

Overview Report

Adult Social Care and Health Select Committee

Overview Meeting 2021

9 February 2021

Adult Social Care

Context

The Council has a strong track record of sound financial management. In the current economic climate, finances are always going to be a challenge, and we work hard to make our budget go further. We have adapted to unprecedented funding reductions over the last eight years, saving around £53m. Our medium-term financial planning approach has allowed us to continually balance our budget through delivering savings and efficiencies but also to plan ahead and deliver invest-to-save schemes and innovative changes to service delivery models. We carefully target investments to stimulate economic growth, provide great assets and deliver financial returns to offset funding reductions.

Since the initial development of this Council Plan we have and still are experiencing the effects of the Coronavirus pandemic. Coronavirus provides huge challenges for us to address in terms of community and economic recovery and dealing with the long-term implications of the pandemic. We have reviewed our priorities for the coming year and have adapted these to reflect the focus that is needed to respond to this challenge.

The challenge for all Members is to ensure that decisions about the basis on which services will be delivered are within the resources available, taking account of a number of factors such as the uncertain financial position, changing demographics, increasing demand, new national legislation and policy direction.

Members are reminded of the Council's Vision that supports decision-making:

- A place where people are healthy, safe and protected from harm, where
 - People live in cohesive and safe communities
 - People are supported and protected from harm
 - People live health lives
- A place with a thriving economy where everyone has opportunities to succeed, creating
 - A growing economy
 - Improved education and skills development
 - Job creation and increased employment
- A place that is clean, vibrant and attractive, creating
 - Great places to live and visit
 - Clean and green spaces
 - Rich cultural experiences

The Council plays its part in making sure this is achieved by being a Council that is ambitious, effective and proud to serve.

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Performance Reporting

Performance across the Council Plan was reported on a six-monthly basis to Executive Scrutiny Committee. Please see the link:

<http://www.egenda.stockton.gov.uk/aksstockton/users/public/admin/kab71.pl?cmte=SCR>

Council Plan 2020-2023

The Council Plan sets out the aims and objectives for all services and is refreshed on an annual basis.

The key priorities for 2020-21 for the Adults and Health themes are attached at Appendix 1.

Emerging Issues

Service delivery is influenced by a range of internal and external factors that develop over time. Emerging challenges and opportunities are summarised as follows:

Priorities of the Health & Wellbeing Board

- All children and families get best start in life.
- All people in Stockton live well and live longer.
- All people in Stockton live in healthy places and sustainable communities

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Introduction

The provisions of the Coronavirus Act 2020 Emergency Legislation (25th March 2020) allow for “easement” or suspension of a number of duties in the Care Act 2014. Stockton on Tees Borough Council have not used any easement or ceased any of our Care Act Duties.

This overview report covers Adult Social Care and reflects on the ongoing response to the Covid 19 Pandemic. The work being undertaken in Adult Social Care has raised the profile of the skill, compassion and dedication of not only the Stockton Borough Council staff but also the wider Social Care Workforce across local Care Homes, Care at Home support, Independent and Supported Living, Extra Care, Day Options, Personal Assistants, Carers Services etc.

Adult Services – Challenges and opportunities

Government Guidance – We have responded quickly and flexibly to all Government Guidance, in ASC this relates to numerous areas but in particular to the following;

- Care Sector
- Lockdown
- Personal Protective Equipment
- Testing
- Care Home Visiting
- Designated Settings
- Infection, Prevention and Control
- Department of Health and Social Care Winter Plan

Workforce

Staff have adapted extremely well to the significant changes and at pace and have adapted to new ways of working. For some of our staff this means working from home and technology has enabled staff to do this successfully. We have maintained our work and support across all of the areas noted below:

- Social Work Assessment
- Occupational Therapy Assessment
- Care Homes – Support
- Care at Home
- Day Options
- Carers
- Independent Living
- Hospital
- Integrated Discharge Arrangements
- Reablement
- Designated Setting
- Safeguarding Adults
- Mental Health
- Learning Disability

Care Sector

- Support to local providers
- Provider Forums

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- Newsletters
- Infection, Prevention and Control – North Tees and Hartlepool NHS Foundation Trust/Environmental Health/Public Health/SBC
- Covid Safety
- Public Health
- Support re Government Guidance
- PPE
- Psychological Support – Tees, Esk and Wear Valley NHS Foundation Trust

NHS Partnership Working

- Integration across Intermediate Care Services
- Reablement
- Occupational Therapy
- Equipment
- Single Point
- Hospital Discharge
- Support in the Community

Safeguarding Adults

Under Sections 42-45 of the Care Act 2014, Adult Safeguarding continues to be the responsibility of the Local Authority and local Statutory Partners to keep Adults safe from abuse or neglect with a clear view in avoiding any breach of Human Rights. All Safeguarding Work is continuing through the pandemic:

- Face to Face visits although restricted – circumstances considered
- Mental Health and Substance Misuse
- Domestic Abuse
- Rise in fraud/scams
- E-Learning
- Use of digital solutions/zoom/teams

Summary

Our work will continue to focus on the Covid 19 response, we will use the learning and the innovation which has taken place during this last challenging year to influence future Adult Social Care provision.

Ann Workman
Director of Adults & Health

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Appendix 1 – Council Plan - Key Priorities 2020- 2021 - Adults and Health

Making the Borough a place where people are healthy, safe and protected from harm means creating a place where:

- People live in cohesive and safe communities
- People are supported and protected from harm
- People live healthy lives

We have identified these key priorities for 2020/21 to help us achieve this vision. This year we will:

- Improve the consistency and continuity of social work practice
- Review the quality and suitability of our 'out of area' adults' placements to try, where possible, to support people to return to live in the Borough
- Continuously improve quality of care within adults' residential homes, and in response to the specific issues arising from Coronavirus
- Progress integration opportunities with the NHS
- Develop and test a community pathfinder approach, to support people who are lonely and living in social isolation
- Develop coordinated approach to identifying adults at risk of poor health and design coordinated offer of early intervention and support
- Develop a whole-Council approach to improving health and wellbeing to address inequalities, and the impact of Coronavirus