

ADULT AND PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICES PORTFOLIO DECISION RECORD

23rd July 2007

The meeting commenced at 9.00 a.m. in the Red Room, Avondale Centre,
Dyke House, Hartlepool

Present:

Gerard Hall (Adult and Public Health Portfolio Holder)

Officers: Tony Brown, Chief Solicitor
John Mennear, Assistant Director (Community Services)
Ewen Weir, Assistant Director (Commissioning)
Maggie Heaps, Adult Education Co-ordinator
Pam Twells, Principal Supporting Peoples Officer
Jo Wilson, Democratic Services Officer

41. Supporting People Contracts *(Director of Adult and Community Services)*

Type of decision

Non-Key

Purpose of report

To request approval to the waiving of Standing Orders in relation to urgent contracting requirements for Supporting People.

Issue(s) considered by the Portfolio Holder

The Supporting People Commissioning Body had identified a sum of up to £500,000 over and above committed programmes in the current year. They would like to issue a number of short term contracts for housing related support for vulnerable people. In order to have a reasonable time to prepare, select, award and deliver on these projects it was proposed to waiver the normal tendering arrangements for contracts. Expressions of interest would be invited from supporting people accredited providers in Hartlepool and other supporting people accredited providers. The Commissioning Body would approve the final selections.

The Portfolio Holder was advised that there should be some pre-determined basis for the evaluation of bids to make things clear for all concerned. The Principal Supporting People Officer indicated individual

contracts would be no more than £50,000 and would probably fund floating support services and the piloting of new services, rather than funding existing long term services. It was also indicated that an already established process for evaluation of bids would be employed to ensure fairness, quality and value.

The Portfolio Holder indicated that he was minded to support the application, provided safeguards were in place.

Decision

That Standing Orders in relation to tendering requirements for short term Supporting People contracts in the current year be waived.

42. Adult Education Fees – Academic Year 2007/2008

(Director of Adult and Community Services)

Type of decision

Non-Key

Purpose of report

To consider the level of adult education fees for the academic year 1st August 2007 to 31st July 2008.

Issue(s) considered by the Portfolio Holder

The report gave detailed background information and the current fee levels for Adult Education courses funded through the Learning and Skills Council (LSC) and other sources. The report also identified factors affecting adult education course fees in Hartlepool for 2007/08 and looked at options for fee levels.

The Portfolio Holder was advised that if adult education fees were set in accordance with LSC guidance, then there would be no financial implications for the Council's budget as the level of fee increases would be sufficient to enable the Adult Education Service to operate LSC funded courses within the budget allocated by the LSC.

Detailed recommendations were made for the level of adult education fees for the academic year August 2007 to July 2008. A detailed discussion on the recommendations followed during which officers advised the Portfolio Holder as to the effect the proposed changes would have on adult learners, particularly those on benefits. The Portfolio Holder indicated that in most cases he would prefer the increases to remain at the rate of inflation but was aware that this would fall short of the LSC recommendations and could lead to job cuts. Any decisions would be made on the basis of provisions for the less fortunate and officers would be asked to monitor the level of take up amongst learners.

Decision

That the following be approved:

- i. Vocational and First Steps Learning courses to be charged at £90 for a 60 hour course and £30 for a 20 hour course
- ii. PCDL courses to be charged at £100 for a 60 hour course and £35 for a 20 hour course
- iii. No course fees to be charged to students entitled under the LSC guidance on remitted fees (except for a one-off administration charge)
- iv. The fee remission policy should continue to apply as at present to those categories of courses which are considered as developmental as noted at Appendix 1.
- v. Fees for ESOL courses be set in line with other vocational and PCDL classes.
- vi. That the administration charges be increased to £15 for PCDL courses but remain at £7 for vocational and First Steps courses
- vii. That courses which were not supported through LSC funding be delivered at the full cost rate.

43. Hartlepool Education Three Year Development Plan 2007-2008 *(Director of Adult and Community Services)*

Type of decision

Non-Key

Purpose of report

To endorse the submission of the draft of the Hartlepool Adult Education Three Year Development Plan 2007-2008 to the Learning Skills Council in order to release funding for the service for the 2007-2008 academic year.

Issue(s) considered by the Portfolio Holder

Since 2004 the Learning and Skills Council had required Local Authorities to produce a Three Year Development Plan each year to secure funding to deliver a range of vocational and non-vocational training. The Plan was appended to the report for the Portfolio Holder's attention and details were given of the content and financial implications.

Decision

That the submission of the Hartlepool Adult Education Three Year Plan to the LSC be endorsed.

44. Change of Name for the Adult Education Service (Director of Adult and Community Services)

Type of decision

Non-Key

Purpose of report

To consider the renaming of the Adult Education service in order to reflect current trends and priorities.

Issue(s) considered by the Portfolio Holder

The Adult Education service was formed at local Government reorganisation in 1996. At that time the range of provision was limited, consisting mainly of leisure type activities. In 2001 the funding for the Adult Education service transferred to the Learning and Skills Council. The funding which the service receives is based on agreed targets and over the last six years there have been a number of changes in the type of provision which is eligible for LSC funding with more emphasis on skills based provision. This has meant that the Adult Education service has had to change its focus in order to continue to attract the same level of grant funding.

During the Council restructure the service transferred from Education to Adult and Community Services. It was now thought that the service needed to update its name to better reflect the environment in which it operates. The suggested name was Hartlepool Adult Learning and Skills Service.

The Portfolio Holder asked where the suggestion to change the name had come from. The Adult Education Co-ordinator advised that staff had put this forward in response to comments from adult learners. The Portfolio Holder indicated that he would not agree to the name change but would be willing to consider such a change if appropriate evidence could be forthcoming to support such a change in the future.

Decision

That the change of name of the Adult Education Service be retained and the change of name to the Hartlepool Adult Learning and Skills Service be refused.

J A BROWN

CHIEF SOLICITOR

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