

CORE OFFER BUDGET FOR ADULT SOCIAL CARE STAFFING

WHY DOES THE COUNCIL HAVE TO PROVIDE THIS SERVICE AND WHAT DOES IT NEED TO COVER?

Adult Social Care has to carry out duties and functions which are set out within legislation. In April 2015, there was a significant change to the legislation and guidance following the introduction of the Care Act 2014. The Local Authority adult social care service was always the lead agency for safeguarding vulnerable adults and this is now enshrined in legislation

This Act places a number of duties which must be met by the Local Authority, the majority of which fall within Adult Social Care. The primary duty is to carry out an assessment of need for individuals and or their carers. These assessments must determine whether or not the individual and or their carer have eligible needs.

From April 2015 to December 2015, Adult Social Care completed 1606 assessments of needs and 262 carer assessments and reviews. We received 3913 initial contacts within the same period.

The assessment and support planning process should focus on promoting the well-being and independence of the individual. Adult Social Care must also carry out reviews for individuals with assessed needs and their carers. The Care Act states that for individuals who require it there must be access to advocacy support throughout the assessment and support planning process.

HOW DOES THE CORE OFFER BUDGET MEET THE COUNCIL'S OBLIGATIONS?

Assessing adults who may have needs which make them eligible for support

In order to carry out its statutory duties to assess adults who may have needs that are eligible for support, Adult Social Care must employ staff with the suitable skills and qualifications. There are the equivalent of 64 full time staff who are undertaking the social work role, all of which have the required training and qualifications. New staff receive the required training. In addition to this there are of other staff who carry out specialist roles, including support workers, community assessment officers, assistant occupational therapists and business support.

The service has 2 Heads of Service, 2 Operational Managers and 9 Team Managers who make up the senior management team. Caseloads vary depending on the complexity of needs that individuals have but typically social workers have caseloads of between 25 and 40 people. In Darlington there are currently 4086 open cases (December 2015).

Safeguarding

The safety of the individual must be a priority. The Local Authority has a duty to protect adults and children at risk and they are the lead agency for Safeguarding. The local Authority must have a Safeguarding Adults Board which oversees the work of all agencies who are supporting adults at risk. This is in place with appropriate funding and it ensures that staff are trained as required. Between April and December 2015, Adult Social Care received 742 safeguarding concerns.

Mental Health and Mental Capacity

The local authority has 10 staff who are Approved Mental Health Practitioners and who carry out specialist assessments under the Act (costs for these staff are included in the core social work teams). Between April 2015 and December 2015, 222 assessments were completed.

In order to comply with the Mental Capacity Act 2005 and Deprivation of Liberty safeguards there are 10 staff who have specialist training and are qualified Best Interest Assessors (costs for these staff are included in the core social work teams). For those individuals who are deprived of their liberty; it must be deemed to be in their best interest; it must be a proportionate response to ensuring their safety and well-being and the Local Authority has a statutory role as the Supervisory Body in relation to granting and monitoring the authorisations. Between April 2015 and December 2015 689 assessments were completed.

Learning Disabilities

The Local Authority provides four separate sites that provide day care and day opportunities to some of our most complex individuals in Darlington who have Learning Disabilities. We also provide residential short break care to adults with a Learning Disability at a purpose built centre. Adult social care provides supported accommodation for 10 adults in 3 houses across the town. In total we have 46 full time equivalent staff working in the area of Learning Disabilities. The services provided in-house are usually done so because they are either at a lower cost than those provided elsewhere or because of a shortage of providers.

Carers

The Local Authority has a duty set out within The Children Act 1989, to assess and review the care and support needs of disabled children and their carers. The Care Act also sets out the duty to assess adults' carers.

Transitions to adulthood

Adult Social Care must ensure there are robust arrangements in place for those young people with additional needs when they become adults; the Care Act states that Local Authorities must carry out transition assessments for those who will be likely to have needs for care and support.

Provision of advice

The Local Authority must also provide good quality information and advice, access to support and resources that can assist with delaying and reducing need. It does this through a web-based database of services and support.

Reablement

Adult Social Care must support for up to 6 weeks of support at no cost to the individual if it is providing a reablement function. The social care team have completed 540 reablement assessments between April and December 2015. The service supports individuals to maintain their independence and they work closely with hospital staff to support safe and timely discharges from the hospital. Other preventative services include assistive technology, community support and Occupational Therapy. From April 2015 – December 2015, the Occupational Therapy team completed 738 assessments.

Sensory impairment

The Care Act requires that Local Authorities maintain a register of individuals who are severely sight impaired and sight impaired. This is in place.

Supporting the care market

The Local Authority must ensure for those individuals who do require support that there is sufficient choice and availability of services within the market. Arrangements need to be in place to monitor the quality of the services and to ensure that services are delivering what has been requested and supporting individuals to meet their outcomes. The Local Authority produces a market position statement to encourage new organisations to provide services and quality assures the services that it purchases.

DOES THIS DIFFER FROM THE CURRENT SERVICE?

Although Adult Social Care will continue to meet its statutory requirements the core offer budget will include a small reduction in staff, particularly in those areas where there are no duties imposed on us by law. In particular, the service which helps people with Learning Disabilities move into employment will be ended as this is a discretionary function and there are other statutory bodies that support people to find employment.

In addition, there are 3 local voluntary sector organisations that currently receive funding from the service (in total £21,000) to provide advice, information or room hire costs and this funding will cease – affecting Gay Advice Darlington, Darlington Association on Disability and the Deaf Club. We will also reshape our services to ensure we maximise the remaining staff and manage demand into the future.

WHAT IS THE CORE BUDGET MADE UP OF?

Staff Salaries (128 Full Time Equivalent Posts)	£4,325,265
Other Staff Related Costs	£510,515
Emergency Duty Team	£140,000
Assistive Technology Equipment	£2,514
Sensory Equipment	£12,015
Carers	£102,836
Learning Disability	£86,954
Short Break, Supported Living, Day Opportunities Running Expenses	
Mental Capacity Act	£158,942
Advocacy	£173,954
Prevention Services	£9,995
Direct Payment Support Service	£20,000
Legal Fees	£42,183
Bad Debts	£95,000
Support Services Costs	£142,775
Overheads	£937,935

Total

2019/20 Budget £6,760,883