Our Approach to Prevention

Overview/Introduction

Over the last few years Kirklees Council has been working in a person centred arena by:

- Person centred assessments and support plans
- Referrals to the Care Navigation service for people with eligible and non-eligible needs
- Development of extra care housing
- Supporting the community/voluntary sector to develop services
- Safeguarding vulnerable adults
- Providing support for carers

Kirklees Council are taking this work forward in a way that works with people that aims to improve the independence and wellbeing of adults across our localities. The council has been working towards this ethos and wants to continue to develop in order to provide the right service at the right time to people.

- We will promote a society where we “help people to help themselves”.
- We will enable people NOT take their independence away.
- We will work with partners to promote health and wellbeing.
- We will work alongside the community and voluntary services to provide local services for local people.

We want people living in Kirklees to live life longer, have a good quality of life, and participate in their communities, to have choice and control and to remain safe and secure.

Kirklees want to ensure that the care and support system intervenes early and uses preventative services to support individuals, helping them retain or regain their skills and confidence and prevents needs rising or delays deterioration wherever possible. These services are directed at vulnerable adults, carers and young people in transition from children to adult services.

Kirklees is a diverse Council with a mixture of urban and rural areas and people of different cultures. We need to ensure that services are tailored to meet these diversities.

It is made up of:

North Kirklees – Batley, Birstall and Birkenshaw, Dewsbury and Mirfield and Spen Valley


Who is this approach for?

The approach applies to all people in Kirklees who may need advice and information about what services are available at what stage of their lives. It may be for someone they know who is lonely, someone who cares for a family member or someone who has a child moving from children to adult services.
Prevent, reduce and delay

The term “prevention” or “preventative” measures can cover many different types of support, services, facilities or other resources. There is no one definition for what constitutes preventative activity and this can range from wide-scale whole-population measures aimed at promoting health, to more targeted, individual interventions aimed at improving skills or functioning for one person or a particular group or lessening the impact of caring on a carer’s health and wellbeing.

“Prevention” is often broken down into three general approaches – primary, secondary and tertiary prevention. We refer to these 3 levels of approaches as Prevent, Reduce and Delay.

- **Prevent (primary prevention/promoting wellbeing):** this is aimed at people who have no particular social care needs or symptoms of illness – to prevent them from becoming ill or frail in the first place. The focus is therefore on maintaining independence and good health and on promoting wellbeing.

- **Reduce (secondary prevention/early intervention):** this aims to identify people at risk and to halt or slow down any deterioration, and to actively seek to improve their situation.

- **Delay (tertiary prevention):** this aims to minimise disability or deterioration from established health conditions or complex social care needs.

Working in partnership

Delivering a strategic shift to prevention requires a ‘whole system’ approach – this is not just about health and social care.

It needs to involve the full range of Council departments and other stakeholders such as:

- Housing,
- Health,
- The Pensions Service,
- Community Safety Partnerships,
- Clinical Commissioning Groups,
- Independent sector and many more

We are continuing the journey; developing Integrated Commissioning with the CCGs, developing preventative programmes both between internal departments and with partners, as well the Council wide strategic shift to focus on early intervention as one of its three key themes for local community wellbeing.

We will continue to support housing solutions for people in the local community who are vulnerable including Extra Care Units, and establishments for people with specific needs, such as the Healey Unit in Batley.