

CABINET PORTFOLIO SUMMARY REPORT

REPORT OF	Councillor Christine Jones
CABINET PORTFOLIO FOR	Adult Social Care
CO-ORDINATING CHIEF OFFICER	Graham Hodgkinson, Strategic Commissioner – Health and Care

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 Great Wirral Door Knock, a pilot-project through the Ageing Well in Wirral Strategy took place in Eastham in September. During the pilot, a need was identified within the community for a bereavement support group. In partnership with other carer organisations, Age UK Wirral has now successfully set up a monthly Peer Bereavement Support Group at the Net@68 Community centre.

Following the success of pilot in Eastham, a number of organisations are planning another event in Woodchurch from 5th-7th December 2016 with the main aim of reaching those older people who may be isolated or lonely. Age UK Wirral in partnership with Merseyside Police, Merseyside Fire & Rescue Service, Citizens Advice Wirral, Magenta Living and Wirral Council will be working together with local community groups to speak to local residents, finding out about their local area and offering information about local activities and other advice services where needed.

Self-assessment for social care and support has been launched and Wirral residents can now search the market place independently, and can submit their self-assessment and carer assessment forms online if they wish. This initiative will improve appropriate access to care services and put people and their carers more in control of identifying how their needs could be best met. The initiative also provides a much broader range of information that was previously held by professionals offering people direct access to help them make better decisions in a timely way.

It is important to note almost 60% of new requests for support are resolved via advice and information. Of those that cannot be resolved at the earliest stage there has been a 20% increase in the last year of new referrals for full needs assessment. 40% of these referrals lead to people receiving re-ablement and intermediate care services that help them to maximise their independence. This demonstrates the focus on early intervention and promoting independence.

During the last year there has been a 150% increase in carer assessments, many of which lead to carers receiving support in their own right to carry on caring, which reflects the Council's commitment to understanding and supporting the needs of local carers.

Fewer people are being placed in long term care home placements and more people are choosing Direct Payments. In total, there are currently 7,600 people receiving support services.

2. PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES LIVE INDEPENDENTLY

The All Age Disability Partnership Board continues to meet on a regular basis, with the sub groups also now starting to make an impact. The performance measures are now in place and signed off. Quarter one reporting was able to evidence improvements from the baseline, and this has been communicated via the sub-groups to the Board. Reporting against these will progress for future quarters.

The sub-group will now establish a task and finish group with a focus on employment. An employment event was held in November at The Lauries to promote and facilitate access to service that are currently provided to support disabled people in to employment, and a chair will be arranged via the Employment sector.

Mencap have recently completed a survey of their members locally to determine what peoples' priorities are, and the working sub group have agreed to take this forward to next year to form the basis of local coproduction.

The re-commissioning of respite services has seen a third of former Girtrell Court users accessing choices that give them more control of how their needs are met. Sanctuary Supported Living is the new residential service provider. Plans are in place for a smooth transition between the council and the new provider. The new service will fully commence on the 6th February 2017.

3. SUSTAINABILITY AND TRANSFORMATION PLANS (STP)

In November colleagues in the NHS throughout the UK published 'Sustainability and Transformation Plans' – their ideas for how our NHS could be modernised and made more able to meet the changing needs of local populations. It is clear the NHS is facing major financial challenges in the coming years. Just in Cheshire and Merseyside, health and social care services face a funding deficit of almost £1 billion. In the absence of any additional support from the Government, radical and ambitious reform plans will need to be considered.

It is absolutely vital local Elected Members in Wirral and throughout the City Region are able to effectively review, influence and debate these proposals and I am pleased the Leader of the Council has called a special meeting of the Health and Wellbeing Board to do just that. I believe we need to work closely with our colleagues in the local NHS system to ensure the needs of Wirral residents are considered as the number one priority in any changes which are proposed as part of this process, and ensure the voices of our residents are heard loud and clear through transparent, effective and robust consultation.