

COUNCIL
11 JULY 2016

CABINET PORTFOLIO SUMMARY REPORT

REPORT OF	Councillor Christine Jones
CABINET PORTFOLIO FOR	Adult Social Care & Public Health
CO-ORDINATING CHIEF OFFICER	Graham Hodgkinson, Director of Adult Social Services

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report is an update from the Cabinet Portfolio Holder to Members of the Council on matters relevant to her portfolio.

1. OLDER PEOPLE LIVE WELL

The Ageing Well in Wirral strategy, agreed in January 2016, is making good progress. Initial discussions have taken place around how we can tackle social isolation amongst older people in Wirral, how we can encourage age-friendly businesses and exploring what more can be done to ensure that people have access to the right information and advice to help support them as they grow older.

I recently signed off an outline business case for the integration of older people's social care and community services with the NHS to improve the delivery of the right care in the right place at the right time. This proposal would see staff work in integrated teams with the NHS to provide a more joined up, seamless and efficient service to residents.

A due diligence exercise, exploring the legal and financial issues as well as the risks and benefits, has been commissioned, with a full report being available in August. Front line workers have had the benefit of integration workshops in June, with more planned, to develop the service user pathway and achieve a more joined up and streamlined approach to the support of adults and older people with social care and health needs.

There continues to be a high demand on adult services, the focus is on supporting people in their own homes wherever possible. I have found that increased access to good information and advice to make important decisions is helping people to remain at home. 61% of all requests for social care support are resolved with information and advice. The rapid Community Response service continues to see 86% of people referred to them by hospitals still living at home 3 months after their re-ablement service ended.

2. PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES LIVE INDEPENDENTLY

The year-end performance report for adults shows that the number of younger people with a learning disability admitted to a care home has reduced to 14.4 per

100,000 of population, and 84% of adults with a learning disability live in their own home or with their family.

The All Age Disability Partnership Board has begun to oversee the All Age Disability strategy. In addition the Board is now overseeing the implementation of the more detailed All Age Learning Disability Strategy and the Autism Strategy. It has appointed a Voluntary Sector Chair of the Sub Group which is a really positive approach to ensure ownership by, and inclusion of partners in the delivery of the strategies.

Vulnerable and disabled people in Wirral will now be able to access a new, high-quality respite service to meet their needs after extensive discussions between the Council and carers. The new respite service, in a purpose-built facility on Tollemache Road, Birkenhead, will be available alongside a range of other services from November 2016. Given the new service offers a high quality, like-for-like replacement of the services available at Council-run Girtrell Court, it is expected the Council building will close at the end of November 2016.

Following extensive consultation and discussion with carers, a range of new services are being provided to carers and families. The new residential respite service will be provided by Sanctuary Housing and offers 8 purpose-designed bedrooms with en-suite facilities in an exclusive, high quality building.

We guaranteed local residents we would provide excellent alternative options for residential care. We said that everyone in Wirral who needed respite care would continue to get it. I am proud we have delivered on those promises, and in fact delivered a better, more modern and flexible service for every person and family who needs respite care in Wirral.

We knew at the outset of the consultation that different families would want their services to be provided in different kinds of ways. I am really pleased we have come to such a positive outcome, and I am especially pleased that the carers we are working with are so enthusiastic about the new service which is on offer. We have worked closely with families and carers to ensure their voices are heard and they are satisfied the service their loved ones will receive in future is the absolute best available.