

ADULT AND PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICES PORTFOLIO DECISION RECORD

16 December 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: John Mennear, Assistant Director (Community Services)
Marie Horsley, Safeguarding Adults Co-ordinator
Jo Wilson, Democratic Services Officer

23. Hartlepool Vulnerable Adults Protection Committee Quarterly Statistics 1 July 2008 – 30 September 2008 *(Director of Adult and Community Services)*

Type of Decision

Non key

Purpose of Report

To present the Safeguarding Adults Quarterly Statistics and provide an update on Safeguarding Activity.

Issues for Consideration

The Safeguarding Adults Co-ordinator presented the report which covered safeguarding activity for the second quarter 1 July 2008 – 30 September 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 number of incidents reported had slightly increased overall. Instances of financial abuse had decreased while instances of sexual abuse and neglect had gone up. However because the numbers were relatively small it was not possible to identify clear trends. Details were given within the report of improvement measures taken. These included reviews of outcomes for alleged perpetrators and cases with previous safeguarding referrals, the development of a protocol for taxi driver licensing and promotion of the safeguarding framework.

The Portfolio Holder thanked officers for a comprehensive and informative report. He felt it was important that these issues were aired in public and was pleased at some of the moves being taken to increase public awareness as this would encourage more victims to come forward. Even one case of abuse was one case too many.

Decision

That the report and progress made be noted.

24. Waverley Terrace Allotments – Proposal for further improvements *(Director of Adult and Community Services)*

Type of Decision

Non key

Purpose of Report

To inform the Portfolio Holder of the Rift House East Residents Association intention to pursue the development of a community allotment at Waverley Terrace allotment site.

Issues for Consideration

The Assistant Director (Community Services) advised that following consultation with Rift House residents two areas of land had been identified as being in a poor state and in need of improvements. The first had been included in Housing Hartlepool's regeneration programme as a site for new bungalows. The second was the allotment site adjacent to Waverley Terrace. New allotments had been created and allocated on the west-end site adjacent to Waverley Terrace but the remaining allotment land was vacant and would require re-establishment at considerable cost to bring back into allotment use. The Residents Association had offered to help establish and administer a Waverley Terrace Allotments Association.

In addition the Residents Association wished to create a community allotment for use by all residents within the area. This would take the form of a four-themed garden with one of the themes being based around a sensory garden for the disabled. Meetings of the Residents Association had shown sufficient resource within the community to maintain the garden and 'Pride in Hartlepool' funding of £5,000 had already been gained towards the perimeter fence and design costs. Further funding bids would be submitted to the lotteries 'open spaces' initiative by the Residents Association. The Assistant Director stressed that Council funding would only be used in extreme circumstances and then to fund improvements to the entire site, not just the section earmarked for the Residents Association.

Details of the legal and financial implication were provided within the report. The Assistant Director advised that the estimated cost of restoration of the allotments, quoted in the report as being in the region of £150,000, related to the fencing and security of the entire site, not just the area to be utilised by the Rift House East Residents Association. A town wide allotment strategy was currently being formulated to make general improvements to other sites such as fencing. This would be done on a staggered basis.

The Portfolio Holder applauded this as a pioneering venture saying it was good to see the land being brought back into use in this way.

Decision

That the report be noted.

25. National Free Swimming Initiative – Further Update *(Director of Adult and Community Services)*

Type of Decision

Non key

Purpose of Report

To update the Portfolio Holder for Adult and Public Health Services on further details of the Government's launch of the national free swimming initiative.

Issues for Consideration by Portfolio Holder

In August 2008 the Government had launched a national free swimming initiative. This involved providing free swimming to the under 16s and over 60s as well as the opportunity to apply for capital funding to improve pool facilities. More information had now been received from the Department for Culture, Media and Sport

(DCMS) and this was detailed within the report:

Free swimming for the over 60s

In August the Portfolio Holder had approved the acceptance of the Government's offer of £26,848 per year for 2009/10 and 2010/11.

Free swimming for the 16s

Funding available would be £48,170 per year for 2009/10 and 2010/11, substantially less than Council set income targets for this period and something which would lead to a budgetary shortfall. However officers felt there was significant value in making free swimming available given the obvious health benefits and the provision of a diversionary activity for young people. Participation in this initiative would also give eligibility to apply for both the Capital Reward Fund and Capital Challenge Fund as detailed below. Take up of this offer had to be confirmed to the DCMS by 24th October 2008 and this had duly been confirmed by officers.

Modernising Pool Provision – Capital Reward Fund

One-off capital funding was being made available to Local Authorities participating in both free swimming initiatives to go towards improvement of modernising pool provision during the current financial year. The amount available to Hartlepool would be £20,738.

Modernising Pool Provision – Capital Challenge Fund

This was capital available on a competitive bid process for either 2009/10 or 2010/11 to modernise pool provision, again only available to Local Authorities participating in both free swimming initiatives. This capital was specifically for the development of capital infrastructure to contribute toward the costs of new build, modernisation and enhancement of buildings and major fixed equipment. There was an expectation on Local Authorities to provide partnership funding and that the facility would remain open and in use during any modernisation or alteration works. The deadline for stage 1 applications was 24th October 2008 and officers had submitted a scheme to improve the poolside changing room facilities at Mill House Leisure Centre. Should stage 1 be successful a more detailed stage 2 bid would need to be submitted in November 2008. Officers had also approached the Corporate Capital Asset Management Programme for match funding.

It was also intended to link the initiative to the Active Card scheme currently in use. Participants would have to have an Active Card in order to be able to swim free of charge. The implications of this

were being assessed and if any alterations to the current scheme were required an update report would be submitted. The Portfolio Holder for Culture, Leisure and Tourism had previously approved delegated power to officers to amend the scheme should any alterations be needed.

On 19th August 2008 the Portfolio Holder for Culture, Leisure and Tourism had approved acceptance of the over 60s free swimming funding offer given that there were no budgetary implications and participation in other elements of the scheme should officers conclude that it would benefit Hartlepool to do so. A financial shortfall of £7,500 for 2009-2010 and £9,500 for 2010/11 was now estimated by officers and the Primary Care Trust (PCT) had given a verbal commitment to cover this shortfall.

The Portfolio Holder was also advised that a Stage 1 capital bid had been approved and a Stage 2 bid subsequently submitted for improvement works to the poolside changing facilities at Mill House Leisure Centre. It was intended that the £20,738 Capital Reward Grant monies would be used for project developments associated with this Stage 1 Capital Bid, as well as other improvement works for the remainder of 2008/09.

The Portfolio Holder advised that he welcomed the initiative and was pleased that the Council had agreed to take part in it. He was grateful to the PCT for their contribution toward the funding shortfall which showed recognition of the value of partnership working. Anything which could be done to improve the facilities at Mill House Leisure Centre to make it a more attractive place to visit would be very welcome. This was a major step in health initiatives and he commended the officers who had worked on it.

Decision

- I. That the further details available in relation to the Government's Free Swimming Scheme be noted.
- II. That the participation in the Under 16's free swimming initiative for the period 2009-2010 and 2010-2011 and acceptance of the funding offers from DCMS and the PCT be noted.
- III. That the decision of the Portfolio Holder for Culture, Leisure and Tourism to approve delegated power to officers to amend the Active Card scheme should any alterations be required be noted.
- IV. That the availability of £20,738 capital funding from DCMS to be utilised during 2008/2009 be noted.

- V. That the success of the Stage 1 capital application and subsequent Stage 2 capital application to DCMS to improve the changing room facilities at Mill House Leisure Centre be noted.

The meeting concluded at 10.00 am.

P J DEVLIN

CHIEF SOLICITOR

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