

Council Improvement Profiles

LOCAL AUTHORITY : SEFTON

The Council and its partners continue to commission and deliver services in challenging and changing times, with further reductions in budgets, increasing demand and a population who require increasing levels of care and support. Despite this we have continued to work on key areas and have established new work streams. Sefton is developing a number of Public Sector Reform projects and in light of proposed changes a number of policies and strategies will be reviewed over the coming year. Some highlights of the year are noted below:

Care Act 2014

Work to roll out the Care Act 2014 including a work stream to align policies and procedures and a new Assessment format has been completed. Additional resource was used to ensure compliance with the requirement to reassess Service Users. Key challenges included the requirement to provide carers' needs assessments which required Adult Social Care teams and the Carers Centre to work closely to deliver. We have recently conducted a review of the assessment process and implemented changes to ensure that we provide a proportionate assessment in line with the requirements of the Care Act 2014.

Direct payments

The introduction of a prepaid card in Sefton was piloted from October 2015 to March 2016 with a volunteer group of existing direct payments customers (Adults and Children's) and any new people who opted to have a direct payment to pay for their care and support. As a result of a successful pilot and evaluation, the Council procured a prepaid card provider and commenced an implementation programme to roll out the cards with a target of 50 people being transferred each month.

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Carers

The Sefton Carer's Strategy was approved and focuses on sharing principles of good practice and promotes the ways in which organisations can work with carers to achieve a number of measurable outcomes to support their wellbeing and those who they care for. This strategy was co-produced with carers and young carers themselves and is based on extensive consultation. Also involved with the production were the two CCGs in Sefton, Sefton Carers Centre, VCF sector organisations, and Health watch Sefton. Sefton Carers Centre is the main provider of Carers Assessments as well as the provider of a range of low level support.

Working with Health

South Sefton Virtual Ward delivers to 4 geographic areas each with an assigned a local authority Social Worker and Occupational Therapist. University Hospital Aintree has a Lead Social Work Practitioner covering assessments from AED departments enabling discharges and preventing hospital admissions.

In the north of the Borough, health and social care investment from the Better Care Fund has contributed to the Community Emergency Response Team as part of care closer to home programme, which bridges the gap in care to enable discharge and prevent hospital admissions from Southport District General Hospital. The team is an integrated team led by Health and has a Lead Social Work Practitioner and social work assessors and provides rapid discharge or admission prevention utilising 28 Step up/Step down beds in Residential or Nursing home care.

These services form the basis of 'Home First' a discharge to assess and step up model of care. 'Home First', designed with health providers and commissioners further develops re-ablement and intermediate care services to support a more rapid discharge from Hospital, for patients requiring functional rehabilitation, utilising the role of 'Trusted Assessor'.

Safeguarding

Over recent months moves have been made to work towards creation of a single Combined Safeguarding Adults Board across a large geographical footprint to include Knowsley, Liverpool, Sefton and Wirral. The combined Board Chair has been appointed and it is expected that the Board will be established from May 2017.

Dementia

"Living Well With Dementia: A Strategy for Sefton 2014-19" has been co-produced with people who have dementia, their carers' and service providers. An action plan has been developed and is overseen by the Dementia Multi Agency Working Group, a sub group of the Health and Wellbeing Board. There are a range of support services for people with dementia their families and carers in Sefton which include; befriending, memory cafes, activity groups, dementia support, singing for the brain and regular carer information and support programmes. In addition there is a Sefton Dementia Action Alliance and since its launch nearly 40 organisations and businesses have signed up to become members. This alliance is supported by the Alzheimer's Society and is made up of groups, organisations, shops, businesses and individuals who want to radically improve services and support to people with dementia and their carers'.

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