

ADULT AND PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICES PORTFOLIO DECISION RECORD

12th May 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: Steve Thomas, Planning and Implementation Officer
Jo Wilson, Democratic Services Officer

42. Preparations for Coping in the event of an outbreak of pandemic influenza *(Director of Adult and Community Services)*

Type of decision

Non-key

Purpose of report

To inform the Portfolio Holder about proposed arrangements for alternative working within the Adult and Community Services Department in the event of an outbreak of pandemic influenza.

Issues for consideration by Portfolio Holder

The report outlined the steps being planned to prepare the Adult and Community Services department, and specifically adult social care, for a flu pandemic. This included the prioritisation of activity based on an expected increase in demand and high levels of absenteeism because of the pandemic outbreak. A revised draft corporate plan to cover all departments within the Council would be considered by Cabinet in the near future and Children's Services and Neighbourhood Services were also known to be working on individual departmental plans. A plan had been previously formulated in line with government directives and the intent was to update this and include more detail,

Regarding possible school closures the Planning and Implementation Officer advised that plans were being made to try and utilise the free time and expertise of all available staff in the worst case scenario. A skills

questionnaire was being prepared for staff in order to identify their skill mix to reutilise them should this become necessary. They might volunteer to work outside their normal remit but could not be forced to do so. In terms of co-operation with neighbouring local authorities there was no formal agreement but Emergency Planning were assuming this would happen.

The Portfolio Holder queried whether there had been some overreaction as to the scale of the problem given the number of confirmed deaths. The Planning and Implementation Officer acknowledged that the numbers in Mexico and America were not as high as had previously been expected but plans needed to be put in place should the virus mutate.

Decision

That the proposed changes in working in the event of an outbreak of Pandemic influenza be noted

That further reports be received as more information about the likelihood of a pandemic outbreak and its impact become available

That the Adult and Community Services Pandemic Flu Plan be brought for agreement.

The meeting concluded at 10:30am.

P J DEVLIN

CHIEF SOLICITOR

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