers

5. The Committee received a report which provided information about support to carers in Darlington, and which gave an update on Darlington’s Carer’s Action Plan 2018-20. Members were advised that the 2011 census identified 11,048 carers in Darlington and stated that 2758 (25 per cent) of whom provided over 50 hours of care per week. The submitted report provided a breakdown of the numbers of carers per age group and highlighted that 197 carers in Darlington were aged between 0-15, with the largest group of carers (37 per cent) being aged 50-64.
6. Members were informed that the Darlington Carers’ Strategy Steering Group (CSSG) had developed a Darlington Carers’ Action Plan in response to the national Carers Action Plan, which was published in June 2018.
7. Members expressed concern that the figures provided identifying the numbers of carers were based on data that was nearly ten years old, however Members were informed that carers were also identified through other means, such as through schools and those registered with Adult Carers Support, and it was acknowledged that there might be a difference between the actual number of carers and the figures provided via the census data. It was explained that many individuals may

not identify themselves as carers, and discussion ensued on the definition of 'a carer'.

8. Discussion ensued on the roles of 'primary carers' and 'secondary carers', the support available to young carers, and the support available to carers where there may be cross boundary issues. The work currently being undertaken to support carers was highlighted, with reference made to potential future work with the Health and Housing Scrutiny Committee and the Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee, and further information being published in Members' newsletters and the 'One Darlington' magazine. Members were pleased to learn of the Carers Support Service being rolled out by GPs surgeries.

Work Programme

9. Members gave consideration to the Work Programme items scheduled to be considered by this Scrutiny Committee during 2019/20, and to any additional areas that Members would like to be included.
10. The Committee noted a number of updates to the Work Programme, the recent visits to Extra Care, Care and Nursing homes, and that the initial meeting of the Loneliness and Connected Communities Task and Finish Group had met for the first time.

Councillor Anne-Marie Curry
Chair of Adults Scrutiny Committee