

ADULT AND PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICES PORTFOLIO DECISION RECORD

20 October 2008

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

Present:

Councillor Gerard Hall (Adult and Public Health Services Portfolio Holder)

Officers: Alan Dobby, Assistant Director (Support Services)
Sylvia Tempest, Environmental Standards Manager
Steven Carter, Weight Management Co-ordinator
Sarah Bird, Democratic Services Officer

Also present: Madeleine Johnson, Acting Director of Public Health & Well-Being, Primary Care Trust

18. Healthy Food Team (*Environmental Standards Manager*)

Type of Decision

Non key

Purpose of Report

The report was presented in order to inform the Portfolio Holder of the progress and developments in the work of the Healthy Food Team within the Environmental Standards Section of the Neighbourhood Services Department.

Issues for Consideration

The report which had been circulated previously, outlined how the Healthy Food Team was responsible for the development, implementation and co-ordination of a range of healthy eating and lifestyle initiatives to help improve the health and wellbeing of Hartlepool residents in partnership with key organisations and stakeholders. It was noted that interviews for the vacant Community Nutritionist post were to be held that afternoon. The Weight Management Co-ordinator who had been in post since the New Year outlined the health initiatives ongoing in Hartlepool. These were:

Weight Management Service

'Healthy Weight for Life' is the branding for a new town-wide weight management service for adults of all ages in Hartlepool designed to help improve access to healthy eating support and physical activity. The initiative was in partnership with the Primary Care Trust (PCT) and funded by the Local Delivery Plan from the PCT. Groups were being established in a variety of venues and times to help motivate individuals to make healthier food choices and also to help empower individuals to pass on their knowledge to others. The Department of Health 'Change for Life' scheme was soon to be launched and there would be cross promotional work with this.

Fruit and Veg Bag Scheme

A town wide scheme had been introduced working with schools, community groups and three local fruiterers to increase the amount of fresh fruit and vegetables consumed in Hartlepool and to raise awareness of the importance of fresh fruit and vegetables as part of a balanced diet. There were currently 15 schemes operating at the moment with another 5 – 7 due to be implemented soon, including one at the Salaam Centre.

Golden Apple Award

This initiative was a healthy eating award for food providers. It had been taken up by all schools in Hartlepool and it was hoped to extend this to breakfast clubs and after school clubs, with a view to rolling it out to as many food establishments as possible. The awards were aimed at making food served generally healthier by supporting food providers to make changes to how food is prepared and to help customers make informed choices about food by including healthier items on their menu.

Mind, Exercise, Nutrition, Do it (MEND)

MEND was a national community, family based programme for overweight and obese children aged between 7 and 13 and their families. It has an emphasis on practical fun learning and is designed to deliver sustained improvements in families' diets, fitness levels and overall health. There was currently nothing similar at a local level. There were to be two pilot programmes rolled out in January 2009 and a steering group established to lead on the development and promotion of the initiative.

The weight management service action plan had been circulated as an appendix to the report and outlined how most objectives had been completed or were on-going. The exception to this was the service level agreement but this was expected to be completed by March 2009.

It was established that funding was secure until March 2011 for the schemes but it was hoped that the services would be sustainable at the end

of this period. The Fruit and Veg scheme was almost self-sustainable. The Weight Management, Golden Apple and MEND schemes would need further funding at the end of that period, but it was hoped that these would be in a position to attract further funding then. The Acting Director of Public Health & Well-being confirmed that the PCT would require services to tackle obesity to be delivered in a cost-effective/Best Value way.

The Portfolio Holder asked whether the services would be monitored to determine whether they were effective and the Weight Management Co-ordinator confirmed that a number of evaluations including, start and end weights, Body Mass Index (BMI) and waist circumference could be utilised. He stated that the groups were not just aimed at the obese and morbidly obese, but those who were also borderline overweight to motivate and educate people. The Portfolio Holder referred to the praise given to the fruit and veg scheme on a recent visit to the Connected Care scheme in Owton Manor by the Minister. The Weight Management Co-ordinator confirmed that the voluntary sector including Hartlepool Voluntary Development Agency were aware of the initiatives and promoted them.

The Portfolio Holder enquired whether local businesses were involved and was informed that Asda, Garlands and the Local Authority had held 'well being' events and the Power Station had also been approached. Other larger employers in Hartlepool would also be contacted. The Acting Director of Public Health & Well-being highlighted a Regional healthy workplace initiative and stated that although this local PCT did not have anyone to support this, a business having the Golden Apple award may be near to attaining this standard.

It was discussed whether some fast food outlets would be eligible for a Golden Apple award and the Environmental Standards Manager stated that there had been a similar Hartbeat award which utilised a 'traffic light' approach and this could possibly be used with the Golden Apple award to encourage food retailers to participate.

The Portfolio Holder asked what publicity the schemes had received and was informed that the Hartlepool Mail were supportive of the schemes and there was to be new branding on flyers and posters which were displayed in General Practitioner surgeries, shops, sports centres amongst other places.

The Portfolio Holder thanked the team for its work to date.

Decision

The Portfolio Holder noted the report and approved the Hartlepool Weight Management Service Action Plan for 2008-2011.

19. Hartlepool Vulnerable Adults Protection Committee Quarterly Statistics 1 April 2008 – 30 June 2008 – Assistant Director (Support Services)

Type of Decision

Non key

Purpose of Report

The report was presented to inform the Portfolio Holder of the Safeguarding Vulnerable Adults Quarterly Statistics for the period 1 April - 30 June 2008.

Issues for Consideration

The Assistant Director (Support Services) presented the report which covered safeguarding activity for the first quarter 1 April 2008 – 30 June 2008 and provided statistics for the following information:-

- ❖ Cases of suspected abuse
- ❖ Vulnerable Adults subject to previous referrals
- ❖ Vulnerable Adults by service user group
- ❖ Sources of referral
- ❖ Location of alleged abuse
- ❖ Relationship of alleged perpetrator to Vulnerable Adults
- ❖ Age, Gender and Ethnicity of Vulnerable Adults
- ❖ Outcome for alleged victim
- ❖ Outcome for alleged perpetrator

The Assistant Director explained that the national 'no secrets' policy to safeguard vulnerable adults from abuse was under review. Separately the local procedures, which were used Tees-wide were also under review.

The number of incidents reported was similar to the previous period, but any number was too high. Reports came from a variety of sources including care homes and social services and many were for older people. The Portfolio Holder queried whether Hartlepool's figures were similar to those in other Authorities and was informed that they were similar to neighbouring and national statistics.

The Portfolio Holder reminded those present of the current Scrutiny investigation into care homes. It was suggested that numbers of incidents in care homes may be high as care home staff should be aware of the 'no secrets' policy and therefore more likely to report any abuse. Any abuse meriting police investigation would be passed on to the police.

It was asked whether the 'no secrets' training was mandatory for Local Authority Staff. It was not compulsory but there was training available all front line staff.

Decision

The report was noted.

The meeting concluded at 9.50 am.

P J DEVLIN

CHIEF SOLICITOR

PUBLICATION DATE: 23 October 2008