

ADULT AND PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICES PORTFOLIO DECISION RECORD 31 JANUARY 2011

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, Adult Social Care
John Lovatt, Head of Service, Adult Social Care
Neil Harrison, Head of Service, Disabilities
David Cosgrove, Democratic Services Team

25. Commission On Funding Of Care And Support (*Director of Child and Adult Services*)

Type of decision

None – the report was for the Portfolio Holder's information only.

Purpose of report

To inform the Portfolio Holder of the work being undertaken nationally by the Commission on Funding Care and Support.

Issue(s) for consideration by Portfolio Holder

The Assistant Director, Adult Social Care reported that the Government was thinking about how the increasing number of people needing care and support should be looked after, and how the services that they need should be paid for. The Government had established an independent Commission which was required to make recommendations for all adults in England, by July 2011.

The current social care system was a means-tested system, which meant that only those with high levels of need and low ability to pay qualified for support from the Government. Many people, therefore, had to pay for their social care themselves and relied heavily on family and friends for support. Many of those who had to go into a care home needed to sell their homes to pay for their care and this could be seen as unfair.

The role of the Commission was to recommend to the Government how best, as a society, we pay for care and support in the future. The aim was to create a care and support system which as far as possible was:

- Built for the long term
- Fair to everyone
- Offering people choice
- Good value for money
- Easy to use and understand

It was also intended that the new system promoted the well-being of individuals and families, and that it recognized the valuable contributions of everyone involved in care and support, including individuals, carers, families, professionals and volunteers.

The Assistant Director commented that there were expected to be regional consultation events as part of the Independent Commissions process.

The Portfolio Holder indicated that this seemed to largely be a repeat of the work undertaken by the previous government. He found it difficult to see how the new Independent Commission would find any other alternatives to those previously set out in both Green and White papers. The Portfolio Holder asked that further updates be reported during the consultation process.

Decision

That the work of the Commission be noted and that further reports be submitted as the work progressed.

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

Type of decision

None – the report was for the Portfolio Holder's information only.

Purpose of report

To present the Safeguarding Vulnerable Adults statistics from April to December 2010 and report on the progress of the Safeguarding Action Plan.

Issue(s) for consideration by Portfolio Holder

The Head of Service (Adult Social Care) indicated that the report provided information concerning Safeguarding Vulnerable Adults statistics. The report also outlined information relating to trends and provides an update on the Safeguarding Action Plan covering the period from April to December 2010. The report highlighted that there had been 187 alerts identifying possible cases of abuse or neglect brought to the attention of the Duty Team with 89 referrals being raised for further action following screening under safeguarding procedures. The remaining 98 alerts required no further action in terms of safeguarding procedures as some matters were dealt with via care management or commissioning services whilst other issues raised were managed via providing information and

advice or simply re-directing people to services in the community.

The report also set out statistics relating to Deprivation of Liberty Safeguards (DoLS), for the period 1 April 2010 to 31 December 2010 with a comparison to the figures relating to April to December 2009.

The Portfolio Holder commented on the statistics relating to DoLS and questioned how these would have been picked up in the past. The Assistant Director, Adult Social Care commented that they wouldn't have been recorded in this way and simply would have formed part of the wider 'interventions' statistics. The Portfolio Holder also welcomed the information sharing protocol that had been developed between the Fire Service and Hartlepool Borough Council to share information about potentially vulnerable people.

The Portfolio Holder also questioned a number of the statistics set out in the appendices to the report and raised his concern in relation to the statistics relating to complaints made against paid carers or health workers and also those made by residents of care homes. The Head of Service commented that officers did examine the statistics for trends particularly relating to specific homes or individuals.

Decision

That the report be noted.

27. Mental Health Day Services (*Director of Child and Adult Services*)

Type of decision

None – the report was for the Portfolio Holder's information only.

Purpose of report

To update the Portfolio Holder regarding the commissioning of mental health day services.

Issue(s) for consideration by Portfolio Holder

The Assistant Director reported that the Portfolio Holder approved an exception to contract procedure rules in September 2010 allowing existing contracts to be extended until September 2011 to allow for new mental health day services to be commissioned jointly with NHS Hartlepool.

At that time it had been anticipated that the council's budget of £150,000 would be pooled with NHS Hartlepool's budget of £100,000 to commission the new service contracts. However, NHS Hartlepool had indicated that it had not set a budget for 2011/12 at this time and that the funding was under review. The Assistant Director indicated that due to the timescales involved, the authority could not delay further and tender invitations would have to be issued in February in order to have contracted services in place to take over when the current contracts expires in September. There was

also the concern that the overall budget in this area was subject to the Council's spending review and a reduction of 5% would be anticipated.

The Portfolio Holder commented that the voluntary sector providers in the town were already supplying quite specific and unique services, which it was believed could be delivered at much lower costs. Hopefully, this would come forward in the tenders received.

Decision

That the report be noted.

28. Autism Spectrum Conditions Collaborative Framework Agreement *(Director of Child and Adult Services)*

Type of decision

None – the report was for the Portfolio Holder's information only

Purpose of report

To inform the Portfolio Holder of the decision made by the Director of Child and Adults Services to sign up to a Collaborative Autism Framework Agreement for the provision of care and support for children and adults with autism spectrum conditions.

Issue(s) for consideration by Portfolio Holder

The Portfolio Holder decided that while the report had been listed as an 'exempt item' on the agenda, only the appendices to the report contained exempt information and therefore requested that the report itself be considered in public.

The Head of Service reported that the Collaborative Framework Agreement would support Hartlepool to fulfil its obligations for the provision of support services for people with autism and allow people greater choice and control over their lives and would support people who were currently in transition between children's and adults services.

In order to support the development and delivery of local services, and promote consistency and quality of service provision across the region a competitive tender process was undertaken, hosted by Middlesbrough Borough Council with support from representatives from each respective Local Authority and Primary Care Trust through the process. Following the competitive tendering process, Redcar and Cleveland, Middlesbrough, Stockton and Hartlepool Councils had entered into Collaborative Framework Agreement to support the provision of care and support services for children and adults with an autism spectrum condition. This had also been reported to the Portfolio Holder for Children's Services on 24th January 2011.

The appendices to the report provided details on the range, number and pricing of eight Providers who have been selected following the competitive

tendering process. **The appendices contained exempt information under Schedule 12A Local Government Act 1972, (as amended by the Local Government (Access to Information)(Variation) Order 2006) namely, information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (para 3) including the authority holding that information.**

The Head of Service commented that all the authorities other than Redcar and Cleveland Borough Council had signed the contract documents.

Decision

That the decision made by the Director of Child and Adult Services to sign up to a Collaborative Framework Agreement for the provision of care and support for children and adults with autistic spectrum conditions be noted.

The meeting concluded at 10.45 a.m.

P J DEVLIN

CHIEF SOLICITOR

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