

ADULT AND PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICES PORTFOLIO DECISION RECORD

14 November 2011

The meeting commenced at 10.00 am in the Civic Centre, Hartlepool

Present:

Councillor: Gerard Hall, Adult and Public Health Services Portfolio Holder

Officers: John Lovatt, Head of Service
Geraldine Martin, Head of Service
Neil Harrison, Head of Service
Sylvia Pinkney, Public Protection Manager
Angela Armstrong, Principal Democratic Services Officer

16. Moving Forward Together – The Vision for Adult Social Care in Hartlepool 2011-2014 (*Director of Child and Adult Services*)

Type of decision

Key Decision – Test (ii) applies.

Purpose of report

To seek endorsement for the consultation process with the people of Hartlepool in respect of Moving Forward Together: the vision for adult social care in Hartlepool 2011-2014.

Issue(s) for consideration by Portfolio Holder

The Vision document set out the direction of travel for adult social care in Hartlepool for the next three years. The document looked at what had been achieved over the last few years, set out the vision for adult social care and outlined the priorities for 2011-2014. A high level action plan reflected these priorities and would be used as a framework to deliver more detailed implementation plans for each service area. Adult Social Care will be delivered in partnership with other Local Authorities, the NHS and a range of statutory, voluntary and private providers as well as people who use services, carers, families and local communities.

The Portfolio Holder sought clarification on the level of consultation to be undertaken and what opportunities there were available for members of the public to be informed and have an input. The Head of Service responded that the Moving Forward document included a lot of information on the demographics of the local area and turbulent financial challenges faced by the local authority. However, it was suggested that in terms of wider consultation, an article could be placed in the Mail and include links to the Council's website. The Portfolio Holder highlighted that Hartlepool Voluntary Development Agency had significant links with local groups and organisations, a lot of which were involved in health and social care and could help targeting specific groups. A further suggestion was that local radio could be used to raise awareness of the opportunity for input from local residents. It was acknowledged that although timescales for this consultation were tight, further discussion on widening the consultation would be held within the Departmental Management Team and the Public Relations Team.

Decision

- (i) The process of consultation with a wide range of stakeholders was endorsed:
 - The LINK and Service User forums
 - Planning groups ie Older Persons Local Implementation Team; Carers' Strategy Group, Learning Disability Partnership Board; 50+ Forum, Service User Forum
 - HVDA networks
 - Hartlepool website and the Council intranet.
- (ii) That opportunities to widen the consultation be explored with the Departmental Management Team and Public Relations Team.

17. Proposed Changes to the Council's Food Hygiene Award Scheme *(Assistant Director, Regeneration and Planning)*

Type of decision

Key Decision – Test (ii) applies.

Purpose of report

To seek approval and support to implement changes which will result in the migration from the local 'Tees Valley Food Hygiene Award Scheme' to the new national 'Food Hygiene Rating Scheme' (FHRS).

Issue(s) for consideration by Portfolio Holder

The report provided information about recent changes which had implications for the Authority's future operation of the Tees Valley Food Hygiene Award Scheme. It explained in brief that there was now a National Food Hygiene Rating Scheme (FHRS), which was being promoted by the Food Standards Agency (FSA), why and how it was developed, progress on its rollout, why Hartlepool Borough Council should migrate to this, what support the FSA will provide, what the benefits were for consumers and for local businesses and the potential impact on the Authority's resources.

The report also considered alternative options available to the Authority should a decision be taken not to migrate to the FHRS. In response to a question from the Portfolio Holder, the Public Protection Manager confirmed that there was no legal requirement for the local authority to operate a scheme, although it was considered good practice, therefore ceasing to operate such a scheme was a proposed option. The Public Protection Manager confirmed that the FSA had invited applications for grant funding for local authorities who adopt the scheme to cover the cost of preparatory activities prior to launch.

The Portfolio Holder noted that the scheme had been well received across the Tees Valley area and went a long way determining value and improving standards in all premises. The Public Protection Manager highlighted that the scoring system on the proposed scheme would have implications for 240 of the existing 755 food business in Hartlepool due to variations in the scoring bands associated with each hygiene rating and a re-evaluation of premises that go up or down in rating would need to be undertaken to ensure no premises were disadvantaged. A process to reduce the impact on affected businesses would be introduced and would be covered by the funding bid that had been submitted to the FSA. However, there may also be the opportunity to apply for funding to undertake any revisits required of premises where the rating had reduced. The Portfolio Holder endorsed the pursuit and lobbying for this possible additional funding to enable the Council to recoup any charges for re-inspections undertaken.

The Portfolio Holder commented that option 1 was the favourable option and this would be in line with all other Tees Valley Authorities. However, he requested regular updates on the implementation of the new scheme, especially in relation to changes in ratings and whether the information was being accessed as regularly.

Decision

- (i) The update report regarding recent changes which had implications for the Authority's future operation of the Tees Valley Food Hygiene Award Scheme was noted.

- (ii) That the migration from the Tees Valley Food Hygiene Scheme to the new national 'Food Hygiene Rating Scheme' in 2012 be approved.
- (iii) That the Food Standards Agency be lobbied to provide additional funding to cover the costs of any re-inspections that had to be undertaken in situations where premises' ratings have changed.
- (iv) That further updates be provided to the Portfolio Holder on the implementation of the new scheme and any resulting changes in ratings and whether the information was being accessed regularly on the Council's website.

18. Hartlepool Safeguarding Vulnerable Adults Board – Statistics and Safeguarding Progress Report *(Director of Child and Adult Services)*

Type of decision

For information.

Purpose of report

To present the Hartlepool Safeguarding Vulnerable Adults Board (HSVAB) statistics covering the period from April – September 2011 and to report on the progress of the HSVAB Safeguarding Action Plan.

Issue(s) for consideration by Portfolio Holder

The report provided information concerning Safeguarding Vulnerable Adults statistics for the first six months of the 2011/12 reporting period. It also outlined information relating to progress with the HSVAB Safeguarding Action Plan covering the same period. The Head of Service provided clarification on some of the figures included within the report and highlighted that a lot of the concerns and alerts raised were not safeguarding matters and were resolved through discussions with either the service user or provider. It was important to note that the figures indicated that there were robust mechanisms in place to deal with any concerns raised.

The Portfolio Holder commented that Hartlepool LINK soon to become Healthwatch worked extremely effectively with the local authority to review relevant policies and ensure that the mechanisms in place were robust enough to deal with any concerns or alerts raised.

Decision

The report was noted.

19. Working Together for Change – A Review of Day Opportunities *(Director of Child and Adult Services)*

Type of decision

Non key.

Purpose of report

To inform the Portfolio Holder for Adult and Public Health Services of the review of day opportunities services that had been completed using the Working Together for Change approach and the resulting recommendations for people with learning disabilities, older people and younger people with physical disability.

Issue(s) for consideration by Portfolio Holder

The report covered work completed in relation to the above review between April and July 2011 using the Working Together for Change (WTfC) methodology. It detailed the eight steps of WTfC including a summary of key learning and outcomes and recommendations for next steps.

The Portfolio Holder commented that transport was a major issue with the provision of services for people with learning disabilities, older people and younger people with a physical disability and needed to be examined further. In response to questions from the Portfolio Holder the Head of Service confirmed that the Helen Sanderson tool looked at a person centred planning approach around lifestyle planning. The Portfolio Holder indicated that the vision for social care was to ensure the best variety of service provision was in place in the most appropriate places within the community and to increase awareness of the services available. The Portfolio Holder praised and celebrated the massive contribution made by carers who were an integral part of the vision for social care.

Decision

The report was noted.

The meeting concluded at 11.00am.

P J DEVLIN

CHIEF SOLICITOR

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