

Adults' Standing Overview Group

The Adults' Standing Overview Group (ASOG) of the People's Scrutiny Committee meets bi-monthly to review performance/service matters relating to adult's safeguarding and social care services respectively. At the last session on 14 April 2016 the following issues were raised:

Adult Social Care Performance Framework

- With the outcome of the Cheshire West judgement, there has been a significant upturn in Deprivation of Liberties Standards applications, which is a growing pressure on the system. The County Council has a better understanding of the level of anticipated demand on this area of the business now and work is underway to try to deal with the significant increase in workload, prioritised by need.
- Work has been undertaken with partner organisations in terms of the threshold for a safeguarding concern such as with the Ambulance Service, but need to do more with the Police.
- Need to know how quickly work is undertaken within the system to put a protection plan around someone and understand how swiftly Adult Social Care is able to make an individual safer once holding information that a person is at risk.
- It is estimated that there are 80,000 carers in Devon, with the County Council in contact with approximately 13,000 of these. In terms of contact to carers this places Devon as not only a regional leader but one of the leading authorities nationally. The fall in recent performance against carer assessments is largely attributable to the implementation of the Care Act.
- It is vital that the County Council is doing more to help people within their communities before they get to the point of greater intervention.

Prevention

- A joint commissioning strategy for prevention, Living Well and Ageing Well has been developed, which recognises the need to have a concerted focus on preventive action.
- A self-help tool has been designed online as a part of a package of support to provide targeted information, advice and signposting to individuals. It is hoped that the tool will also be used by providers and that members are provided with an information pack to share with their parishes.

Integrated Care Exeter

- The ICE project is initially for Exeter but a similar approach could potentially be rolled out across Devon. ICE aims to improve the delivery of community services for adults with complex needs by joining up and integrating services into a single pathway.
- The project puts GPs in contact with a range of community/voluntary groups in terms of social prescribing/community connecting. There are often far better outcomes for people where they are not moved into statutory services. There are also those in mid-life who need to be encouraged to make the right life choices as part of keeping people well for longer. The ICE model is about helping to create a change in the primary care approach. ICE should enable more people to be cared for in their own home as alternative to being admitted to hospital.
- Work is being undertaken with Exeter City Council on homeless people's care as this is an area where there has not been enough of a holistic approach.

Cllr Sara Randall Johnson
Chair