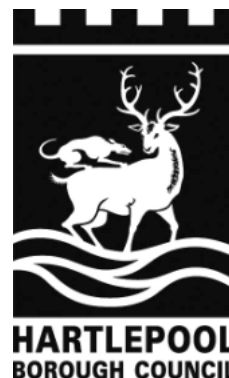


# **ADULT AND COMMUNITY SERVICES SCRUTINY FORUM AGENDA**



**Monday 13<sup>th</sup> December 2010**

**at 2.00pm**

**in Committee Room B,  
Civic Centre, Hartlepool**

**MEMBERS: ADULT AND COMMUNITY SERVICES SCRUTINY FORUM**

Councillors Atkinson, Fleet, Griffin, Ingham, Law ton, A Marshall, McKenna, Preece, and Shaw

Resident Representatives: Christine Blakey and Evelyn Leck

**1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

**2. TO RECEIVE ANY DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST BY MEMBERS**

**3. MINUTES**

3.1 To confirm the minutes of the joint meeting of the Adult and Community Services Scrutiny Forum, Children's Services and Regeneration and Planning Services, held on 27<sup>th</sup> September 2010

3.2 To confirm the minutes of the meeting of Adult and Community Services Scrutiny Forum held on 18<sup>th</sup> October 2010

**4. RESPONSES FROM THE COUNCIL, THE EXECUTIVE OR COMMITTEES OF THE COUNCIL TO FINAL REPORTS OF THIS FORUM**

No items.

**5. CONSIDERATION OF REQUEST FOR SCRUTINY REVIEWS REFERRED VIA SCRUTINY CO-ORDINATING COMMITTEE**

No items.

6. **CONSIDERATION OF PROGRESS REPORTS / BUDGET AND POLICY  
FRAMEWORK DOCUMENTS**

No items.

7. **ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION**

**Scrutiny Investigation into 'Safeguarding of Vulnerable Adults'**

7.1 Evidence from other Local Authorities and Hartlepool Child and Adult Services  
Department - Covering Report – *Scrutiny Support Officer*

(a) Presentation by Salford Council – *Adult Safeguarding Co-ordinator and  
Lead Nurse Adult Safeguarding (NHS Salford)*

(b) Presentation by Middlesbrough Borough Council – *Strategic Lead  
Safeguarding Adults*

(c) Presentation by Hartlepool Borough Council – *Acting Assistant Director of  
Operations and the Performance and Information Manager*

7.2 Adult Protection Committee Nominations – *Scrutiny Support Officer*

8. **ISSUES IDENTIFIED FROM FORWARD PLAN**

9. **ANY OTHER ITEMS WHICH THE CHAIRMAN CONSIDERS ARE URGENT**

**ITEMS FOR INFORMATION**

**(i) Date of next meeting:-**

Monday, 17<sup>th</sup> January 2011 at 2.00 pm in Committee Room B, Civic Centre,  
Hartlepool

# **JOINT MEETING OF THE ADULT AND COMMUNITY SERVICES, CHILDREN'S SERVICES AND REGENERATION AND PLANNING SERVICES SCRUTINY FORUM**

## **MINUTES**

27 September 2010

The meeting commenced at 5.00 pm in the Civic Centre, Hartlepool

### **Present:**

Councillors: Rob Cook, Steve Gibbon, Mary Fleet, Sheila Griffin, Marjorie James, Trisha Lawton, Ann Marshall, Arthur Preece, Chris Simmons and Ray Wells.

### **Resident Representatives:**

Evelyn Leck and Joan Steel

### **Officers:**

Dave Stubbs, Director of Regeneration and Neighbourhoods  
Damien Wilson, Assistant Director, Regeneration and Planning  
Nigel Johnson, Housing Regeneration & Policy Manager  
Phil Hornsby, Strategic Commissioner - Older People  
James Walsh, Scrutiny Support Officer  
Elaine Hind, Scrutiny Support Officer  
Jo Wilson, Democratic Services Officer

## **1. Appointment of Chair**

Councillor Chris Simmons was appointed Chair for the duration of the meeting.

## **2. Apologies for Absence**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Kevin Cranney, Peter Ingham, Sarah Maness, Jane Shaw and Paul Thompson and the young people representatives from the Children's Services Scrutiny Forum.

## **3. Declarations of interest by Members**

Councillor Chris Simmons declared a personal interest in minute 8.

**4. Responses from the Council, the Executive or Committees of the Council to Final Reports of this Forum**

None.

**5. Consideration of request for scrutiny reviews referred via Scrutiny Co-ordinating Committee**

None.

**6. Consideration of progress reports/budget and policy framework documents**

None.

**7. Issues Identified from Forward Plan**

None.

**8. Scrutiny Co-ordinating Committee Referral – Housing Adaptations Policy 2010-2013** *(Scrutiny Support Officer/Housing Regeneration and Policy Manager)*

The Scrutiny Support Officer presented a report which provided the background to the referral from the Scrutiny Co-ordinating Committee and the opportunity for Members to contribute to the consultation process for the development of the draft Housing Adaptations Policy 2010-2013. Members were concerned that there appeared to have been limited Elected Member involvement in the consultation process, prior to this meeting being arranged. It was therefore suggested that Members are included in the consultation process for all policies of the Council so that their views can be taken into account before they are enforced.

The Housing Regeneration and Policy Manager gave a detailed and comprehensive presentation which provided the background to the Housing Adaptations Policy (Disabled Facilities Grants) and outlined the findings of the review being undertaken of the Housing Adaptations Policy. The objectives of the policy were detailed in the presentation and the process highlighting how housing adaptations were progressed was also included. The Action Plan arising from the consultation included:

- A proposal for an Adaptations Operational Panel to be established with options
- To look at how best the clients needs can be met
- To close monitor how delivery can be improved, including use of stock

and early preventative work

- To work with Registered Providers to encourage greater partnership working.

A discussion ensued which included the following:

- (i) A Member questioned whether applications for adaptations were means tested? The Housing Regeneration and Policy Manager indicated that allocation of adaptations was undertaken through the Disabilities Facilities Grant process although this was not part of the Housing Adaptations Policy.
- (ii) It appeared that the provision of adaptations takes twice as long as other local authorities in the area, was this due to funding restrictions? The Housing Regeneration and Policy Manager confirmed that at the beginning of each financial year, there was almost a years worth of applications already received. The funding received from Central Government amounted to half of what was required to satisfy the applications received with the remaining funding being sought from Council budgets elsewhere.
- (iii) A Member sought clarification on whether the number of people with disabilities in the town was increasing? The Housing Regeneration and Policy Manager indicated that there was an increasing number of people needing disabled access and facilities.
- (iv) It was questioned whether urgent assessments were undertaken and if so how long did they usually take. The Housing Regeneration and Policy Manager confirmed that an Occupational Therapist would determine the urgency of an application and if it was deemed urgent would be undertaken almost immediately if technically possible.
- (v) A Member questioned whether the Council would instigate and support a campaign to encourage the take up of attendance allowance as this may trigger an increase in funding for the Council from Central Government. The Housing Regeneration and Policy Manager commented that this would be looked into.
- (vi) The level of consultation undertaken with Members was questioned. The Director of Regeneration and Neighbourhoods confirmed that consultation had commenced prior to this meeting being scheduled and it was programmed to consult Members on the action plan arising from the consultation. The Director confirmed that the action plan related to the current policy as the policy was not changing.
- (vii) A Member sought clarification on the number of applications on the waiting list for adaptations from Registered Providers. The figures were not available at the meeting but would be provided for Members' information.
- (viii) Clarification was sought on the amount Council funding required for adaptations in view of the contribution made by Housing Hartlepool. The Housing Regeneration and Policy Manager confirmed that negotiations were being undertaken to split the costs associated with the provision of housing adaptations with Housing Hartlepool. The Chair confirmed that Housing Hartlepool as part of the stock transfer agreement had funded housing adaptations until 2010 but it had no

statutory duty to continue to do so.

- (ix) The earlier comments in relation to encouraging applications for attendance allowances were endorsed and it was highlighted that this should include younger people with disabilities also.
- (x) A Member questioned why there was a backlog in processing applications. The Director of Regeneration and Neighbourhoods confirmed that there had been a backlog for some time due to the number of applications received against the level of funding available to provide the adaptations.
- (xi) Members were concerned as it was reported in Government figures that the number of people aged over 80 will double in the next two decades and yet it was unlikely that the funding for housing adaptations would increase in line with this. It was therefore hoped that housing providers would adapt properties and utilise new properties to ensure that the needs of older and people with disabilities were met whilst encouraging tenants to move to properties that were more suitable to their needs wherever appropriate.
- (xii) It was noted that a comprehensive database was to be established which would monitor and track where adaptations were in use as well as what kind of adaptations had been undertaken to different properties. This should hopefully maximise the use of appropriate adaptations and properties.
- (xiii) In response to a Member's question, it was noted that there was reference to partnership working with the health authority within the Housing Adaptations Policy to ensure that older people would be encouraged to stay at home with adaptations in place where necessary to avoid where possible, lengthy stays in care homes or hospitals.
- (xiv) A resident representative questioned whether adaptations included the provision of home insulation due to the level of treatment provided by the NHS for illnesses caused by fuel poverty. The Housing Regeneration and Policy Manager confirmed that whilst this issue did not form part of the Housing Adaptations Policy, the Council performed well ensuring that homes were fitted with appropriate insulation. The Chair commented that any new social housing was built to a Level 4 standard which was the highest insulation level achievable.
- (xv) In response to a question from a resident representative, the Chair confirmed that an Adaptations Operations Panel would be formed to look at each application for a housing adaptation based on officers' recommendations. It was suggested that Occupational Therapists and the applicant's family members should also be consulted.

In conclusion it was noted that in principle Members were comfortable with the current policy and review being undertaken and recommended that the Housing Adaptations Policy (2010 – 2013) should proceed as planned. However, should any individual Members wish to make further comment they were encouraged to forward them to the Housing Regeneration and Policy Manager who would collate those responses and submit them as part of the consultation process. Members also recommended that the Adaptations Operations Panel be convened on a flexible basis and that Members are involved at appropriate stages in the continuing development of the Housing

Adaptations Policy (2010 – 2013).

Members also wish to be included in the consultation process for all policies of the Council to enable their views to be taken into consideration prior to policies being submitted to Council for adoption.

**Recommended**

That Members' views and comments be formulated into a response to be submitted to the Scrutiny Co-ordinating Committee.

**9. Any Other Items which the Chairman Considers are Urgent**

None.

The meeting concluded at 6.00 pm

CHAIR

# **ADULT AND COMMUNITY SERVICES SCRUTINY FORUM**

## **MINUTES**

18 October 2010

The meeting commenced at 2.00 pm in the Civic Centre, Hartlepool

### **Present:**

Councillor: Jane Shaw (In the Chair)

Councillors: Patricia Lawton, Ann Marshall and Arthur Preece

Also Present: Ruby Marshall, Margaret Wren and Zoe Sherry, Hartlepool Link

Officers: Jill Harrison, Assistant Director Child and Adult Services  
John Lovatt, Acting Assistant Director, Child and Adult Services  
Pam Simpson, Strategic Lead in Safeguarding and Vulnerability  
Trevor Smith, Performance and Information Manager (Adults)  
Joan Stevens, Scrutiny Manager  
Elaine Hind, Scrutiny Support Officer  
Denise Wimpenny, Principal Democratic Services Officer

### **29. Apologies for Absence**

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Councillors Atkinson, Fleet, Griffin, Ingham and Resident Representative Evelyn Leck.

### **30. Declarations of interest by Members**

None.

### **31. Minutes of the meeting held on 13 September 2010**

Confirmed.

### **32. Matters Arising from the Minutes**

With regard to Minute 24 (iv) of the last meeting, the Assistant Director reported that Elected Members had previously been involved in the inspection process for Council owned care homes. However, following the transfer of ownership of Council care homes, this was no longer a requirement. The



Assistant Director advised that the future role of Elected Members in the inspection process would be further explored with the Commissioning Services Manager and details of how Members could become involved would be fed back to a future meeting of the Forum.

With regard to deprivation of liberty safeguards data, a copy of which had been circulated prior to the meeting, the Chair queried whether all care homes accepted the free team training. In response, Members were advised that the majority of care homes took up the training. A training review was currently being undertaken, details of which would be available shortly.

**33. Responses from the Council, the Executive or Committees of the Council to Final Reports of this Forum**

None

**34. Consideration of request for scrutiny reviews referred via Scrutiny Co-ordinating Committee**

None

**35. Consideration of progress reports/budget and policy framework documents**

None

**36. Scrutiny Investigation into Safeguarding of Adults – Evidence from the Council's Child and Adult Services Department - Covering Report/ Presentation – Detailed Overview of Safeguarding Services** *(Scrutiny Support Officer and Acting Assistant Director of Operations)*

The Scrutiny Support Officer advised that as part of the Forum's investigation into Safeguarding of Adults the Assistant Director of Operations and the Strategic Lead in Safeguarding and Vulnerability had been invited to attend the meeting to provide a detailed overview of the adult safeguarding services provided by the Child and Adult Services department, the challenges the service faced and the results of an independent evaluation of the service.

As part of the evidence gathering session, Members of the Forum would then be asked to split into groups to determine the challenges facing the provision of adult safeguarding services in the future and to suggest how these may be addressed. Following group discussion, the Assistant Director would provide a presentation highlighting the challenges the Department had identified with regard to adult safeguarding. The Strategic Lead in Safeguarding and Vulnerability would then present the results of an independent review of

“Safeguarding Adults Arrangements” in Hartlepool undertaken in May 2009 and outline how the recommendations from this review were being addressed.

The Acting Assistant Director provided a detailed and comprehensive presentation which included the following issues:-

- Adult and Social Care Services – Operational Structure
  - Health Development Team
  - Duty Team
  - Social Care Transformation Team
  - Adult Safeguarding Team
  - Day Opportunities Disability Services
  - Multi-Link Team
  - Mental Health Assessment and Provision
  - Locality Teams
  - Learning Disability Social Work Team
  - Day Opportunities Teams

Following discussion regarding the operational structure and the impact of the proposed transfer of health service responsibilities from the PCT, the Forum was advised that whilst joint PCT and local authority joint roles would cease in December 2010, partnership arrangements would continue.

The Forum then separated into two groups to determine the challenges facing the provision of adult safeguarding services in the future and to suggest how these may be addressed. Officers then went on to provide feedback from the various sessions:-

#### Group 1 – Adult Social Care and Physical Disabilities

- Ageing population, increased prevalence of people needing support, increased dementia, more people living alone
- Impact of poverty/fuel poverty on ability to cope
- Concerns were expressed that individuals’ needs were often critical before they met the current eligibility criteria to access services. The need to provide support at an earlier stage was suggested. However, the current funding difficulties were acknowledged.
- Reluctance to access services
- Lack of qualified social workers and difficulties with recruitment
- The importance of good quality assessment and re-assessment was highlighted including the need to provide relevant, good quality information to the public including the availability of voluntary services.
- The dignity agenda was felt to be key and there was a unanimous view that people should be treated with respect no matter what their age or condition.

#### Group 2 – Mental Health and Learning Disabilities

- Growing number of mental health problems resulting in increase in numbers accessing service

- Stigma attached to term “mental health”
- Impact of mental health problems on access to decent housing, employment, training, general health and relationship issues.

The Performance and Information Manager and the Strategic Lead in Safeguarding and Vulnerability went on to provide a joint presentation which included the following issues:-

- Statistical information in relation to performance activity from April 2007 to March 2010 and challenges ahead in respect of adult safeguarding:-
  - older people
  - learning disabilities
  - physical disabilities
  - mental health
- Results of Independent Review of “Safeguarding Adults Arrangements”
  - Findings
  - Summary of Recommendations
  - Action Plan of how the recommendations were being addressed

In the discussion that followed, the Forum commented on the reasons for the increase in take-up of services and the financial impact on the Council as a result.

A query was raised as to how performance targets were set to which the Performance and Information Manager reported that statistics from other family authorities with similar demographics and issues to Hartlepool were analysed as a comparator and targets set accordingly. In response to a request for clarification regarding comparator authorities, the Performance and Information Manager agreed to provide details under separate cover following the meeting.

Following discussion regarding the actions from the independent review of “Safeguarding Adult Arrangements” the Strategic Lead in Safeguarding and Vulnerability agreed to circulate an update upon completion of the actions.

### **Recommended**

That the information given be noted and the comments of the Forum and evidence provided be used to assist with the scrutiny investigation.

## **37. Issues Identified from Forward Plan**

None

## **38. Date and Time of Next Meeting**

It was reported that the next meeting scheduled for 8 November would be rescheduled to 13 December 2010 to which representatives from Middlesbrough and Salford Councils had agreed to attend to provide

evidence.

**39. Any Other Items which the Chairman Considers are Urgent**

The Chairman ruled that the following item of business should be considered by the Committee as a matter of urgency in accordance with the provisions of Section 100(B) (4)(b) of the Local Government Act 1972 in order that the matter could be dealt with without delay.

**40. Any Other Business – Attendance at Adult Protection Committee**

The Chair sought three volunteers from the Forum to attend a meeting of the Adult Protection Committee scheduled for 2.30 pm on 15 February 2011. Members were requested to submit any expressions of interest together with suggested questions to the Scrutiny Support Officer as soon as possible.

The meeting concluded at 3.38 pm.

CHAIR

## **ADULT AND COMMUNITY SERVICES SCRUTINY FORUM**

13 December 2010



**Report of:** Scrutiny Support Officer

**Subject:** SCRUTINY INVESTIGATION INTO SAFEGUARDING  
VULNERABLE ADULTS – EVIDENCE FROM OTHER  
LOCAL AUTHORITIES AND HARTLEPOOL CHILD  
AND ADULT SERVICES DEPARTMENT –  
COVERING REPORT

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### **1. PURPOSE OF REPORT**

- 1.1 To inform Members of the Forum that safeguarding representatives from Salford and Middlesbrough Councils, along with the Acting Assistant Director of Operations from Hartlepool Borough Council have been invited to attend the meeting to provide evidence in relation to the ongoing investigation into Adult Safeguarding.

### **2. BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

- 2.1 Members will recall at the meeting of this Forum on 16 August 2010, the Terms of Reference and Potential Areas of Inquiry / Sources of Evidence for this Scrutiny Investigation were approved by the Forum.
- 2.2 Consequently safeguarding representatives from Salford and Middlesbrough Councils have agreed to attend today's meeting of the Forum to provide presentations outlining:-
- i) The results of their respective Care Quality Commission Safeguarding Inspections (including areas identified as good practice and plans to address the recommendations for improving outcomes);
  - ii) Background to the demographics of the areas in which they operate;
  - iii) The structure of their safeguarding departments;
  - iv) Details of their links with other agencies (including the NHS and the local Police force); and
  - v) Methods of maintaining current levels of service given budget constraints will also be explored.

- 2.3 The Acting Assistant Director of Operations from Hartlepool Borough Council has also agreed to attend the meeting to provide a presentation outlining:
- i) Where the Adult Safeguarding Department feels it sits with regard to the recommendations of good practice; and
  - ii) The areas for development identified in the Care Quality Commission inspection reports of Salford and Middlesbrough.
- 2.4 Following the presentations there will be an opportunity for a discussion surrounding the engagement of agencies other than Local Authorities in the safeguarding agenda and how best to ensure adult safeguarding is 'everybody's business'.

### **3. RECOMMENDATION**

- 3.1 It is recommended that the Adult and Community Services Scrutiny Forum consider the evidence of the safeguarding representatives from Salford and Middlesbrough Councils and the Acting Assistant Director of Operations from Hartlepool Borough Council in attendance at this meeting and seek clarification on any relevant issues where required.

**Contact Officer:-** Elaine Hind – Scrutiny Support Officer  
Chief Executive's Department  
Hartlepool Borough Council

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### **BACKGROUND PAPERS**

The following background papers were used in the preparation of this report:-

- (i) Report of the Scrutiny Support Officer entitled 'Scrutiny Investigation into Adult Safeguarding – Scoping Report' Presented to the Adult and Community Services Scrutiny Forum on 16 August 2010.

## **ADULT AND COMMUNITY SERVICES SCRUTINY FORUM**

13 December 2010



**Report of:** Scrutiny Support Officer

**Subject:** SCRUTINY INVESTIGATION INTO SAFEGUARDING  
VULNERABLE ADULTS – ADULT PROTECTION  
COMMITTEE NOMINATIONS

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### **1. PURPOSE OF REPORT**

- 1.1 To inform Members of the Forum that nominations are sought for attendance at a meeting of the Adult Protection Committee.

### **2. BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

- 2.1 Members will recall at the meeting of this Forum on 16 August 2010, the Terms of Reference and Potential Areas of Inquiry / Sources of Evidence for this Scrutiny Investigation were approved by the Forum.
- 2.2 Consequently an invitation has been extend by the Adult Protection Committee for three members of the Adult and Community Services Scrutiny Forum to attend the meeting of the Adult Protection Committee on Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> February 2011, between 2.30pm and 4pm in Committee Room C, Civic Centre.
- 2.3 Members may wish to formulate a number of questions to put to the Adult Protection Committee at this meeting regarding its role in Adult Safeguarding.

### **3. RECOMMENDATION**

- 3.1 It is recommended that Members of the Adult and Community Services Scrutiny Forum wishing to attend the Adult Protection Committee meeting on 15<sup>th</sup> February 2011 nominate themselves at today's meeting. It is also recommended that the Forum fomulate a number questions to put to the Committee.

**Contact Officer:-** Elaine Hind – Scrutiny Support Officer  
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