

ADULTS AND PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICES PORTFOLIO DECISION RECORD

7th December 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: Jill Harrison, Assistant Director of Commissioning
Neil Harrison, Strategic Commissioner – Working Age Adults
Jo Wilson, Democratic Services Officer

26. Future Day Services for People with Mental Health Needs *(Director of Child and Adult Services)*

Type of decision

Key – tests i and ii apply

Purpose of report

To update the Portfolio Holder on developments and commissioning plans for the future of day services.

Issue(s) for consideration by Portfolio Holder

The Portfolio Holder was advised that traditionally people recovering from serious mental health problems had accessed statutory services from 'Day Hospitals' or 'Day Services'. However over recent years this had changed to more community orientated specialist 'day services' being delivered from mental health specific, building based community services. It was proposed that all the existing services be brought under one umbrella and a tendering process carried out when the existing contract ended in 2010. To enable such a joint commissioning process funding resources would need to be identified – HBC's allocation was clearly identifiable in bespoke contracts and within current staffing resources while the PCT had recently agreed to withdraw £100,000 from the TEVV for reinvestment in the new tendering process. The ultimate plan was to bring the funding streams together to allow investment of £400,000 in Moving Forward Services.

Staffing issues were also highlighted specifically the fact that HBC staff currently employed within integrated mental health services and involved in the provision of community based Day Services might be affected by

TUPE. Five staff members were currently in this position although there could be movement within this figure. HR had been and would continue to be involved at all stages. The Portfolio Holder queried whether the Trade Unions had been consulted as he felt their involvement was important. The Assistant Director of Commissioning understood this was the case but would confirm with HR.

In terms of re-tendering the contracts the Portfolio Holder questioned whether there was any way certain contracts which were being delivered successfully by local providers could be exempt from the tendering process as he would not want to see national companies without the benefit of local knowledge being awarded contracts on the basis of their ability to complete tendering applications. The Assistant Director of Commissioning advised that informal discussions had taken place with the current providers so that they were aware of the tendering process. Procurement rules stated that a tendering process would have to be carried out however something could be built into the service specification requiring potential providers to have a local presence and local knowledge. This could then form part of the quality assessment.

The Portfolio Holder queried what safeguards were in place to prevent disruption to service users through these change. The Assistant Director indicated that this would also be included as part of the specification.

Decision

1. That the implication for services currently provided in Hartlepool by Independent providers and the Council be noted.
2. That the staffing issues in relation to Council staff and the assurances given that appropriate HR policies and procedures would be followed in relation to these staffing issues be noted.
3. That short term contract extensions for three providers be agreed in order to facilitate the re-tendering process.
4. That the proposal regarding exploring joining employment support services be noted and updated at a future point.

27. Hartlepool Vulnerable Adults Protection Committee Quarterly Statistics and Update *(Director of Child and Adult Services)*

Type of decision

Non-key

Purpose of report

To present the Safeguarding Vulnerable Adults quarterly statistics and provide an update on safeguarding activity.

Issue(s) for consideration by Portfolio Holder

The Statistics Report was attached as Appendix A to the report. This covered Safeguarding activity for the second quarter (1 July 2009 – 30 September 2009). Activity during the first quarter (1 April 2009 – 30 June 2009) was also included for comparison purposes.

This report is presented to the Portfolio Holder on a regular basis and this report highlighted that there had been a significant increase in referrals in comparison to the previous year. However the number of alerts of possible cases of abuse or neglect during the second quarter had decreased in comparison to alerts raised in the first quarter. This decrease was felt to be the result of a large number of referrals from one particular care home during the first quarter. A particular trend was an increase in the number of referrals relating to attacks on care home residents by other residents within homes providing care for people with dementia and similar conditions. Officers were working with care home staff to look at possible causes such as staffing levels and staff training needs and will work with providers to improve the situation where possible.

A number of measures had been taken to improve safeguarding activity including the appointment of a new Strategic Lead, the setting up of the new Safeguarding and Vulnerability Unit and the establishing of the Tees wide Safeguarding Adults Board.

The Portfolio Holder commented that the increase in referrals when compared with the previous year did not mean that such incidents were occurring more frequently and was more the result of an increase in awareness on the part of the public and a willingness to report incidents. He also noted the reference to a system for screening prospective taxi drivers and was supportive of this approach.

Decision

That the report be noted

28. The Autism Act 2009 *(Director of Child and Adult Services)*

Type of decision

Non-key

Purpose of report

To update the Portfolio Holder on developments in respect of the Autism Act 2009, following its amendments through the House of Commons.

Issue(s) for consideration by Portfolio Holder

The report provided an update on the Autism Act 2009 which makes provision for meeting the needs of adults with autistic spectrum conditions

and connected purposes. Guidance would be issued to local authorities, NHS bodies and NHS foundation trusts about the exercise of their respective functions by the Secretary of State by 31st December 2010. This would cover aspects such as the provision of relevant services for the purposes of diagnosis, identification of adults with such conditions and staff training. The financial implications had not been confirmed however the Assistant Director of Commissioning advised that care packages for autism can be very costly. At the moment there were 42 people with autistic spectrum conditions supported in the Hartlepool area and a small increase in this number could lead to a significant budget pressure.

Decision

That the report and progress be noted.

29. Development of a Centre for Independent Living (Director of Child and Adult Services)

Type of decision

Non-key

Purpose of report

To update the Portfolio Holder on the development of a Centre for Independent Living in Hartlepool.

Issue(s) for consideration by Portfolio Holder

The report outlined progress made to develop a Centre for Independent Living at the existing Havelock Centre. This was the result of a 2005 Cabinet Office report, 'Improving Life Chances of Disabled People', designed to improve life chances of disabled people and give them full opportunities to improve their quality of life and be included as equal members of society. Healthy Communities and Independent Living for Life had agreed to act as conduit for the project and a number of meetings had taken place with Burbank residents in order that their issues be given full consideration and that any future objections could be avoided.

The Portfolio Holder referred to the many and varied streams of funding which had been accessed by council officers, describing this as a terrific piece of work on their part. He queried what was happening with the community interest company which had recently been set up. The Strategic Commissioner reported that HCILL had moved into the Havelock Centre to enable them to engage with the centre more closely and develop plans around local engagement. Architects had been consulted and were currently drawing up plans for the centre. While the improvement works were being carried out service users had indicated they would be happy to use the facilities in Warren Road. There would also be some provision for support being offered in individuals homes in some cases.

Decision

That the progress be noted.

30. Learning Disability Performance and Health Assessment Framework *(Director of Child and Adult Services)*

Type of decision

Non-key

Purpose of report

To update the Portfolio Holder on the results of the second Annual Learning Disability Performance and Health Assessment Framework.

Issue(s) for consideration by Portfolio Holder

The report provided an update on the annual self assessment undertaken with the support of the Hartlepool Learning Disability Partnership Board with the Strategic Commissioner highlighting the improvements made in progress since the previous year. The Portfolio Holder queried the date of completion given for campus closure and was advised that this had been extended from March 2010 to December 2010 and that officers were confident that the deadline would be achieved.

The Portfolio Holder also raised concerns around a lack of recording systems within hospitals to indicate how people with learning disabilities were dealt with. The Strategic Commissioner reported that it was now a requirement that GPs identify patients with learning disabilities. There had also been informal agreement from the PCT that they would consider implementation of a patient identifying system, something which could not be done previously for technical reasons. The Portfolio Holder felt that services available to those with learning disabilities should be publicised as much as possible. The Strategic Commissioner commented that correlation of HBC data with GP data showed there were people with learning disabilities who were not accessing available services. The Portfolio Holder acknowledged this could be because such services were not needed but could equally be a lack of awareness.

Decision

That the report, progress and action plan updates be noted.

The meeting concluded at 11:05pm

P J DEVLIN

CHIEF SOLICITOR

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