

ADULT AND COMMUNITY SERVICES SCRUTINY FORUM AGENDA



Wednesday 11 February 2009

at 3.30 pm

**in the Council Chamber,
Civic Centre, Hartlepool**

MEMBERS OF THE ADULT AND COMMUNITY SERVICES SCRUTINY FORUM:
Councillors Atkinson, Brash, Fleet, A Marshall, McKenna, Plant, Preece, Simmons
and Worthy

Resident Representatives: Mary Green, Evelyn Leck and Mary Power

- 1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**
 - 2. TO RECEIVE ANY DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST BY MEMBERS**
 - 3. MINUTES**
 - 3.1 To confirm the minutes of the meeting held on 14th January 2009
 - 3.2 To confirm the minutes of the meeting held on 21st January 2009
 - 4. RESPONSES FROM THE COUNCIL, THE EXECUTIVE OR COMMITTEES OF THE COUNCIL TO FINAL REPORTS OF THIS FORUM**
- No items.
- 5. CONSIDERATION OF REQUEST FOR SCRUTINY REVIEWS REFERRED VIA SCRUTINY CO-ORDINATING COMMITTEE**

No items.

6. **CONSIDERATION OF PROGRESS REPORTS / BUDGET AND POLICY
FRAMEWORK DOCUMENTS**

No items.

7. **ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION**

Investigation into Access to Recreation Facilities for Vulnerable / Older People

7.1 Setting the Scene:

- (a) Covering Report – *Scrutiny Support Officer*;
- (b) Presentation - *Assistant Director (Community Services)*;
- (c) Verbal evidence from the Portfolio Holder for Adult and Public Health;
and
- (d) Verbal evidence from the Portfolio Holder for Culture, Leisure and
Tourism.

7.2 Discussion with a variety of key stakeholders:

- a) Covering report – *Scrutiny Support Officer*; and
- b) Discussion with representatives from a variety of groups / clubs in
Hartlepool who access recreation facilities.

8. **ISSUES IDENTIFIED FROM FORWARD PLAN**

9. **ANY OTHER ITEMS WHICH THE CHAIRMAN CONSIDERS ARE URGENT**

ITEMS FOR INFORMATION

**Date of Next Meeting – Wednesday 5 March 2009, commencing at 3.30 pm in the
Council Chamber.**

ADULT AND COMMUNITY SERVICES SCRUTINY FORUM MINUTES

14 January 2009

The meeting commenced at 3.30 pm in the Civic Centre, Hartlepool

Present:

Councillor: Chris Simmons (In the Chair)

Councillors: Jonathan Brash, Mary Fleet, Ann Marshall, Michelle Plant and Arthur Preece

Resident Representative: Evelyn Leck

Also Present: Councillor Ged Hall, Adult and Public Health Portfolio Holder
Councillor Victor Tumilty, Culture, Leisure and Tourism Portfolio Holder

Officers: Jill Harrison, Assistant Director of Commissioning
Alan Dobby, Assistant Director, Support Services
John Mennear, Assistant Director, Community Services

Laura Starrs, Scrutiny Support Officer
Denise Wimpenny, Principal Democratic Services Officer

58. Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Councillors Atkinson and Worthy.

59. Declarations of interest by Members

Councillor Simmons declared a non-prejudicial interest in minute number 63.

60. Minutes of the meetings held on 5 November and 12 November 2009

Confirmed.

61. Responses from the Council, the Executive or Committees of the Council to Final Reports of this Forum

None.

62. Consideration of request for scrutiny reviews referred via Scrutiny Co-ordinating Committee

None.

63. Adult and Community Services Department: Budget and Policy Framework Consultation Proposals 2009/10
Scrutiny Support Officer

The Assistant Director presented the report which included the Executive's finalised budget proposals for 2009/10. The Forum's views were requested to be fed back to Scrutiny Co-ordinating Committee to enable a response to be formulated and presented to Cabinet on 9 February 2009. Attached as appendices to the report were details of departmental pressures, terminating grants, proposed 3% efficiencies, proposed additional 1% efficiencies/savings and Area Based Grant allocations. It was noted that there were no changes to the proposed efficiencies, budget pressures, contingencies, terminating grants, area based grant allocations which were supported by the Forum at the last meeting.

The Assistant Director provided details of the proposed 1% additional budget reductions, as set out in Appendix F to which a number of questions/comments were raised by Members:-

Switching locker operation

Following a question and answer session Members were of the view that although they had reservations about introducing a 20p locker charge it was considered that this was one of the least damaging options. The Forum therefore agreed to support this proposal. It was however, suggested that pricing structures be reviewed across the department with a view to generating additional income.

Closure of Community Service/Building ie branch library or community Centre

The Forum debated this issue in much detail and raised a number of queries to which the Assistant Director provided clarification. The Forum considered that this was a valuable service to the community which should not be lost. Members were therefore not willing to support this reduction.

Keep Community Pool at a Standstill Position

Whilst recognising the value of the community pool to the community Members reluctantly agreed to support this proposal on the basis that it had a lower impact than some of the other proposed budget reductions.

Social Work Team to be Disbanded

The Assistant Director responded to a number of queries raised by Members in relation to the proposal to disband a social work team resulting in cases being spread across other social work teams to achieve savings. The proposal would result in the loss of a Team Manager and Principal Practitioner. Members expressed concerns regarding the impact an increase in caseload would place on existing staff, the loss of highly trained and qualified staff as well as the risks to those using the service and were therefore not prepared to support this reduction.

Reduction of One Registered Manager – Home Care

In response to concerns regarding the level of impact this proposal would have on service users, the Assistant Director stated that there would be no reduction in front line staff as this was a change in management arrangements. Concerns were raised in relation to potential redundancy costs and how such costs would be funded, the loss of highly trained and qualified staff and pressures placed on remaining staff. Whilst the Forum had strong reservations regarding this reduction, following further debate it was agreed that this be supported on the basis that it had a lesser impact than some of the other proposed efficiencies. In agreeing to this proposal, it was requested that this reduction be noted and be taken into consideration as part of the business transformation process.

Reduction in Management Capacity – 2 Band 13 Posts

Clarification was sought on the impact the proposed reduction in management posts would have on the service. Members were advised that the proposed reductions in two posts were in areas such as quality assurance, safeguarding, complaints, service development and project management. This reduction could potentially impact on performance in areas which influenced star ratings. Work would need to be prioritised and some areas of work may cease. Members expressed concerns regarding the impact this reduction would have on service delivery and were of the view that it would assist if these proposals were explored as part of the Business Transformation process. Whilst the Forum did not wish to support redundancies, it was recognised that some redundancies could be achieved voluntarily. Members raised serious concerns relating to the loss of highly trained and qualified staff and the increased workload and pressure placed on remaining staff. Whilst recognising that efficiencies needed to be achieved the Forum further debated this issue and reluctantly agreed to support this reduction on the basis that it would have a lower impact than some of the other suggested reductions.

The Chair sought the views of the Adult and Public Services Portfolio Holder in relation to the proposals. In terms of proposed staffing reductions, the Adult and Public Services Portfolio Holder assured the Forum that there would be redeployment opportunities across the Council and a vacancy freeze had recently been introduced to minimize the impact on staff. Some of the reductions could be made by voluntary reduction in hours. Concerns were expressed regarding the effects some of these proposals would have on waiting times as well as the impact on safety. The Portfolio Holder reiterated that whilst he shared the reservations of the Forum difficult choices had to be made in light of the current budget situation. The importance of the advice of officers that the proposed efficiencies were the least worst options was highlighted. The Portfolio Holder raised concerns regarding the increasing demands on this service and indicated the need for central government to examine social care funding based on local need and demographics.

During discussions, the Forum stated that it was not equitable to apply the same percentage of reductions across all departments when the reductions to be made in this department were in areas that would place people at risk. Members suggested that the capacity for savings be looked at on a department by department basis so that those departments with a greater capacity for creating savings, without exposing vulnerable groups to unnecessary risks, making a bigger contribution to the overall saving required.

The Portfolio Holder advised that departments with lower budgets were also struggling to achieve savings and that the current local government funding system was affecting all departments. The Portfolio Holder for Culture Leisure and Tourism added that concerns had been expressed at previous Cabinet meetings regarding the pressures the proposed efficiencies would place on staff.

Variety of Measures leading to Reduction in Social Work Expenditure

Following discussion Members were not willing to support this proposal on the basis that this reduction placed vulnerable people and those in need at risk.

In conclusion, the Forum requested that their reservations in relation to all of the additional budget reductions proposed be noted, however, recognised the need to support some of the reductions proposed.

Recommendation

- (i) That the Adult and Community Services departmental pressures, priorities and efficiencies as part of the Budget and Policy Framework consultation proposals for 2009/10, be noted.
- (iii) That the comments made by the Forum as detailed above, be forwarded to the Scrutiny Coordinating Committee on 23 January 2009..

64. Items for Discussion

None

65. Issues Identified from Forward Plan

None.

The meeting concluded at 5.35 pm.

CHAIRMAN

ADULT AND COMMUNITY SERVICES SCRUTINY FORUM

MINUTES

21 January 2009

The meeting commenced at 3.30 p.m. in the Civic Centre, Hartlepool

Present:

Councillor: Chris Simmons (In the Chair)

Councillors: Mary Fleet, Ann Marshall, Chris McKenna, Michelle Plant, and Arthur Preece.

Resident Representatives: Mary Green and Evelyn Leck.

Also Present: Carol Bamard (Brierton Lodge), Ruby Marshall MBE, Ray Waller (Over 50's Forum), Mr Sunley.

Officers: Jill Harrison, Assistant Director, Commissioning
Phil Homsby, Principal Commissioning Manager
Pat Usher, Sports and Recreation Manager
Laura Starrs, Scrutiny Support Officer
David Cosgrove, Democratic Services Team

66. Apologies for Absence

Councillors Reuben Atkinson, Jonathon Brash and Gladys Worthy.

67. Declarations of interest by Members

Councillor Simmons declared a non-prejudicial interest.

68. Ruby Marshall MBE

The Chair informed the Forum that Ruby Marshall had been awarded the MBE in the New Year's Honours List. The Chair, Members and all present congratulated Mrs Marshall on her well deserved award.

69. Minutes

No items.

70. Responses from the Council, the Executive or Committees of the Council to Final Reports of this Forum

No items.

71. Consideration of request for scrutiny reviews referred via Scrutiny Co-ordinating Committee

No items.

72. Consideration of progress reports/budget and policy framework documents

No items.

73. Draft Final Report into the Quality of Care Homes Provision in Hartlepool *(Adult and Community Services Scrutiny Forum)*

The Chair introduced the draft final report prepared following the forum's investigation into the Quality of Care Homes Provision in Hartlepool. The Chair thanked all those involved in the investigation and gave particular thanks to the members of the former Patient and Public Involvement (PPI) Panel who had given their time voluntarily to assisting the forum in its investigation. The Chair also thanked all the representatives from the homes in Hartlepool who had also been involved and thanked those homes and their residents who had allowed the forum to visit during the investigation.

The Chair outlined the conclusions and recommendations set out within the draft report and sought the Forum's approval to those. During the discussion on those, the following points were discussed.

- Recommendation (e) "That the Council considers including within their service specifications the minimum standards which are not legally enforceable through the Care Homes Regulations 2001" should be strengthened as there were concerns in relation to the CSCI (Commission for Social Care Inspection) guidelines. Officers indicated that the CSCI regulations were written into contracts with homes but home owners did comment that the CSCI regulations were only for guidance and not enforceable. The national standards were already under review and the department would take this point up with the government and CSCI. The department stressed that it was always focussed on the outcomes for residents and the care they received. In terms of the regulations it was an issue of what was reasonable and enforceable.
- There were concerns from the visits that vulnerable residents, particularly those with Alzheimer's, were often accommodated on the first or second floor of homes. This was a concern in the case of the need for an

emergency evacuation in case of fire for example. There were views expressed that housing such residents on the first or second floor was for their protection. This removed them for easy access to external doors as they often had a tendency to wander. There was also the concern that ambulant residents could have their own access restricted if they were routinely accommodated on higher floors. The Fire Brigade had to issue fire safety certificates for the homes and would be aware of the issue. Members requested that a further recommendation be drafted to pursue this point further for new developments.

The Scrutiny Support Officer sought the Forum's agreement to the wording of the additional recommendation being agreed with the Chair prior to the submission of the draft final report to the Scrutiny Coordinating Committee. The Forum agreed to this course of action.

Recommended

That the draft final report prepared following the forum's investigation into the Quality of Care Homes Provision in Hartlepool be agreed, subject to the inclusion of an additional recommendation, as referred to above, and submitted to the Scrutiny Coordinating Committee.

74. Access to Recreation Facilities for Vulnerable / Older People – Draft Scoping Report *(Scrutiny Support Officer)*

The Scrutiny Support Officer introduced the scoping report for the Forum's second investigation of the municipal year into Access to Recreation Facilities for Vulnerable / Older People. The following Terms of Reference for the review were proposed:-

- (a) To consider, and agree, a definition of 'recreation facilities', 'vulnerable people' and 'older people' for the purpose of this investigation;
- (b) To gain an understanding of the current recreation facilities available for vulnerable / older people in Hartlepool;
- (c) To explore the recreation facilities which vulnerable / older people in Hartlepool enjoy and utilise;
- (d) To compare examples of good practice in other Local Authorities to improve access to recreation facilities for vulnerable / older people; and
- (e) To seek a range of views from vulnerable / older people in relation to access to recreation facilities.

The Chair indicated that he would welcome the input and comments from as wide a range of people as was possible on this investigation. Access to recreation was not only about ramps and doorways but more about the welcome and assistance people received. The Assistant Director commented that some vulnerable or older people who had been assessed by the authority may have a personal budget to meet their assessed needs, some of which may be used for access to recreation. It was suggested that the investigation should focus on mainstream recreation facilities that are accessible to the general public and how they are utilised by people who are older or vulnerable rather than facilities or activities commissioned specifically to meet the needs

of particular individuals or groups.

The Forum commented on the definition of those that were described as vulnerable. They were clarified as being adults (18+) who may have a sensory impairment, a mental health need or a learning or physical disability as well as elderly frail, those who are lonely, isolated, or find it difficult in managing on their own and those that depend upon the support of others in within the community. Elderly was defined as being over fifty years of age. The Forum agreed that recreation facilities were activities which people took part in within their community, examples included bowling, dancing, swimming. The focus would primarily be on recreation facilities specifically offered by the Council.

The Forum also discussed those groups that should be invited to participate in the investigation and in addition to those set out in the report; Hartlepool Carers, the Carer's Strategy Group, Hartlepool Sportability Club and the new LiNKS organisation were also suggested.

Recommended

That the terms of reference, potential areas of inquiry and sources of evidence (including the additional comments made above) and the proposed timetable for the investigation into Access to Recreation Facilities for Vulnerable / Older People be approved.

75. Issue Identified from the Forward Plan

No items.

Meeting closed at 4.40 p.m.

CHAIR

ADULT AND COMMUNITY SERVICES SCRUTINY FORUM REPORT

11 February 2009



Report of: Scrutiny Support Officer

Subject: ACCESS TO RECREATION FACILITIES FOR
VULNERABLE / OLDER PEOPLE – SETTING THE
SCENE AND EVIDENCE FROM THE AUTHORITY'S
PORTFOLIO HOLDER'S FOR ADULT AND PUBLIC
HEALTH AND CULTURE, LEISURE AND TOURISM
– COVERING REPORT

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To inform Members of the Forum that the Assistant Director (Community Services) will be in attendance at today's meeting to deliver a 'setting the scene' presentation, as part of this Forum's investigation into 'Access to Recreation Facilities for Vulnerable / Older People'.
- 1.2 The Portfolio Holder for Adult and Public Health and the Portfolio Holder for Culture, Leisure and Tourism have also been invited to attend this meeting to provide evidence in relation to the ongoing investigation into 'Access to Recreation Facilities for Vulnerable / Older People'.

2. BACKGROUND INFORMATION

- 2.1 Members will recall that at the meeting of this Forum on 21 January 2009, the Terms of Reference and Potential Areas of Inquiry/Sources of Evidence were approved by the Forum for this scrutiny investigation.
- 2.2 Consequently, the Assistant Director (Community Services) has been invited to this meeting to provide a 'setting the scene' presentation and the Authority's Portfolio Holder for Adult and Public Health and the Authority's Portfolio Holder for Culture, Leisure and Tourism have been invited to this meeting to provide evidence to the Forum in relation to their responsibilities, and views on, access to recreation facilities.
- 2.3 During this evidence gathering session with the Portfolio Holder's, it is suggested that responses should be sought to the following key questions:-

- (a) What are your roles and responsibilities in relation to recreation facilities in Hartlepool?
- (b) What are your views on the current recreation facilities provided by the Council?
- (c) What are your views on recreation facilities locally in comparison to those offered regionally?
- (d) What would you suggest to ensure vulnerable / older people have access to recreation facilities?

3. RECOMMENDATION

- 3.1 That Members of the Forum consider the views of the Assistant Director (Community Services) in relation to the 'setting the scene' presentation and Portfolio Holder for Adult and Public Health and the Portfolio Holder for Culture, Leisure and Tourism in relation to the questions outlined in section 2.3.

CONTACT OFFICER

Laura Starrs – Scrutiny Support Officer
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Hartlepool Borough Council
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BACKGROUND PAPERS

The following background paper was used in preparation of this report:-

- (a) Scrutiny Investigation into Access to Recreation Facilities for Vulnerable / Older People – Scoping Report (Scrutiny Support Officer) – 21.01.09

ADULT AND COMMUNITY SERVICES SCRUTINY FORUM

11 February 2009



Report of: Scrutiny Support Officer

Subject: ACCESS TO RECREATION FACILITIES FOR
VULNERABLE / OLDER PEOPLE: DISCUSSION
WITH KEY STAKEHOLDERS – COVERING REPORT

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To inform Members of the Forum that representatives from a variety of clubs / groups who access recreation facilities in Hartlepool have been invited to attend this meeting in relation to the ongoing inquiry into 'Access to Recreation Facilities for Vulnerable / Older People'.

2. BACKGROUND INFORMATION

- 2.1 Members will recall that at the meeting of this Forum on 21 January 2009, the Terms of Reference and Potential Areas of Inquiry / Sources of Evidence for this scrutiny investigation were approved by the Forum.
- 2.2 Consequently, representatives from the following clubs / groups / boards have been invited to this meeting to discuss their views on access to recreation facilities:
- (a) Hartlepool's 50+ Forum;
 - (b) Life Chances Partnership Board;
 - (c) Learning Disability Partnership Board;
 - (d) Hartlepool Mental Health Local Implementation Team;
 - (e) Hartlepool Carers;
 - (f) Carers' Strategy Group;

- (g) LINKs;
- (h) Hartlepool Sportability Club; and
- (i) Care home managers / residents

2.3 During this meeting it is suggested that responses should be sought to the following key questions:-

- (a) Are you satisfied with the recreation facilities and the level of service offered by Hartlepool Borough Council?
- (b) Do you feel as though the recreation facilities adequately cater for vulnerable / older people?
- (c) What factors do you feel prevent access to recreation facilities?
- (d) Do you have any suggestions as to how access to recreation facilities can be improved?
- (e) Do you have any other views/information which you feel may be useful to Members in forming their recommendations?

3. RECOMMENDATIONS

3.1 That Members of the Forum consider the views of the representatives in attendance at this meeting in relation to the questions outlined in Section 2.3 of this report.

Contact Officer:- Laura Starrs – Scrutiny Support Officer
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BACKGROUND PAPERS

The following background paper was used in the preparation of this report:-

- (i) Scrutiny Investigation into Access to Recreation Facilities for Vulnerable / Older People – Scoping Report (Scrutiny Support Officer) – 21.01.09