

SOCIAL & HEALTH CARE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Date of Meeting	Thursday 8th June 2023
Report Subject	Update on Occupational Therapy Services
Cabinet Member	Deputy Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Social Services and Wellbeing
Report Author	Chief Officer (Social Services)
Type of Report	Operational

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report explains and describes how Occupational therapy is supported and delivered for the benefit of Flintshire residents. The Appendix describes the work carried out in Occupational Therapy over the year from 1st April 2022 to 31st March, 2023.

Supporting and enabling people to remain as independent as possible while enjoying a good quality of life for the individual is more challenging than ever given an aging population, diverse and complex health issues.

Occupational therapy involves the use of assessment and intervention to develop, recover or maintain the meaningful activities or occupations of individual groups or communities.

A practitioner can be defined as someone who helps people across their lifespan to participate in meaningful and purposeful activities and life skills. Supporting individuals across the age spectrum experiencing physical and cognitive changes looking at all options to maximise independent function.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1	That members note the content of the report and work carried out by the Occupational Therapy service.
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REPORT DETAILS

1.00	OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY IN FLINTSHIRE SOCIAL SERVICES
1.01	Occupational Therapy within Flintshire Social Services offers support across every age range to enable people and their families to achieve their desired personal outcomes. The service is focused on a strengths-based model which identifies a person's functional abilities and any barriers within the context of the environment in which they live.
1.02	The Occupational Therapy role is to support a person to overcome barriers in their lives by focusing on occupational activities and using these as a form of therapy. Occupation is defined as anything we participate in within our daily roles, routines and habits. We all need a balance of self-care, productivity and leisure occupation in our lives to maximise our health and well-being.
1.03	Occupational Therapy focusses on helping people achieve this balance. When we are ill or have a long-term condition one or more of these aspects of life can be compromised, affecting our overall well-being. Occupational Therapists work to help people balance all three areas of occupational well-being.
1.04	In Flintshire Social Services, Occupational Therapists work across a number of teams and service user groups:
1.05	Locality - there are 3 locality areas: Northwest, Northeast and South teams. Each team has 4 Occupational Therapists led by a Senior Practitioner Occupational Therapist, a Deputy Team Manager, and a Team Manager. Occupational Therapists (OT's) hold complex cases which require long term support, often requiring manual handling assessments and Disabled Facility Grants (DFGs). These support with environmental adaptations, removing barriers to physical engagement with daily routines when people have lost some functional ability due to their long-term condition. The OT will also work closely with other agencies, teams, and internal departments (e.g., Housing) to support independence. The long-term teams work closely with their Social Work colleagues on cases where the person lacks mental capacity and requires best interest decisions being made regarding their care and support.
1.06	Reablement - Reablement OT's work with people age 18+, they focus on building skills and confidence to enable a person to achieve their potential following a recent hospital stay or illness. Their involvement is short term up to a maximum of 6 weeks and is goal orientated. The majority of their cases are manual handling, and they work closely with care agencies to assess and tailor care packages to ensure the person is receiving the correct support at the most appropriate times. Reablement Occupational Therapy will also work with people to reduce the need for a care package by helping people develop new routines, roles, activities, or skills. The Occupational Therapist works closely with the Physiotherapists and Technical Instructor to support the person to increase their abilities in many areas, to help overcome barriers and find solutions to everyday issues. They are positive risk takers and encourage a person to improve their function rather than to compensate and become dependent and

	<p>further disabled by their environment or physical function. Five Occupational Therapists work across Flintshire to promote reablement into the community and are managed by an Occupational Therapist team manager.</p>
1.07	<p>Paediatrics - the Paediatric team work closely with children's services including Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS) and Education to support developmental milestones being achieved. This could be support with manual handling or overseeing extensive adaptations such as home extensions and adaptations to enable the child and their family to function safely within their home. Three Paediatric Occupational Therapists work across Flintshire, managed by an Occupational Therapist team manager.</p>
1.08	<p>Intake Team- Enablement Officers (EOs) work on non-complex cases which require mainly smaller adaptations and equipment. They manage their own caseload and can offer advice and information to signpost people to alternative services to meet their lower-level needs and outcomes. EOs can complete longer term work such as level access showers and less complex cases which do not require a structural change. We currently employ seven Enablement Officers who cover Flintshire, managed by a Senior Occupational Therapist, a Deputy Team Manager, and a Team Manager.</p>
1.09	<p>Interaction with Disabled Facilities Grant Team and other internal teams All our Occupational Therapy teams work closely with our housing teams in areas such as rehousing and minor and major adaptations. This work is often carried out in conjunction with a surveyor. The Occupational Therapist's role is to establish what is necessary to meet long term needs based on DFG legislation while the surveyor's role is to establish feasibility on what is practicable and reasonable to achieve. This joint working involves careful negotiation and compromise between all parties, including the person and their family. For homes where the Local Authority or Housing Association are landlords then the surveyor will also consider adapting a smaller property with fewer bedrooms, thus potentially releasing a family-sized home currently tenanted by an older person who can longer manage in the property. The role of the occupational therapist is to be tenant's voice in reasoning and justifying why they need to remain in their home or whether re housing is an option long term.</p>

2.00	RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS
2.01	<p>Revenue: there are no implications for the approved revenue budget for this service for either the current financial year or for future financial years.</p> <p>Capital: there are no implications for the approved capital programme for either the current financial year or for future financial years</p> <p>Human Resources: there are no implications for additional capacity or for any change to current workforce structures or roles.</p>

3.00	IMPACT ASSESSMENT AND RISK MANAGEMENT
3.01	An impact assessment is not required as this report is for information only.

4.00	CONSULTATIONS REQUIRED/CARRIED OUT
4.01	None required in this instance.

5.00	APPENDICES
5.01	Appendix 1 – Review of activity by Occupational Therapy Services for the year April 2022 to end March 2023

6.00	LIST OF ACCESSIBLE BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS
6.01	None.

7.00	CONTACT OFFICER DETAILS
7.01	Contact Officer: Paula Curtis, Team Manager, Reablement and Telecare Telephone: 01352 701415 E-mail: paula.curtis@flintshire.gov.uk

8.00	GLOSSARY OF TERMS
8.01	<p>Disability Facilities Grant – a Government Grant to help people with disabilities make changes to their home.</p> <p>Enablement Officer (EO) – an officer who works on less complex cases but does not hold a professional Occupational Therapy qualification.</p> <p>Paediatric Occupation Therapist – an OT who works with children and younger people, including some young adults.</p>