

ADULTS AND PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICES PORTFOLIO DECISION RECORD 12th October 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: Neil Harrison, Strategic Commissioner - Working Age Adults
Margaret Hunt, Development Manager
Carole Johnson, Head of Health Improvement (Primary Care Trust)
Graeme Joynt, Senior Environmental Health Officer
Sylvia Pinkney, Consumer Services Manager
Amanda Whitaker, Democratic Services Team Manager

21. Reducing Health Inequalities Through Tobacco Control *(Director of Child and Adult Services)*

Type of decision

Key Decision (test (i) applies)

Purpose of report

To seek approval for projects to defray the £100,000 Department of Health funding for reducing health inequalities through tobacco control. The report also provided an update on smoking cessation services and success rates in the town.

Issue(s) for consideration by Portfolio Holder

The Portfolio Holder had been briefed on 16 July 2009 regarding the purpose and background to the grant (details of which were included as Appendix 1). The report set out details of the projects suggested and ratified by the Smoke Free Hartlepool Alliance at their meeting of 25 August 2009.

A number of projects had been submitted by the PCT Smoking Cessation Service and the Hartlepool Borough Council Public Protection Division. A brief summary of the following projects was included in the report:-

- Smoking Cessation Service – Smoke Free Ramadan Campaign (PCT) –cost £452.64.
- Marketing Posters (PCT) –Cost of £1086.
- Marketing – Beer Mats (PCT) –Cost of £500.
- Smoking Cessation in Burbank - Cost of £1200
- Stop Smoking Service – Drop in within young person's contraceptive clinic (PCT) –Total cost of the project £2400 and would run in Year 2 also (6 months Year1).
- Rewards Scheme for Pregnant Women (PCT) –cost £5100
- Smoking Cessation in Schools drama project (PCT) – Total cost £24,500.
- Tobacco Control (Hartlepool Borough Council) –Costs would be £41,593 Year 1 and £42845 Year 2.
- Smoking Cessation – Health Promotion (Hartlepool Borough Council)

The Portfolio Holder was requested to note that £100,000 would be allocated in 2010/2011 financial year, and proposals for the defrayal of this expenditure would be considered at the smoke free Hartlepool Alliance and reported to Portfolio Holder. Summary details of all the projects appeared at Appendix 2 with the project outlines at Appendix 3. It was recognised that not all the projects would spend to allocation in Year 1, however the Department of Health recognised that there would be slippage due to the late allocation of the grant.

The report provided an update on smoking cessation services and success rates in the town. Targets had been particularly challenging, based on success over the previous 3 years. Although local targets had not been reached, Hartlepool had achieved the second highest 4-week quit rate in the Country.

The Portfolio Holder referred to the challenging targets which had been set and highlighted the successes achieved by the smoking cessation services. Further details were sought in relation to the projects and clarification was sought on obtaining intelligence and carrying out enforcement work on illicit tobacco.

The Portfolio Holder referred to a link with the outcomes of the report and a recent investigation undertaken by the Health Scrutiny Forum and requested that in future, reports refer to any links with the 'Reaching Families in Need' investigation.

Decision

- (i) The notified allocation was approved.
- (ii) Progress with smoking cessation initiatives was noted.

22. Health and Safety Service Plan 2009/10 (*Head of Procurement, Property and Public Protection*)

Type of decision

Non-Key

Purpose of report

To consider the Health and Safety Service Plan for 2009/10 as required under section 18 of the Health and Safety at Work etc Act 1974.

Issue(s) for consideration by Portfolio Holder

The Portfolio Holder was advised that the Health and Safety Executive had issued section guidance to Local Authorities, which provided information on how local authority enforcement service plans should be structured and what they should contain. Service plans developed under this guidance would provide the basis on which local authorities would be monitored and audited by the Health and Safety Executive. The Health and Safety Service Plan for 2009/10 was appended to the report and took into consideration the guidance requirements.

The Portfolio Holder noted that the number of programmed Health and Safety inspections carried out in 2008/09 was below target at 65% due to the service having experienced significant staffing difficulties during the year. Whilst performance was below target it was not expected that this would raise any concerns. Outstanding inspections would be added to the programme for 2009/10 with more resources being available to achieve targets.

Officers had actively participated in the Health and Safety Partnership working closely on various initiatives with other Local Authorities and the Health and Safety Executive. This work would continue in 2009/10 with participation in a number of campaigns which were set out in the report.

The report advised the Portfolio Holder that Section 18 of the Health and Safety at Work etc Act 1974 (HSWA) put a duty on the Health and Safety Executive (HSE) and Local Authorities (LAs) to make adequate arrangements for enforcement. New Section 18 guidance was issued in 2008 requiring Enforcing Authorities, from 1st April 2008, to work towards compliance with the principles and standards. From 31st March 2011, compliance is mandatory. During 2008/09 work commenced on meeting the requirements of the amended Section 18 guidance and this would continue in 2009/10.

The report highlighted that the section had lost 3 posts in order to achieve 2008/09 efficiency savings, one of which was a health and safety enforcement post. As a result it had been necessary to distribute their workload to the remaining workforce, consequently the targets in 2009/10

would be extremely challenging. It was highlighted also that the 'credit crunch' was having an impact on standards. Financial pressures as a result of the recession had resulted in some businesses failing to carry out essential maintenance / repairs; consequently there had been an increase in the number of contraventions found. It was anticipated that this trend of reduction in standards was likely to continue until the economic climate improves. However, the service was committed to focussing its resources on carrying out interventions at those businesses which were deemed not to be compliant through offering advice, support and, where necessary, enforcement.

The Portfolio Holder was updated, at the meeting, on initiatives undertaken in relation to Noise at Work in the Entertainment Sector which highlighted the role of the service in assisting businesses in addition to its enforcement role.

The Portfolio Holder highlighted his concerns with respect to the staffing levels of the service and the implications on the inspections carried out by the Section especially given any reduction in standards arising from financial pressures on businesses.

Decision

The Health and Safety Service Plan for 2009/10 was approved.

23. Communities for Health Funding 2009/10 (*Director of Child and Adult Services*)

Type of Decision

No decision required – the report is for information

Purpose of Report

To inform the Portfolio Holder about projects being funded from the Communities for Health funding allocation.

Issue(s) for Consideration by Portfolio Holder

The report advised the Portfolio Holder that there was £220,000 available within 2009/10; £100,000 carried forward from a late allocation in 2008/09 plus the £120,000 allocated for 2009/10. The criteria for the use of this funding was as follows:

- Engage communities in their own health and develop their capacity to support individual behavioural change for healthier lifestyles
- Build partnerships between organisations and communities; and
- Develop innovative practices for community based health improvement

A number of proposals had been submitted to utilise this funding and the

approved projects were as follows:

- Centre for Independent Living (£140,000)
- Voluntary Sector Strategy Implementation (£15,000)
- Mill House Leisure Centre Fitness Suite (£48,000)
- Waverley Terrace Allotment Project (£10,000)
- Reminiscence Therapy (£3,600)
- Daisy Players (£3,400)

A number of proposals were submitted which were deemed more appropriate for consideration by the Community Activities network and were re-directed for consideration through the appropriate route. These included Walking & Cycling Maps, Outdoor Gyms and Green Health Walks. It was intended that a further report will be submitted to Portfolio in March 2010 to provide an update on each of the approved projects and the outcomes achieved.

The Portfolio Holder sought further details and clarification regarding the approved projects.

Decision

The projects allocated funding were noted and it was agreed to receive future reports updating on progress.

The meeting concluded at 10.50 a.m.

P J DEVLIN

CHIEF SOLICITOR

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