

Sunderland South Area Committee - 7th January 2008

HEALTH, HOUSING & ADULT SERVICES

SERVICES TO HELP PEOPLE LIVING AT HOME - DECEMBER 2007

Report by Performance & Information Manager (Health, Housing & Adult Services)

1. Purpose

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to provide area-based information to Members about key areas in Adult Services. The report looks at information covering the services provided to individuals to assist them to remain in their own homes and therefore promoting independence. In the longer-term, some of the work will be integrated into the Area Profile Reports previously discussed at the Area Committees.

2. Background

- 2.1 One of the primary aims of adult social care is to promote the independence of individuals, particularly to help them to live in their own home for as long as possible – which is what most people tell us they want nationally and locally.
- 2.2 Adult Services works with customers and their carers workers to assess the risk to individuals and their needs in undertaking identified activities of daily living (e.g. washing, bathing, getting out and about) via a national assessment process called Fair Access to Care Services (FACS). If people's needs and their related risks meet the criteria against FACS and its related Statement of Purpose, then Adult Services will provide relevant services for them to be cared for and/or to live in their own homes. Sunderland is now one of only four authorities in England that continues to provide services to all assessed individuals throughout the FACS 'spectrum' of support – from 'Low' to 'Critical' Risk, and this reflects a Members commitment to support the needs of as many vulnerable people as possible.

3. Helping People Live At Home

- 3.1 The type of services described as 'helping people to live at home' range from personal care, day opportunities and planned short breaks, which allow people to be cared for in a safe environment whilst enabling their carers to have a break from caring. Adult Services also provides financial support via Direct Payments, which allows people who have been assessed as needing support, to receive the equivalent money directly. An individual receiving Direct Payments often has greater choice over their care, as they can then go out and buy the services they require, within agreed guidelines.
- 3.2 The table looks at the number of people helped to live at home by Adult Services in the City at 30th September 2007 to clients aged 18 years of age and over. Within the City as a whole, a total of 1.5% of people aged 18 – 64

years and 12% of people aged 65 and over were helped to live at home by Adult Services. As Members would expect, there is a close relationship between the more deprived areas in the city and the number of people supported.

Area/Ward	Number of residents aged 18 – 64 helped to live at home	% of all residents 18 – 64 helped to live at home	Number of residents aged 65+ helped to live at home	% of all residents 65+ helped to live at home
Sunderland	2,644	100%	5,570	100%
Doxford	94	3.6%	159	2.9%
Silksworth	100	3.8%	232	4.2%
St Chads	83	3.1%	310	5.6%
Sunderland South	277	10%	701	13%

3.3 Some 10% of all 2,644 people aged 18 – 64 years helped to live at home lived within the Sunderland South area, this being slightly less than the corresponding proportion of older people (13%) in Sunderland South. The highest level of support is clustered in St Chads, which is ranked as the 2nd highest ward in terms of the total number of people supported at home within Sunderland.

4. Customers Receiving Equipment

4.1 Another service provided through Adult Services is the delivery of one-off items of equipment, such as bath boards or bath lifters, for both those individuals assessed as needing help either through Adult Services and the NHS. This equipment is provided through a jointly funded Community Equipment Service run by the Council. In technical terms, these one-off items of equipment are not included in the Council's "helped to live at home" figures, as the latter refers to ongoing (i.e. weekly or regular) care services provided for individuals. (Members should note however that maintained items of equipment – such as stair lifts – are included in "helped to live at home" figures, as these items need to be serviced regularly).

4.2 The Community Equipment Service provides over 30,000 items of equipment or minor adaptations, such as hand rails, annually to individuals prescribed this equipment by health or social care professionals – often more than one item of equipment is provided to these individuals. An additional requirement of the service is that staff delivering the equipment should demonstrate how to use the equipment to individuals that will use it to assure their safety.

4.3 This table looks at the number of clients receiving equipment during the year. Of the 8,927 individuals provided with equipment, 1,148 (13%) clients were within the Sunderland South Area.

Area/Ward	Number of residents aged 18 – 64 receiving equipment	% of all residents 18 – 64 receiving equipment	Number of residents aged 65+ receiving equipment	% of all residents 65+ receiving equipment
Sunderland	2,245	100%	6,682	100%
Doxford	70	3.1%	225	3.4%
Silksworth	114	5.1%	304	4.6%
St Chads	68	3.0%	367	5.5%
Sunderland South	252	11%	896	13%

4.4 The Sunderland South area contains 11% of the 2,245 Sunderland residents aged 18-64 who receive equipment, with the highest proportion living in Silksworth. Sunderland South also accounts for 13% of the 6,682 residents aged 65+ receiving equipment, the highest proportion being in the ward of St Chads.

4.5 Many of the individuals that the Council and NHS serve need help quickly, and the Government set a performance measure for each authority relating to the proportion of equipment or minor adaptation delivered within 7 working days of the need for the equipment being identified. Members should note that it is not always possible to achieve this target for all items of equipment, as some need to be specially ordered to meet customised requirements (e.g. powered wheelchairs). However, this is only a very small minority of cases – we estimate less than 5% of all equipment.

4.6 Sunderland's performance for 2006/07 was 88%, and although this is slightly better than many other authorities, the Council has not substantially improved on this level for the first seven months of 2007/08 as a result of capacity issues in the service – clearly, this was not acceptable position to maintain. In November, the Council released additional resources to improve customer service, and the latest figures for November indicate that more than 95% of equipment was delivered in the 7 working day timescale during that month. We will hope to maintain – and indeed improve – on this performance for the remainder of the year.

4.7 In February 2008, Sunderland will take part in the first national survey of customers prescribed equipment, seeking to gain their views as to whether they were provided with choices about their equipment, whether the equipment or minor adaptations is of ongoing use to them, whether it was delivered quickly enough for them and if its use was demonstrated to their satisfaction. We would like to share the results of this survey with the Area Committees in 2008, and to identify any areas of improvement for their localities.

5. People with Learning Disabilities That the Council Helps

5.1 One of the aims of the Government's *Valuing People* (2001) document was that the term "learning disabilities" would be redundant by 2020. The reason

for this was that people with these disabilities would have the same opportunities as all citizens, but they might need support to access and benefit from services open to all. This includes opportunities not just access Council or public sector services, but also the private and Third Sectors, as well as all aspects of life as a citizen, including making a positive contribution, accommodation and employment opportunities.

- 5.2 Other than a relatively limited medical definition based on IQ cognitive ability, there is no formally recognised definition of what constitutes “learning disabilities” as opposed to “learning difficulties” nationally. However, a consensus seems to be emerging nationally that the proportion of people presenting with “learning difficulties/disabilities” equates to around 4 – 5% of the population, whilst those with “learning disabilities” represent around 2.4% of the population aged 20 – 59 years. In Sunderland, a recent analysis within the Council estimates a prevalence of around 2.3% - around 3,550 people in the City.
- 5.3 The City can never have a comprehensive register of people with learning disability and this is largely because any such disability register has to work on the basis of self-identification of people who regard themselves as being disabled. It’s likely that any register will under-represent the “true” prevalence of people with learning disabilities expected in the City. The above discussion highlights the need to ensure that people with disabilities are seen as citizens within Sunderland, whilst also ensuring that they are safeguarded from harm or abuse because of their disabilities within the community.
- 5.4 Adult Services helps not just older people or those with physical disabilities, but also those with learning disabilities in the City. The support provided is based on working with the individual and their carer(s) within the framework of the national assessment process described in the Background Section. Eligible individuals are provided both with community-based support – “helped to live at home” – whilst more vulnerable individuals are provided with supported accommodation, ranging from sheltered core and cluster schemes with staff on-site or nearby, increasingly in their own (again sometimes supported) tenancies or in residential/nursing care for the most vulnerable.
- 5.5 However, it is known that Adult Services helps around 25% of the estimated 3,550 – 870 individuals - with eligible needs ranging from ‘low’ to ‘critical’, and this seems to be broadly a similar percentage to the national position.
- 5.6 The table below indicates the number of people with learning disabilities aged 18 – 64 years that Adult Services supports within the city and wards within each ward. Members should note that the numbers includes individuals in core and cluster schemes in certain wards, which is why the figures will show some variation. A small number of originally residents of Sunderland currently live in specialist out-of-city placements, such as further education colleges in other areas.

Area/Ward	Number of residents aged 18 – 64 with LD known to Council	% of residents aged 18 – 64 with LD known to Council in given area
Sunderland	821	94%
Doxford	32	3.7%
Silksworth	28	3.2%
St Chads	27	3.1%
Sunderland South	87	10%
Out-of-City Placements	49	6%

5.7 The table shows that around 10% of the 870 residents aged 18 – 64 years with learning disabilities known to the Council reside in the Sunderland South area, with the highest proportion living in the Doxford ward.

6. Recommendations

6.1 Members are asked to note the contents of this report.