

ADULTS AND PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICES PORTFOLIO DECISION RECORD

9th November 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: John Lovatt, Acting Assistant Director (Operations)
Trevor Smith, Principal Management Information Manager
(Support Services)
Jo Wilson, Democratic Services Officer

24. Demographic Pressures – Social Care Activity 2009-10 *(Director of Child and Adult Services)*

Type of decision

Non-key

Purpose of report

To provide the Portfolio Holder with an update regarding social care activity and related pressures following on from last year's Winter Pressures Report which was provided on the 16th February 2009.

Issue(s) for consideration by Portfolio Holder

Intermediate Care Services has been established in Hartlepool since 1997 originally through co-operation between Hartlepool Borough Council, Hartlepool Primary Care Trust and North Tessa and Hartlepool NHS Trust. The purpose of this is to deliver high quality and responsive health and social care convalescence, recuperation, rehabilitation and care services. Thereby ensuring a joint social and health care response to meeting statutory requirements and achievement of best practice regarding the prevention of inappropriate admission into hospital, residential and nursing care and facilitating timely and safe discharge from hospital.

In order to monitor supply and demand and understand capacity challenges across health and social care the service routinely analyses information relating to requests for services and the number of episodes of delivered intermediate care including rapid response nursing, short stay residential

care placements and rehabilitation. Last year the operational framework was re-modelled and aspects re-commissioned in order to address anticipated demographic increases in Hartlepool and in preparation for the required expansion of services in the community to support the Momentum Pathways to Healthcare development. Despite this there had been a significant increase in discharge notifications from both the University of Hartlepool and North Tees hospitals, causing operational challenges in relation to the increase in requests for timely assessments of need and subsequent increases in the number of people needing access to health and social care services. This situation was further exacerbated by both hospitals being on continuous red alert during the Winter period due to the impact of a variety of issues. Further analysis during the first six months of this financial year has confirmed a continued increase in operational activity, this is, something of concern as the spring/summer period is traditionally less busy for operational teams. Systems are in place to mitigate the challenges being faced but it is clear that there will be additional pressures on operating systems and budgets, particularly given a potential flu pandemic and the onset of Autumn/Winter.

The Portfolio Holder queried what factors were thought to have caused the increase in operational activity. The Assistant Director advised that while the threat of flu pandemic and seasonal flu did have an impact it was no more than had been expected. The primary reason is considered to be an increase in demographic pressures coupled with pressures on carers. Publicity had led carers to be more aware of what they were entitled to which leads to an increase in applications for help and a key consideration is the growing numbers of people suffering from dementia. For the carers of people with a dementia they are under immense pressure and often experience difficulties coping over an extended period of time. The National Dementia Strategy recognises this and locally it is thought that approximately 1 in 5 cases in active adult social work are suffering from dementia or an associated condition.

The Assistant Director indicated that update reports on demographic pressures will be brought to the Portfolio Holder regularly. The Portfolio Holder commented on the importance of the Council, NHS Hartlepool and North Tees and Hartlepool Foundation Trust continuing to work closely together and the positive impact this would have on services and budgets.

Decision

That the report be noted

25. Adult and Community Services Departmental Plan 2009/2010 – 2nd Quarter Monitoring Report *(Director of Child and Adult 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 2009/10 in the first two quarters of the year.

Issue(s) for consideration by Portfolio Holder

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.

Within the department there were a total of 152 actions and 52 performance indicators identified in the Departmental Plan. A total of 27 actions had been completed, 114 were on track to be completed and 10 were at an acceptable level. One action had been noted as requiring intervention. Of the PIs, 18 were on track to be completed and 10 at an acceptable level. 4 had been flagged as requiring intervention.

The action requiring intervention was: -

- Review funding arrangements for DFGs

The Performance Indicators requiring intervention were: -

- Admissions to residential care – age 65+
- Supported admissions to residential / nursing care (under 65)
- Number of safeguarding adult referrals during the year
- Social care clients receiving Self Directed Support

The reasons for these actions and performance indicators not being achieved on target were outlined in the report. The Portfolio Holder noted the increase in admissions to residential care for over 65s, saying that this was another example of demographic pressures. In terms of the increase of Safeguarding Adults referrals he felt this was the result of a higher public profile being given to this service. The Principal Management Information Manager also highlighted the target of 70% for Social Care clients receiving Self Directed Support saying this target was to be reassessed as it currently included many clients who were not eligible for Self Directed Support such as those in crisis. A version of the performance indicator would be formulated to show the number of stable cases as well as those which needed to be included statutorily.

Details were also given of a number of actions completed by the department in the second quarter including a review of the current day service provision at Hartfields and the implementation of user led evaluation of care home provision. The Portfolio Holder highlighted the user led review implementation saying people would often disclose problems to users which they would not disclose to officials.

Decision

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

The meeting concluded at 10.20 a.m.

P J DEVLIN

CHIEF SOLICITOR

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