

ADULT AND PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICES PORTFOLIO DECISION RECORD

19 November 2007

The meeting commenced at 9.00 am at Belle Vue Community Sports and Youth Centre, Hartlepool

Present:

Councillor Hall (Adult and Public Health Services Portfolio Holder)

Officers: Ralph Harrison, Head of Public Protection
 Alan Dobby, Assistant Director (Support Services)
 Denise Wimpenny, Principal Democratic Services Officer

57. Tees Valley Food Hygiene Award Scheme *(Head of Public Protection)*

Type of decision

Non key – for information

Purpose of report

To inform and update the Portfolio Holder on the progress made following the Authority's implementation of the Tees Valley Food Hygiene Award Scheme.

Issue(s) for consideration by Portfolio Holder

On 1 April 2007 the Authority launched the Tees Valley Food Hygiene Award Scheme. The Head of Public Protection provided details on the background to the scheme, as outlined in the report. The scheme had been operational within Hartlepool, Middlesbrough and Stockton for six months and had been launched in Darlington on 1 July 2007. Redcar and Cleveland Borough Council had not yet introduced the scheme.

In September 2007 a formal review of the scheme was undertaken by the Tees Valley Food Liaison Group. Minor amendments were made to the policy, in particular, to clarify the criteria for the exemption of premises which fell outside the inspection programme. A copy of the amended policy was attached at Appendix 1. There had been a high level of interest in relation to the award scheme, both from members of the public, local media and businesses, with the website having received more than 100,000 hits in the first six months. At the start of the scheme 53.4% of premises received

a rating of three stars or above, this figure had now risen to 67.7%. A comparison between the current star rating profiled for Hartlepool food businesses and that at 1 April 2007 was shown in Appendix 2. The number of five star premises had risen from 24 to 58 whilst the number awarded zero stars had fallen from 32 to 12. To date the scheme had been successful both in terms of providing information to the public and improving hygiene standards in Hartlepool's food businesses.

In response to the Portfolio Holder's questions, the Head of Public Protection provided clarification in relation to the level of ongoing interest and the types of queries received.

Decision

That the report, be noted.

58. Implementation of Smoke-Free Legislation *(Head of Public Protection)*

Type of decision

Non-key

Purpose of report

To inform the Portfolio Holder of details regarding the implementation of smoke-free legislation.

Issue(s) for consideration by Portfolio Holder

The report set out details of the requirements relating to smoke-free legislation which came into force on 1 July 2007. It highlighted the health benefits of the legislation, and various issues in relation to enforcement and education of the legislation.

The Head of Public Protection advised that enforcement action had been concentrated on business owners, occupiers, managers and licensees rather than individual smokers. To date 672 inspections had been carried out and the resulting enforcement action was detailed in Appendix 1. The department had received and investigated 22 complaints relating to this legislation, all of which had been resolved without the need for formal action. National compliance data for the period July to August 2007 was detailed in Appendix 2. Compliance with the legislation had generally been good with the vast majority of businesses fully compliant with the legislation. Where action had been required this mainly related to inadequate signage. It was not expected that legal action, particularly prosecution would be frequently used.

91.2% of business owners and 98.8% of employees said they managed to go completely smoke free since the law was introduced. On the whole, going smoke free had been easier than expected for businesses and the majority of customers thought that the smoke free law was a good idea.

The majority of business owners and employees said that the law had had a positive or no impact on their trade since it became effective. Funding had been allocated to purchase 7,000 butt outs of which 5,000 had been issued to various locations. Ashtrays on walls were being installed by premises and it was estimated that about 100 had currently been provided. 50 fixed penalty notices had been issued relating to cigarette debris.

The introduction of this smoke-free legislation was a major step forward in protecting public health and there was little doubt that the legislation was needed, wanted and workable. The implementation of the legislation had been successful with the majority of business found to be fully compliant and complaints received being low.

The Portfolio Holder referred to the overwhelming evidence in relation to passive smoking and was pleased to note that the implementation of the legislation had been successful. Concern was however, expressed regarding the possibility of smoking taking place in foyers of workingmens' clubs during the winter months.

Decision

That the report, be noted.

59. Neighbourhood Services Departmental Plan 2007/08 – 2nd Quarter Monitoring Report *(Director of Neighbourhood Services)*

Type of decision

Non-key

Purpose of report

To inform the Portfolio Holder of progress made against the key actions identified in the Neighbourhood Services Departmental Plan 2007/08 and the progress of key performance indicators for the period up to 30 September 2007.

Issue(s) for consideration by Portfolio Holder

The report detailed the progress against the actions contained in the Neighbourhood Services Departmental Plan 2007/08 and the second quarter outturns of key performance indicators. The Portfolio Holder had responsibility for five of the 62 actions and 12 of the 72 performance indicators, all of which were progressing satisfactorily, details of which were summarised in Table 1 of the report. There was one performance indicator not expected to achieve its target at the end of this quarter relating to the percentage take-up of school meals. The current outturn was currently 62% which was slightly below the target of 65%. This was due in part to the implementation of the healthy eating regulations, with a number of children purchasing food outside of the school.

Decision

That achievement of key actions and second quarter outturns of performance indicators, be noted.

60. In Control Update Progress Report *(Director of Adult and Community Services)*

Type of decision

Non-key

Purpose of report

To inform and update the Portfolio Holder of progress on the National In-Control Programme.

Issue(s) for consideration by Portfolio Holder

The report set out the background to the In-Control system of self directed support which allowed people to self assess their support needs and gave them the freedom to approach a range of different providers. Details of the Hartlepool In-Control Pilot were outlined in the Project Plan, attached at Appendix 1 to the report. The report included a brief outline of the targets of various groups which included the Resources Allocation System (RAS), support planning, brokerage (self-directed support), monitoring and review, communications and service delivery.

With regard to the financial implications, the Assistant Director (Support Services) advised that research had demonstrated that self-directed support should cost no more than traditional services. The self-directed support team in Hartlepool had been set up to provide advice and maximise access to funding streams for individuals.

The Portfolio Holder queried the percentage of take-up to which the Assistant Director advised that it was too early to say, however, it was envisaged that take-up would be quite high and levels would be monitored. In response to queries raised by the Portfolio Holder relating to the impact the changes to service provision and eligibility criteria would have on users as well as staff workloads, the Assistant Director advised that although users would be encouraged to take up the service, they would not be pressurised to do so. It was anticipated that the workload and job roles of staff would also be reviewed in due course. The Portfolio Holder indicated that this was an opportunity for good news stories to be publicised.

Decision

That the report, be noted and the continuation of the “In-Control Project” be supported.

61. Adult and Community Services Departmental Plan 2007/2008 – 2nd Quarter Monitoring Report *(Director of Adult and Community Services)*

Type of decision

Non-key

Purpose of report

To inform the Portfolio Holder of the progress made against the key actions identified in the Adult and Community Services Departmental Plan 2007/08 and the progress of key performance indicators for the period up to 30 September 2007.

Issue(s) for consideration by Portfolio Holder

The report detailed the progress against the actions contained in the Adult and Community Services Departmental Plan 2007/08 and the half year outturns of key performance indicators. There were a total of 86 actions and 65 performance indicators, progress of which was summarised in Table 1 of the report. One action had been highlighted as not being on target relating to the development of pro-active approaches to prevention of ill health by implementing actions within the Public Health Strategy and Action Plan, details of which were outlined in Table 2 of the report.

The Portfolio Holder was advised that 46 of the performance indicators had been highlighted as achieved or expected to hit the target. Six indicators had been highlighted as not expected to achieve the year end target, details of which were set out in Table 3 of the report. The Assistant Director provided an explanation for the gap in life expectancy not reducing and highlighted a need to target older people as well as young.

The Portfolio Holder pointed out that some health conditions took 20 or 30 years to develop and sought clarification on what approaches had been developed with the PCT relating to the prevention agenda. In response, the Assistant Director advised that the authority worked with the PCT to address issues around lifestyle, screening, monitoring and early diagnosis which in time would be reflected in the results.

Decision

That the achievement of key actions and second quarter outturns of performance indicators, be noted.

J A BROWN

CHIEF SOLICITOR

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