

ADULT AND COMMUNITY BASED SERVICES COMMITTEE

MINUTES AND DECISION RECORD

19 JANUARY 2023

The meeting commenced at 10.00 am in the Civic Centre, Hartlepool

Present:

Councillor: Bob Buchan (In the Chair)

Councillors: Gary Allen, Ben Clayton, Tim Fleming, Ged Hall, Sue Little, and Mike Young.

Also present: Darren Best, Independent Chair, Teeswide Safeguarding Adults Board
Frank Harrison and Evelyn Leck.

Officers: Jill Harrison, Director of Adult and Community Based Services
Gemma Ptak, Assistant Director, Preventative and Community Based Services
Neil Harrison, Head of Safeguarding and Specialist Services
Leigh Keeble, Head of Community Hubs and Wellbeing
Julian Heward, Communications and Marketing Team
David Cosgrove, Democratic Services Team

39. Apologies for Absence

None.

40. Declarations of Interest

None.

41. Minutes of the meeting held on 16 January 2023

Deferred.

42. Community Hubs Strategy (*Assistant Director, Preventative and Community Based Services*)

Type of decision

Non-key decision.

Purpose of report

The purpose of the report was to seek approval from Committee for the Community Hubs Strategy 2023 – 2028.

Issue(s) for consideration

The Assistant Director, Preventative and Community Based Services outlined the Community Hub Strategy which focused on an overarching vision whereby the Community Hubs in Hartlepool, together with partners and the Voluntary and Community Sector, nurture opportunities through access to ideas, imagination and connection. The library function was embedded in the Community Hubs which ensured accountability for the comprehensive and efficient provision of libraries as outlined by the 1964 Public Libraries and Museums Act.

A 12 week public consultation had been undertaken with the first 6 weeks taking place between November and December 2021 and the second 6 weeks from March to April 2022. In part one of the consultation an online and in-person questionnaire was completed with 152 people responding. The majority of participants agreed with our priorities with digital being ranked as most important. In part two of the consultation, in-person drop-in sessions were held at the Community Hubs, branch libraries and in Middleton Grange shopping centre. Press releases and a social media campaign informed people of the range of opportunities available to them to take part in the consultation. The presentations at the drop-in sessions outlined the proposed strategic priorities. People were able to talk about the proposals with staff and completed feedback cards. Most of the feedback received related to the buildings and the activities and was very positive.

The Assistant Director also gave a presentation to the Committee outlining the key strategic priorities underpinning the strategy: -

- Health and Wellbeing
- Community
- Digital
- Reading
- Diversity, Disability and Difference
- Jobs and Skills.

The Assistant Director stated that within the library function there were still as many books available as before, the new and additional services had not replaced the library function particularly in the Community Hubs.

Members welcomed the strategy document and the feedback from the public on the services provided through the Community Hubs and libraries. A Member commented that it would be good to add some additional comments in the strategy from the Chair and some of the key officers in delivering the service.

A Member questioned if the equipment within the Centre for Excellence in Creative Arts (CECA) was still up-to-date and future proofed. The Assistant Director stated that it hadn't been but some modernisation had been undertaken. The centre had also been used recently for groups of young people aged 18-25 with disabilities who had been offered taster sessions of various activities including dance, recording music and creative arts.

Members and the public present spoke of the wide range of services provided through the community hubs and libraries. A Member questioned the future of the Seaton Carew library which had been proposed for potential closure. A wide range of services and activities were taking place at the library which was a key facility in Seaton Carew. The Assistant Director stated that the department was not currently suggesting the library should close but it was in need of significant investment. An application to the Library Investment Programme had been made but no decisions had yet been made.

The Director of Adults and Community Based Services thanked everyone for their positive feedback on the services provide through the Community Hubs and the libraries. The recent Local Government Association Corporate Peer Review had noted the development of the Community Hubs and saw them as 'good practice'. There had also been a 'virtual community hub' developed by the department so people could access all the services and activities online. It was recognised that not everyone had the necessary digital skills but there were always people on hand to help users.

The Director reminded Members that details had recently been circulated to them regarding the official opening of the Local and Family History Centre at Sir William Gray House and encouraged Members to attend. Members had also been offered the opportunity to visit Community Hub Central and Community Hub South and again, all Members were encouraged to attend and see the range of services on offer.

Decision

That the Community Hubs Strategy 2023 – 2028 be approved.

43. Teeswide Safeguarding Adults Board Annual Report 2021/22 and Strategic Business Plan 2022-2025 *(Director of Adult and Community Based Services and Independent Chair of Teeswide Safeguarding Adults Board)*

Type of decision

Non key decision.

Purpose of report

To present to the Adult and Community Based Services Committee the Teeswide Safeguarding Adults Board Annual Report 2021/22 and Strategic Business Plan 2022-2025.

Issue(s) for consideration

The Independent Chair of the Teeswide Safeguarding Adults Board (TSAB) was present at the meeting and presented an overview of the Board's 2021/22 Annual Report and the Board's Strategic Business Plan for 2022-25. The TSAB Independent Chair highlighted that Teesside was unique in having four areas come together jointly to have one Adults Safeguarding Board and this had brought greater capacity and resources together to tackle these issues.

The annual report highlighted the volume and complexity of the issues being reported to the service. The increasing number of referrals was not always seen as a negative with much more reporting coming through from care homes in recognition of the work done with them on improving reporting practices. There was also a wide range of local voluntary groups involved with the work of the Board and HartlePower were also to join the partner groups involved. The TSAB Independent Chair also highlighted the statistics outlined in the report around the numbers of concerns and Section 42 Enquiries around Deprivation of Liberty Safeguards (DoLS) Applications.

In response to questions around the reporting of safeguarding concerns, the TSAB Independent Chair commented that the numbers had risen over recent years, most likely through better awareness and reporting. The conversion rate for reported concerns to Section 42 Enquiries was nationally around 37%; the TSAB figure was nearer 50%. This was not considered a concern by the Board. The Director of Adult and Community Based Services added for Members' reassurance that just because a concern had not been escalated to a Section 42 Enquiry did not mean that nothing had happened. A complaint may have been investigated or there could have been social worker intervention or input from the commissioning team.

A member of the public asked if an individual was considered to be neglecting themselves how that could be addressed. The Director stated that this was often one of the difficult areas in that should the individual have the mental capacity to choose how they wished to live their life and/or said they did not need intervention, then there was limited scope to take action beyond a welfare visit and the provision of advice such as signposting them to the services available through a Community Hub. The Fire Brigade could also be asked to undertake a home 'fire safe' visit and provide advice and free smoke alarms.

The Director commented that the Council had recently completed the TSAB Quality Assurance Framework and was pleased to receive positive feedback about the work being undertaken in Hartlepool. The Director highlighted the main area where performance needed to improve which related to Members accessing safeguarding training. Members were advised that training was available in a range of formats and were asked to prioritise completing adult safeguarding training when further details were circulated.

The Chair thanked the Independent Chair of the Teeswide Safeguarding Adults Board for his attendance at the meeting and presenting the annual report.

Decision

That the Teeswide Safeguarding Adults Board Annual Report 2021/22 and Strategic Business Plan 2022 – 2025 be endorsed.

44. Esmée Fairbairn Collections Fund – Stories from the Sea *(Assistant Director, Preventative and Community Based Services)*

Type of decision

Non-key decision.

Purpose of report

To provide an overview of an Esmée Fairbairn Collections Fund grant application in relation to the Museum of Hartlepool and to seek approval to accept the grant awarded.

Issue(s) for consideration

The Assistant Director, Preventative and Community Based Services reported that the Esmée Fairbairn Collections Fund (EFCF) is administered by the Museum Association on behalf of the Esmée Fairbairn Foundation. There were two rounds of EFCF grants each year and the fund was competitive. Around 10 applications per round were funded via a two stage process. Applications were open to accredited museums and galleries to deliver participatory projects that engage people and communities with existing collections.

An expression of interest was submitted in September 2022 for the project titled 'Stories from the Sea'. Following eligibility and project proposal checks an invitation was made to the Museum and Gallery team to make a full application to the Collections Fund by 7 November 2022. On 19 December 2022 the Museum of Hartlepool was notified of EFCF's intention to award a grant totalling £88,285 over two years. Grant offers remained open for one year from the award date and the funder will work

with officers to finalise the project budget, logic model and workplace before a grant agreement is issued.

The grant will fund an engagement project that will support the redevelopment of the Museum of Hartlepool through collections and community work. The project aligned with the proposed vision for the Museum of Hartlepool, prepared as part of the Case for Investment Report submitted to Finance and Policy Committee earlier this year, which identified ‘stories from the sea’ as the golden thread that runs through the museum’s collections and unique visitor experience. The report went on to outline how the project would be delivered including the involvement of the local community and in particular, those groups that were often hard to reach.

Members welcomed the grant funding and the project outlined in the report and congratulated officers on a successful bid to the Esmée Fairbairn Collections Fund. Members hoped that there would be wide publicity around the project to encourage local people to participate.

Decision

1. That the proposed project budget, aims and outcomes be noted.;
2. That approval be given to the acceptance of the grant; and
3. That the ‘Stories from the Sea’ project, with its focus on maritime and world cultures collections, as a project with achievable outcomes that deliver social value be supported.

45. Any Other Items which the Chairman Considers are Urgent

None.

The Committee noted that the next meeting would be held on Thursday 16 February 2023 at 10.00 a.m.

The meeting concluded at 11.30 a.m.

H MARTIN

CHIEF SOLICITOR

PUBLICATION DATE: 26 JANUARY 2023