

ADULTS AND PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICES PORTFOLIO DECISION RECORD

4th May 2010

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
Neil Harrison, Strategic Commissioner – Working Age Adults
Amanda Whitaker, Democratic Services Team

36. Adult Education Fees – Academic Year 2010-2011 (Director of Child and Adult Services)

Type of decision

Key (test (ii) applies)

Purpose of report

To consider the level of adult education fees for the academic year 1st August 2010 to 31st July 2011.

Issue(s) for consideration by Portfolio Holder

The report set out the current fee levels for Adult Education courses funded through the Skills Funding Agency and other sources and considered options for future fee levels.

The Portfolio Holder was advised that levels of fees were different according to the Skills Funding Agency (SFA) funding stream. The funding for different courses was currently set at different levels, the rationale for which was set out in the report together with the options available in consideration of future fee levels.

The Portfolio Holder noted that if adult education fees were set in accordance with SFA guidance, then there would be no financial implications for the Council's budget as the level of fee increases would be sufficient to enable the Adult Education Service to operate SFA funded courses within the budget allocated by the SFA, as set out in the report. If no increase in fees was agreed or insufficient increase, then there could be financial implications for the Council as any overspend on the SFA budget would have to be met by the Local Authority and no budgetary provision

was available to meet this demand.

The Portfolio Holder highlighted that the setting of adult education fees was a difficult task, involving a balance between the need to generate sufficient income to meet costs, while encouraging adult learners to participate. It was recognised that any significant increase in fees is likely to be unpopular and could lead to some fall-off in student numbers. The Portfolio Holder considered the recommended level of Adult Education fees for the academic year 2010-2011 as presented in Appendix 1 to the report and amended those proposals in terms of the revised fees for Vocational and First Steps Learning courses and PCDL courses.

Decision

The following recommendations were approved:

- i. Vocational and First Steps Learning courses £95 for a 60 hour course and £32 for a 20 hour course;
- ii. PCDL courses £ 130 for a 60 hour course and £ 44 for a 20 hour course;
- iii. No course fees should be charged to students entitled under the LSC guidance on remitted fees (except for a one-off administration charge);
- iv. The fee remission policy should continue to apply as at present to those categories of courses which are considered as developmental. These categories were noted in Appendix 1. In particular it would include groups of students who are recruited to widen participation or in response to specific government initiatives e.g. students with a disability, Asylum seekers and Refugees, Family learning or community regeneration activities.
- v. The administration charge should remain at current levels i.e. £10 for vocational and First Steps courses and £ 15 for PCDL courses.
- vi. Courses which are not supported through SFA funding or other income streams will be delivered at the Full Cost rate

37. Response to the Department of Health Statutory Guidance for Social Care for Deafblind Children and Adults *(Director of Child and Adult Services)*

Type of decision

No decision required – for information only.

Purpose of report

To inform the Portfolio Holder in Response to the Department of Health Statutory Guidance for Social Care for Deafblind Children and Adults.

Issue(s) for consideration by Portfolio Holder

The report set out information on the self assessment undertaken against the re-issued department of health statutory guidance for deafblind children and adults. The Department of Health had reissued the statutory guidance “Social Care for Deafblind Children and Adults”, originally issued in 2001. The reissued guidance gave new rights to deafblind people and placed new duties on local authorities. It applied to anyone who has a hearing loss and a sight loss which caused them difficulty in everyday life and affected their communication, access to information and mobility, including progressive sight and hearing loss. The guidance required local authorities to take a number of steps to ensure that deafblind people received the support and services they needed. The requirements of the guidance were outlined in the report together with details of action taken by the Council and future steps to ensure compliance with the guidance. A report which had been presented to the Child and Adult Services Department Commissioning Team meeting detailing the self assessment and listing a number of recommendations was appended to the report to the Portfolio Holder.

Following presentation of the report, the Portfolio Holder sought clarification on the number of people who has a hearing loss and a sight loss in the Borough and also sought further information in respect in terms of regional prospective, implications for carers and availability of interpreters.

Decision

The report was noted.

The meeting concluded at 10.40 am

P J DEVLIN

CHIEF SOLICITOR

PUBLICATION DATE: 10th May 2010