

ADULT AND PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICES PORTFOLIO DECISION RECORD

13 March 2008

The meeting commenced at 9.00 a.m. in the Avondale Centre, Hartlepool

Present:

Councillor Hall (Adult and Public Health Services Portfolio Holder)

Officers: Marie Horsley, Safeguarding Vulnerable Adults Coordinator
Maggie Heaps, Adult Education Coordinator
David Cosgrove, Principal Democratic Services Officer

**66. Hartlepool Vulnerable Adults Protection Committee
Biennial Report 1 April 2005 to 31 March 2007** *(Director
of Adult and Community Services)*

Type of decision

Non-key.

Purpose of report

To present the third Report of the Hartlepool Vulnerable Adult Protection Committee.

Issue(s) for consideration by Portfolio Holder

The Safeguarding Vulnerable Adults Coordinator outline the contents of the report, which reviewed progress on the implementation of plans set out in the previous report of the Adult Protection Committee. The report also outlined activity and proposals for continued improvements in relation to the management of safeguarding activity.

The report highlighted the following trends:

- A slight increase in numbers of Financial abuse
- An increase in instances of referrals relating to Institutional abuse.
- An Increase in instances of alleged abuse in Residential Care Homes.

Details of the Key Objectives for 2007-2008 were also set out within the report and included:

- A review of the Tees-wide No Secrets Procedure
- Awareness raising within the community.

The Portfolio Holder commented that the Committee played an exceptionally important role in protecting vulnerable adults. While the report showed that there had been an increase in reports of abuse that should be seen as a positive in that more cases were being reported than had probably been the case in the past. The Portfolio Holder was concerned to ensure that as many staff as possible were trained and that the reporting procedures, including the 'No Secrets' procedure, were well publicised to make it easier to make reports. The Portfolio Holder also sought assurance that appropriate procedures and awareness was in place in relation to the potential for financial abuse arising out of the direct payments policy.

The Portfolio Holder requested that in the future, the quarterly reports that were submitted to the Committee be submitted to the Portfolio meetings for information.

Decision

1. That Biennial report be received and the proposals for development of the Safeguarding framework be noted.
2. That the quarterly monitoring reports be submitted to future Portfolio meetings.

67. Inspection of the Adult Education Service *(Director of Adult and Community Services)*

Type of decision

Non-key.

Purpose of report

To update the portfolio holder on the recent Inspection of the Adult Education Service.

Issue(s) for consideration by Portfolio Holder

The Adult Education Coordinator indicated that the service is subject to a four year cycle of inspection by Ofsted. The service was last inspected by the Adult Learning Inspectorate in May 2005. The latest inspection took place between the 3rd and 7th December 2007. A total of five inspectors visited the service for five days. Full details of the inspection are included in the published inspection report which was submitted as Appendix 1 to the report.

A key element of the inspection process is the evaluation of the Self Assessment Report. This is a report which is produced annually by the service and in which it identifies the service strengths and produces self assessment grades for all aspects of the service. This report was used as the basis for the inspection and its findings were compared to the findings of the inspection team.

The Inspection found that all areas of learning were satisfactory or better. In addition the inspectors found all other aspect of the provision to be good. The full list of grades awarded for all the aspects of the provision were shown in Appendix 2 to the report. The inspection also stated that the self-assessment process was good. The report found that the grades awarded in the self assessment report broadly reflected those of the inspection.

During the inspection the following strengths were identified.

- Good inclusion strategies to meet the needs of the local communities
- Good strategic direction
- Good partnership working

The inspection also identified two key areas for improvement

- Better sharing of good practice in teaching and learning
- Better use, analysis and understanding of data for quality improvement at operational level.

It was considered that the inspection report was fair and officers were pleased with the results. Measures were already in place to improve the two key areas for improvement.

The Portfolio Holder indicated that he was aware of the greater emphasis on vocational qualifications through the Learning and Skills Council funding. The Adult Education Coordinator indicated that the funding for vocational courses was the greater funding stream and the one more likely to increase in the future. The Learning and Skills Council still continues to fund the non-vocational areas.

The Portfolio Holder was concerned that the low-level of European Social Fund (ESF) funding for courses. The Adult Education Coordinator indicated that the courses funded by ESF had been arranged though the Regeneration department but they had recently been unsuccessful in gaining funding. The allocation of ESF funding had changed recently. It was hoped that an application may be prepared through the Adult Education Service when the next tranche of ESF was available.

The Portfolio Holder was very encouraged by the grades received by the service and considered the report to be very positive.

Decision

That the inspection report be noted.

J A BROWN

CHIEF SOLICITOR

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