

ADULT AND PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICES PORTFOLIO DECISION RECORD

14 April 2009

The meeting commenced at 10.00 a.m. in the Civic Centre, Hartlepool

Present:

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

Officers: Maggie Heaps, Adult Education Co-ordinator
Trevor Smith, Principal Management Information Manager
(Support Services)
Jill Harrison, Assistant Director of Commissioning
Jo Wilson, Democratic Services Officer

39. Delivery of the Community Grants Project *(Director of Adult and Community Services)*

Type of decision

Key decision – test ii applies

Purpose of report

To update the Portfolio Holder on the successful bid to deliver the Community Grants Project.

Issues for consideration by Portfolio Holder

The Adult Education Service was notified in February that they had been successful in achieving a bid from the Learning and Skills Council to deliver the Community Grants project across the North East. The Service had submitted a bid on behalf of Learn North East, a partnership of all the Local Authority adult learning services and it had been agreed that Hartlepool would manage this project on behalf of the partnership. The project was designed to be the co-ordinating body for the distribution of funds to small voluntary sector organisations to work with unemployed adults to provide them with a range of support for job search activities and the funding would be distributed across the whole of the North East. It was envisaged that at least 2,000 adults will be engaged in a range of activities hopefully leading to further study and a positive job outcome. Two full-time staff would be appointed to administer the scheme.

The Portfolio Holder queried the grant amount Hartlepool could be expected to receive and was advised this had been approximated at £40,000 of the £1.3 million available over two years. This had been calculated by looking at the number of unemployed people in Hartlepool as a percentage of the unemployed in the North East as a whole. Hartlepool had relatively few unemployed residents when compared to areas such as Newcastle and Durham. However if the calculations had been based on general population the results would have been even more unfavourable to Hartlepool. In real terms this was expected to equate to four grants of £10,000 each to four organisations with each organisation working with at least 15 individuals.

The Portfolio Holder also queried whether safeguards had been put in place for smaller organisations claiming grant monies and what the criteria would be. The Adult Education Co-ordinator advised that only official organisations – with a constitution, current bank account and financial records – would be eligible to apply. Before any funding was released organisations would be required to produce a profile of how they intended to spend any monies. This profile would subsequently be monitored throughout the process to ensure funding was being spent appropriately and to aid with the initiation of any necessary claw back procedures in the future. The definition of a small organisation was one with a turnover of less than £100,000 per annum.

The Portfolio Holder commented that he was disappointed that the amount allocated was expected to be so low but pleased to see job opportunities being made available. He highlighted the current work ongoing to promote employment opportunities for people with learning disabilities and suggested that links could be developed with these projects.

Decision

That the report be noted and the implementation of the project be approved.

40. Delivery Of The Event Volunteering Project *(Director of Adult and Community Services)*

Type of decision

Key Decision – test ii applies

Purpose of report

To update the Portfolio Holder on the successful bid to deliver an Event Volunteering project.

Issues for Consideration

The Adult Education Service have been successful in securing funding from the Learning and Skills Council to deliver an event volunteering project across Tees Valley, which is part of a National project supported jointly by the Department for Innovation and Skills and Department for Work and Pensions. This had been designed to attract adults to volunteer in a range of events and activities, e.g. the Stockton Riverside Festival and Tall Ships 2010.

The project would provide volunteers with the skills necessary to be effective event volunteers and those who successfully achieved the Personal Best event volunteering qualification will be given an interview to become a volunteer for the 2012 Olympics. Activities would be delivered across the Tees Valley by a partnership of all the Local Authorities and is hoped to engage at least 350 learners who would progress onto further study and have the opportunity to gain a qualification in event volunteering with a positive job outcome. One full-time employee would be needed to manage the project.

The Portfolio Holder asked if this was specifically geared toward sporting events. The Adult Education Co-ordinator advised that it was about creating volunteers for major events, not sporting coaches. The bid was originally made with the Tall Ships 2010 in mind but it was also hoped that it could be utilised for Dockfest and the Stockton Riverside Festival. As there were no major events of this type planned in Darlington, Middlesbrough or Redcar, officers were hopeful that Hartlepool and Stockton would see the most significant benefits from the £350,000 allocated to the Tees Valley. It was also anticipated that further funding of this type would be made available should this project be successful.

The Portfolio Holder requested details of the planned publicity for the project. The Adult Education Co-ordinator reported that the Learning and Skills Council had requested a corporate branding and a meeting was due the following week to discuss this with other Tees Valley authorities.

Decision

That the report be noted and its implementation be approved.

41. Adult and Community Services Departmental Plan 2008/2009 – 3rd 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 Adult and Community Services Departmental Plan 2008/2009 in the first three quarters of the year.

Issues for consideration

The report looked in detail at how the Department had performed in relation to the key actions and performance indicators (PIs) that were included in the Adult and Community Services Departmental Plan for this Portfolio. These actions and performance indicators were monitored by Officers using the Covalent system implemented recently.

There were no Actions that had been highlighted as not being on target. Of the Performance Indicators 3 were expected not to reach the target and these were as follows:-

Prescribing of high level antidepressants – This was not expected to achieve target until a range of alternative therapies were put in place, and this was expected to be achieved through the Improving Access to Psychological Therapies (IPAT) programme in coming years. The PCT work proactively with GP practices to monitor prescribing patterns and to promote high quality, effective prescribing practice but there was a limit to what could be achieved in relation to antidepressant prescribing until access to alternatives, such as talking therapies, improved and waiting times reduced.

All age all cause mortality (females) / All age all cause mortality (males) – Although these were classed as 2 separate indicators it was felt appropriate to look at them in tandem given their obvious similarities. The Portfolio Holder acknowledged that mortality rates were difficult to influence in the short term and that a longer term view was more realistic.

A number of actions had been completed during the third quarter including:-

- Review advocacy services to ensure people receive effective support.
- Continue to develop joint commissioning approaches with health
- Ensure support plans and reviews are person centred (transitions)
- Implement the allocations process
- Ensure involvement of people in service and contract reviews
- Increase the range of housing options for vulnerable adults
- Develop short term contracts for housing related support

The Portfolio Holder queried what impact the development of the LINK was expected to have upon provision of advocacy services and asked whether there was sufficient choice of service available to give people effective options. The Assistant Director of Commissioning advised that advocacy

services were currently being reviewed to ensure that generic services were available along with more specialist services for people with mental health needs and learning disabilities and that services were broad enough and offered enough choice. In terms of the LINK, a work plan for the coming year was currently being developed which would clarify priority areas and areas where there was expected to be greatest impact.

The Portfolio Holder queried what the allocations process referred to and was advised that it was the allocation of extra care accommodation at Hartfields.

Decision

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

The meeting concluded at 10:40 am

P J DEVLIN

CHIEF SOLICITOR

PUBLICATION DATE: 20th April 2009