

ADULT AND PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICES PORTFOLIO DECISION RECORD

18 October 2010

The meeting commenced at 10.00 a.m. in the Civic Centre, Hartlepool

Present:

Councillor Gerard Hall (Adult's Services and Public Health Portfolio Holder)

Officers: Jill Harrison, Assistant Director of Commissioning
John Lovatt, Acting Assistant Director - Operations
Sylvia Pinkney, Public Protection Manager
Jane Kett, Principal Environmental Health Officer (Commercial)
Sarah Bird, Democratic Services Officer

19. Health and Safety Service Plan 2010/2011 – *Principal Environmental Health Officer (Commercial)*

Type of Decision

Non key.

Purpose of Report

To seek Portfolio Holder's approval to the Health and Safety Service Plan 2010/2011.

Issues for Consideration

The Health and Safety Executive has a key role in overseeing local authority enforcement activities and has issued guidance on the content of local authority enforcement service plans. The Health and Safety Service Plan for 2010/11 had been circulated as Appendix 1 to the report.

The Portfolio Holder was informed that because a technical officer post had been vacant for a year, and the loss of three previous posts due to efficiencies, a backlog of work had ensued and the health and safety premises inspection programme had not been completed. The outstanding inspections would be carried forward to the current year.

The department had been liaising with the Health and Safety Executive and other Tees Valley Local Authorities and work had been carried out in relation to controlling exposure to noise at work in the entertainment industry and a survey of waste compactors. Inspections had also been

carried out in premises on industrial estates in the Borough and focussed on risks in relation to asbestos, workplace transport and safety when working at height and advice given. A number of enforcement notices were served following these visits.

During 2009/10 legal proceedings had been concluded in respect of an accident whereby a worker had fallen from a ladder and the employer had pleaded guilty to failing to provide suitable equipment for working at height and received a conditional discharge.

The Council would, during 2010/11, participate in the National Injuries Reduction Programme in relation to LPG Inspections, Construction Activities, Asbestos duty to manage and heavy loads and workplace transport load security. The Council would also work in partnership with other Tees Valley Authority and the Health and Safety Executive in relation to Noise at Work in the Entertainment Industry and Violence and Aggression in the Retail Sector.

The Tees Valley Flexible Warrant Scheme had been launched in June 2010 which allowed inspectors to work across boundaries and four enforcement officers had been authorised. New Guidance in relation to Section 18 of the Health and Safety at Work Act 1974 had been issued and compliance with this was mandatory from 31 March 2011.

Further to the planned Health and Safety inspections visits were carried out in relation to the Tall Ships Event and Headland Carnival placing additional demands on the already heavy workload of officers.

The Portfolio Holder was also advised of a recent report published by Lord Young for the Prime Minister reviewing health and safety laws and the growing compensation culture.

The Portfolio Holder referred to the Workers' Memorial Day which highlighted victims of accidents at work. He stressed the importance of the inspections carried out by the section and asked that he be made aware should the current staffing provision not be sufficient. The Public Protection Manager highlighted instances where emergency inspections had been carried out impacting on the already heavy workload but said that it was hoped that the all inspections, including those carried forward from the previous year would still be achieved. This would be monitored in the Departmental Plan which was reported to the Portfolio Holder quarterly.

It was clarified for the Portfolio Holder that when inspections were carried out, enquiries would be made to ensure that risk assessments had been carried out by employers. Clarification was also given in relation to the budget for the Consumer Services section. The Portfolio Holder commented that the department carried out vital work and stressed the importance of the ongoing work in relation to noise in the entertainment industry.

Decision

The Portfolio Holder approved the Health and Safety Service Plan 2010/11.

20. Adult Social Care Performance Analysis – *Acting Assistant Director - Operations*

Type of Decision

Non key.

Purpose of Report

To update the Portfolio Holder in respect of Adult Social Care provider services' performance in Hartlepool and to provide an analysis of statistical information in relation to performance activity 2007-2010.

Issues for Consideration

The Portfolio Holder was reminded that Adult Social Care Provider Services in Hartlepool comprised of the Duty Team, Locality Management Teams, Safeguarding Adults Team, Social Care Transformation Team, Learning Disability Social Work Team, Mental Health Assessment and Provider Teams, Multi-Link Team and Day Opportunities. A number of these were co-located or in partnership with the North Tees and Hartlepool NHS Foundation Trust or Tees and Esk Wear Valley NHS Foundation Trust. The report highlighted longer life expectancy therefore placing greater pressure on Adult Social Care services. The report also outlined the remit of the various teams and how most of the teams had seen an increase in referrals apart from the duty team. This could be attributed to a change in eligibility criteria and those with 'moderate' needs were now signposted to a wide range of voluntary organisations such as Connected Care, Hartlepool Carers and Hartlepool MIND. The number of referrals coming into Multi-Link had increased by 20% over the last 3 years, reflecting people with more complex needs who were at risk of either being admitted to hospital or those leaving hospital care. These cases had to be dealt with quickly or a financial penalty would be incurred. 63% of people using social care services were in receipt of self directed support/personal budgets. However there had been a decrease of 18% in the number of social care staff, primarily as a result of the need to find service efficiencies. This had resulted in a reduction in the number of social care staff, management posts and qualified social worker posts. Some Qualified Social Worker posts had been replaced by unqualified posts to meet challenging efficiency targets.

The Portfolio Holder referred to the Government's Comprehensive Spending Review which was due on 20 October 2010 which may also

have an effect on the social care budget. He added that high workload for staff could in turn lead to absenteeism because of inability to cope with pressure of work. The Acting Assistant Director – Operations confirmed that monitoring of caseloads took place.

The Portfolio Holder commented that Hartlepool had significant areas of deprivation and said that whatever cuts were introduced, levels of service should be maintained. He asked that Members be kept informed of departmental pressures.

Decision

The Portfolio Holder noted the contents of the report

The meeting concluded at 10.55 am.

P J DEVLIN

CHIEF SOLICITOR

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