

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



**16 January 2012**

**at 2.00 pm**

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

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

Councillors Cranney, Griffin, Lawton, Loynes, A Marshall, Preece, Richardson, Shaw and Shields.

Resident Representatives: Christine Blakey, Evelyn Leck and Michael Unwin.

**ALSO INVITED FOR ITEM 6.1: MEMBERS OF THE HEALTH SCRUTINY FORUM**

Councillors S Akers-Belcher, Griffin, James, G Lilley, Preece, Robinson, Shields, Sirs and Wells.

Resident Representatives: Maureen Braithwaite, Noma Morrish and Ian Stewart.

- 1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**
- 2. TO RECEIVE ANY DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST BY MEMBERS**
- 3. MINUTES**
  - 3.1 To confirm the minutes of the meeting held on 8 November 2011.

**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**

- 6.1 Adult and Community Services: Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS) 2012/13 to 2014/15 Consultation Proposals - *Scrutiny Support Officer*

**7. ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION**

**INVESTIGATION INTO EARLY INTERVENTION AND REABLEMENT SERVICES**

- 7.1 Research carried out by York University:-

- (a) Covering Report – *Scrutiny Support Officer*
- (b) Presentation – *Professor of Social Policy at York University*

- 7.2 Hartlepool Safeguarding Vulnerable Adults Board - Quarterly Statistics and Update 1 April 2011 – 30 September 2011:-

- (a) Covering Report - *Scrutiny Support Officer*
- (b) Quarterly Statistics and Update

**8. ISSUES IDENTIFIED FROM FORWARD PLAN**

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

**ITEMS FOR INFORMATION**

**Date of next meeting – Wednesday 1 February at 2.00 pm in Committee Room B**



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

8 November 2011

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

**Present:**

Councillor: Jane Shaw (In the Chair)

Councillors: Sheila Griffin, Trisha Lawton, Brenda Loynes, Ann Marshall,  
Arthur Preece, Carl Richardson and Linda Shields

Resident Representatives: Maureen Braithwaite, Evelyn Leck and Michael Unwin

Also Present: Margaret Wren, Link Representative

Officers: Dave Stubbs, Director of Regeneration and Neighbourhoods  
Jill Harrison, Assistant Director, Adult Social Care  
Laura Stones, Scrutiny Support Officer  
Denise Wimpenny, Principal Democratic Services Officer

## **43. Apologies for Absence**

None

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

None

## **45. Minutes of the meeting held on 24 October 2011**

The minutes of the meeting of 24 October 2011, a copy of which was tabled at the meeting, were confirmed.

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

None

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

None

#### **48. Consideration of progress reports/budget and policy framework documents – Adult and Community Services: Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS) 2012/13 to 2014/15 – Initial Consultation Proposals** *(Scrutiny Support Officer)*

The Scrutiny Support Officer introduced the report which included the Executive's initial budget consultation proposals for the Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS) 2012/13 to 2014/15. The Forum's views were requested in relation to the initial proposals for those service areas within the Child and Adult Services Department following the meeting of Scrutiny Co-ordinating Committee on 23 September 2011 when it was agreed that the initial consultation proposals would be considered on a departmental basis by the appropriate Scrutiny Forum. The comments of the Forum would be presented to Scrutiny Co-ordinating Committee on 2 December and included in the formal Overview and Scrutiny response to be presented to Cabinet on 19 December 2011.

The Assistant Director provided a detailed and comprehensive presentation which focused on the budget issues faced by the department including budget proposals to achieve a departmental savings target of £2.748M. Details of budget pressures, reserves and grants were outlined, as detailed in appendices to the report. Members were reminded that the budget proposals relating to Adult Social Care and Cultural Services had been considered in detail at previous meetings of the Forum, the comments from which would feed into the budget process.

A Resident Representative raised concerns regarding the proposed savings target of £1.6M in relation to Adult Social Care and the potential impact on standards of care as a result. Whilst the Chair shared the concerns in relation to the need to minimise any impact on standards of care and highlighted the need to closely monitor performance in relation to adult social care provision, the hard work that had gone into identifying savings of this level with minimal impact on frontline services and staff was emphasised.

A lengthy discussion followed on the difficult budget decisions facing the Council as a result of government cuts resulting in compulsory redundancy situations and additional pressures on care home staff, the importance of maintaining high standards of care, the reduction in care home occupancy levels, the issue of patient choice, the level of profits of independent care home providers and the importance of undertaking unannounced visits with providers. The Assistant Director added that whilst the department could

provide detailed information to assist families in making an informed choice which included ratings on quality of care, the decision was a matter of independent choice.

A Member requested a copy of the Business Plan in relation to Tanfield Road proposals to which the Director of Regeneration and Neighbourhoods agreed to provide under separate cover.

With regard to the reserve arising from a rates rebate at Mill House, a Member suggested that £100,000 of the £146,000 balance be utilised to support the Brierton Sports Centre and emphasised the need to maximise income generation. It was acknowledged that the 100k would only address the issues for one year. The implications of losing such a valuable facility were highlighted.

Following further discussion in relation to reserves, Members recommended that any unutilised reserves be transferred back into the general fund.

A member of the public expressed disappointment in relation to the recent withdrawal of services regarding the Reach Out Project which provided support for under 5s and commented on the value of this service. Whilst acknowledging the value of such services, the Chair referred to the challenging financial situation facing the Council resulting in difficult decisions of this type. The Assistant Director reported that this service had been funded from Children's Services budget and arrangements would be made for a response to be provided following the meeting.

**The Chair, Councillor Jane Shaw, vacated the Chair**

**Councillor Carl Richardson, Vice-Chair, took the Chair**

In response to a Resident Representative's suggestion that services should focus on lifestyle issues and prevention of isolation, the Assistant Director provided details of the work currently ongoing on early intervention and reablement services which would include reducing isolation issues and supporting and bringing together people with common interests.

### **Recommended**

- (i) That the budget proposals, pressures, reserves and grants be supported, as part of the Budget and Policy Framework initial consultation proposals.
- (ii) That any unutilised reserves be transferred to the General Fund.
- (iii) That the comments/views of the Forum, as detailed above, be noted and reported to the meeting of Scrutiny Co-ordinating Committee on 2 December 2011 to enable a formal response to Cabinet on 19 December 2011.

## **49. Executive's Forward Plan** *(Author)*

The Executive's Forward Plan for November to February 2012 relating to the Adult and Community Services Scrutiny Forum was provided to give Members of the Forum the opportunity to consider whether any items within the Plan should be considered by this Forum.

In relation to Forward Plan Reference CAS 95/11 – Hartlepool Community Pool Grants Review, clarification was sought as to when this issue would be submitted to Scrutiny. The Director of Regeneration and Neighbourhoods reported that this issue had been considered at the Mayor's briefing, was scheduled for consideration by Cabinet on 21 November and would be presented to Scrutiny Co-ordinating Committee on 11 November 2011.

A query was raised in relation to when Members would be consulted on the Mill House site development. The Director of Regeneration and Neighbourhoods stated a development brief was currently being carried out. It was anticipated that consultation in relation to the proposals would be undertaken in January.

### **Recommended**

That the comments of the Forum, be noted.

The meeting concluded at 2.55 pm.

CHAIR

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

16 January 2012



**Report of:** Scrutiny Support Officer

**Subject:** ADULT AND COMMUNITY SERVICES: MEDIUM  
TERM FINANCIAL STRATEGY (MTFS) 2012/13 TO  
2014/15 - CONSULTATION PROPOSALS

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

- 1.1 To provide the opportunity, as part of the consultation process in relation to the development of the Council's Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTF) for 2012/13 to 2014/15, for the Adult and Community Services Scrutiny Forum to consider finalised proposals in relation to those service areas of the Child and Adult Services Department's budget that fall within its remit.

### **2. BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

- 2.1 As a starting point for the 2012/13 budget process, Cabinet on the 10 October 2011 considered a detailed report in relation to the development of the Council's Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTF) for 2012/13 to 2014/15 and approved details of the consultation process and timetable for consideration of the Executives proposals. In addition to this, it was also brought to the Cabinet's attention that, over and above dealing with core budget issues, the Local Authority will also have to deal with:
- A number of one-off strategic financial issues, around redundancy/early retirement costs, housing market renewal, land remediation costs and capital investment requirements; and
  - The impact of Government Proposals for changing Business Rates and Council Tax funding arrangements; and
  - Changes to Grant regimes.
- 2.2 At the meeting of the Scrutiny Co-ordinating Committee held on 23 September 2011 it was agreed that, as in previous years, consideration of the budget proposals would be split to enable each standing Scrutiny Forum to look in detail at the service areas that fall within their remit. Comments / observations were then fed back to the Scrutiny Co-ordinating Committee, to enable a formal response to Cabinet on 19 December 2011.



- 2.3 This process was undertaken throughout November 2011, and the comments/observations of each Forum were fed back to the Scrutiny Co-ordinating Committee held on 2 December 2011, for inclusion in the formal Scrutiny response to Cabinet. The Scrutiny Co-ordinating Committee's formal response was received by Cabinet on the 19 December 2011 and the comments/observations expressed were taken into consideration during the finalisation of its Budget and Policy Framework Proposals for 2012/13. Minutes attached at **Appendix 1**.
- 2.4 For Members information, details of the comments / observations formulated by the Forum, as part of the initial budget consultation process, and the Cabinet response to them, are outlined in **Appendix 2**.
- 2.5 The Executive's finalised budget proposals were subsequently considered by the Scrutiny Co-ordinating Committee on 13 January 2012, and repeating the process previously implemented they were referred to the appropriate Scrutiny Forum for consideration. The process to be undertaken during January 2012.
- 2.6 In accordance with the wishes of the Scrutiny Co-ordinating Committee, the Adult and Community Services Scrutiny Forum is today being asked to look in detail at the finalised proposals in relation to those service areas within the Child and Adult Services Department that fall within its remit. Details of the proposals in relation to the Child and Adult Services Department and other corporate areas / issues, which Cabinet have referred to Scrutiny for consideration, are outlined within the following appendices. Please note that these departmental issues are unchanged from the initial proposals referred to the Scrutiny Co-ordinating Committee in October 2011:-
- Appendix A -** Proposed pressures;
- Appendix B\*-** Proposed Savings (Child and Adult Services Department Business Transformation (BT) Programme Budget Reductions); and
- Appendix C -** Review of Reserves.
- \*Please note that this now summarises the savings on a project basis to reflect the detailed reports submitted to Cabinet and specific Scrutiny Forums on individual projects.
- 2.7 The comments / observations formulated by each Forum are to be fed back to the Scrutiny Co-ordinating Committee on the 27 January 2012, to enable the submission of a formal Scrutiny response to Cabinet on 6 February 2012.
- 2.8 To assist Members of this Scrutiny Forum in the consideration of the finalised proposals, arrangements have been made for the Assistant Director of Adult Social Care to be in attendance and an invitation to this meeting has

also been extended to the relevant Portfolio Holder(s) (attendance subject to availability).

### **3. RECOMMENDATIONS**

3.1 It is recommended that the Adult and Community Services Scrutiny Forum: -

- a) as part of the Budget and Policy Framework consultation proposals for 2012/2013, consider the (BT) Programme Targets, pressures and reserves relating to the Adult and Community services areas of service provision within the Child and Adult Services Department; and
- b) formulates any comments and observations in relation to each to be presented by the Chair of this Scrutiny Forum to the meeting of the Scrutiny Co-ordinating Committee, to be held on 27 January 2012, to enable a formal response to be presented to the Cabinet on 6 February 2012.

**Contact Officer:-** Laura Stones – Scrutiny Support Officer  
Chief Executive's Department - Corporate Strategy  
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### **BACKGROUND PAPERS**

- (i) Report of the Corporate Management Team entitled 'Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS) 2012/2013 To 2014/2015' presented to Cabinet on 10 October 2011
- (ii) Minutes from Cabinet - 10 October 2011
- (iii) Report of the Chief Finance Officer entitled 'Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS) 2012/2013 To 2014/2015 – Initial Consultation Proposals' presented to Scrutiny Co-ordinating Committee on 14 October 2011
- (iv) Minutes of the Scrutiny Co-ordinating Committee - 14 October 2011
- (v) Report of the Corporate Management Team entitled 'Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS) 2012/2013 To 2014/2015' presented to Cabinet on 19 December 2011
- (vi) Minutes from Cabinet -19 December 2011

- (vii) Report of the Chief Finance Officer entitled 'Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS) 2012/2013 To 2014/2015 – Consultation Proposals' presented to Scrutiny Co-ordinating Committee on 13 January 2012

# **CABINET**

## **MINUTES AND DECISION RECORD**

19 December 2011

The meeting commenced at 9.15 am in the Civic Centre, Hartlepool

### **Present:**

The Mayor, Stuart Drummond - In the Chair

Councillors: Jonathan Brash (Housing and Transition Portfolio Holder)  
Robbie Payne (Deputy Mayor) (Finance and Procurement Portfolio Holder),  
Gerard Hall (Adult and Public Health Services Portfolio Holder),  
Cath Hill (Culture, Leisure and Tourism Portfolio Holder),  
Chris Simmons (Children's Services Portfolio Holder),  
Hilary Thompson (Performance Portfolio Holder),

Also Present: Councillor Christopher Akers Belcher, Vice Chair of Scrutiny  
Coordinating Committee and Chair of Children's Services Scrutiny  
Forum.  
Councillors Turner and Wells.

Officers: Nicola Bailey, Acting Chief Executive  
Andrew Atkin, Assistant Chief Executive,  
Chris Little, Chief Finance Officer  
Peter Devlin, Chief Solicitor  
Joanne Machers, Chief Customer and Workforce Services Officer  
Dave Stubbs, Director of Regeneration and Neighbourhoods  
Damien Wilson, Assistant Director, Regeneration and Planning  
Graham Frankland, Assistant Director, Resources  
Jill Harrison, Assistant Director, Adult Social Care  
Caroline O'Neill, Assistant Director, Performance and Achievement  
Phil Homsby, Head of Service  
Joan Stevens, Scrutiny Manager  
Steve Hilton, Public Relations Officer  
David Cosgrove, Democratic Services Team

### **181. Apologies for Absence**

Councillors Pam Hargreaves (Transport and Neighbourhoods Portfolio Holder) and Peter Jackson (Regeneration and Economic Development and Skills Portfolio Holder).  
Councillor Stephen Akers-Belcher, Chair of Health Scrutiny Forum.

**184. Formal Response to the Executive's Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS) 2012/2013 to 2014/2015 – Initial Budget Consultations** (*Scrutiny Coordinating Committee*)

**Type of decision**

None.

**Purpose of report**

To provide the formal response of the Scrutiny Coordinating Committee in relation to the Executive's initial proposals for the Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS) 2012/2013 to 2014/2015.

**Issue(s) for consideration by Cabinet**

The Vice-Chair of the Scrutiny Coordinating Committee reported that at the meeting of the Scrutiny Coordinating Committee held on 14 October 2011, consideration was given to the Executive's initial proposals for the Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS) 2012/2013 to 2014/2015.

At the meeting it was agreed that, as in previous years, each of the Standing Scrutiny Forums would consider the budget proposals covering the service areas within their remit. Comments / observations were subsequently fed back to the meeting of the Scrutiny Coordinating Committee held on 2 December 2011 to assist in the formulation of this Committee's formal response to Cabinet. The Vice-Chair of Scrutiny Coordinating Committee also highlighted that further consideration would be given to Cabinet's finalised proposals by the Scrutiny Coordinating Committee at its meetings on 13 January 2012 and 27 January 2012.

The Vice-Chair of the Scrutiny Coordinating Committee commented that during the determination of a formal response, Scrutiny Members were largely supportive in principle of the identified saving proposals, pressures, capital receipts, reserves and outturns and were keen to examining in greater detail the final budget proposals, once approved by Cabinet. Details of the specific comments made by each of the scrutiny forums was set out in the report.

Tabled at the meeting was a document setting out Cabinet's initial responses to the scrutiny comments on the initial budget proposals. The Mayor indicated that this would be formally forwarded to scrutiny with the MTFS for further consultation.

**Decision**

That the report be received.

## **185. Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS) 2012/13 to 2014/15** *(Corporate Management Team)*

### **Type of decision**

Budget and Policy Framework.

### **Purpose of report**

The purpose of the report is to update the MTFS and to enable Cabinet to refer formal budget proposals to Scrutiny Coordinating Committee.

### **Issue(s) for consideration by Cabinet**

The Chief Finance Officer referred to the comprehensive report submitted to Cabinet on 10 October 2011 (Minute No.111 refers) and referred to Scrutiny Coordinating Committee on 14 October 2011. The report advised Members that the public sector and the Council are facing the greatest financial challenge which has existed in the past 50 years. This position reflects both national financial issues reflecting the Governments deficit reduction plan and locally the impact of demographic pressures.

The previous report identified two key financial issues facing the Council over the next three years.

- (i) the need to address a £15.083m budget deficit on the current net general fund budget of £91.8m.
- (ii) the need to fund one-off strategic costs of £14m, mainly relating to redundancy/ early retirement costs and unfunded Housing Market Renewal commitments.

The report presented to this meeting provided an update on these issues and other factors relevant to the budget strategy for the next three years.

Existing legislation requires the Government to formally make an annual settlement announcement regarding the allocation of grants to individual Councils. The 2012/13 settlement had not been announced by the Government when this report was prepared and was expected to be issued late on 8th December 2011. An additional appendix to the report had been circulated to Cabinet in advance of the meeting setting out the key issues arising from the formal consultation proposals for the distribution of Formula Grant for 2012/13 issued by the Department for Communities and Local Government on 8 December, 2011.

The Chief Finance Officer confirmed that there were no changes to the initial proposals set out by the government in February 2011 and therefore the grant cut of £4.1m (8%) for 2012/13 had been confirmed. The Chief Finance Officer referred Members to the table in the report comparing Hartlepool's 'spending power' cuts for 2010/11 and 2011/12 with other authorities, which shows the higher cuts facing Hartlepool. The Chief Finance Officer did indicate that the Government had announced that they would abolish Whitehall capping and replace it with Council Tax

referendums.

The Government were proposing thresholds for 'excessive' Council Tax increases which would trigger referendums, as follows:

- 3.5% for local authorities;
- 3.75% for the City of London;
- 4% for the Greater London Authority, police authorities and single purpose fire and rescue authorities.

These proposals needed to be formally approved by Parliament in late January 2012 as part of the final report on the 2012/13 Local Government Finance Settlement. It was expected these thresholds would be subject to annual review by the Government.

If an authority determined to approve a proposed Council Tax increase above the 'excessive' threshold a Council Tax referendum needed to be held not later than the first Thursday in May.

Authorities going down this route effectively needed a 'fall back' budget based on the referendum being unsuccessful. Under this scenario the Council Tax increase would be limited to the 'excessive' increase determined by the Government for triggering a referendum, i.e. 3.5% for 2012/13.

The Government's consultation on the 2012/13 Local Government Finance Settlement closes on 16 January 2012. It was suggested that Hartlepool did not seek a meeting with the Minister and provided only a written response, which it was proposed the Chief Finance Officer agreed with the Mayor.

Key issues that would be covered in the consultation response would be: -

- The fairness of the proposed settlement;
- The concern that funding had not been found to extend Transitional Grant to follow principles adopted for the previous 'floor damping system' which provided protection for a number of years. Particularly against background of Government finding significant funding to freeze Council Tax for 2012/13;
- The concern that the 2012/13 Council Tax freeze grant would only be paid for one year. This proposal clearly recognised that councils need additional funding, but only provided a temporary solution which would increase the financial challenges facing councils in 2013/14. The removal of this funding could not be viewed in isolation and needed to be considered in the context of other changes being made in 2013/14, including re-localisation of business rates, Council Tax Benefit changes and reform of the Local Government funding system.

The Chief Finance Officer went on to highlight the main aspects of the report for Cabinet's information. The matters highlighted sought Cabinet's approval to the detailed consultation issues that were to be referred to

Scrutiny Coordinating Committee. In addition to the fourteen matters that had been set out in the report, the Chief Finance Officer also indicated that in light of the Government announcement on Council Tax Referendums, Cabinet needed to have a view on a potential Council Tax rise.

The Mayor commented that as well as submitting a response on behalf of the Council to the Government's Consultation, Hartlepool would also be part of the joint response of North east Councils being coordinated by the Association of North East Councils (ANEC). This was welcomed by Cabinet members. Members suggested that any response for Hartlepool needed to include the comparison of spending power cuts set out on page 2 of the report as this highlighted the significant and undue pressure the council was being placed under through the government's cuts.

During the debate on the report, the following issues/questions were discussed –

- Would the Furniture Solutions proposal be going through a tendering process. The Director of Regeneration and Neighbourhoods indicated that if agreed it, then yes it would.
- The proposal to create a fund to tackle empty properties as set out in the report was supported.
- Concerns were expressed at the fact Hartlepool didn't qualify for transitional funding for 2012/13.
- Cabinet considered that the public needed to be made fully aware of the situation that would arise in the 2013/14 budget if the government's grant for maintaining a council tax freeze in 2012/13 was accepted. The Chief Finance Officer stated that if the Council did not support a Council Tax rise in 2012/13, then that income was effectively gone forever and this would increase the 2013/14 budget deficit by approximately £1m. Through the consultation response, the Council needed to emphasise that putting the money into transitional funding would have assisted council's more than the money being spent on the council tax freeze. Many other authorities had seen through this and were proposing increases for 2012/13.
- The prudential borrowing to fund the coastal defence works in Seaton Carew was welcomed.
- The revenue saving of £39,000 relating to the Church Square Capital fund was to be considered further.
- It was proposed that an element of capital receipts be utilised in the Central Linear Park to provide changing facilities.
- The Mayor indicated that the Government was hoping that authorities would see the grant to maintain the council tax freeze as a 'gift' but it had huge longer term consequences and with the changes to business rates and the cuts in benefits; a council tax rise of around 5% would be needed in 2013/14 to regain the income lost. Neighbouring authorities had already chosen not to take the grant and were proposing council tax rises of 3% to 3.5%.
- The new council tax rise referendum were discussed and Members commented that it effectively set a ceiling as it was unlikely that a vote



for a rise above the threshold would ever be won. The Mayor considered that through extensive consultation, beyond what was normally undertaken, it could be possible to bring forward the same response as a referendum would. Consultation would need to be geared towards what people didn't want, i.e. service cuts.

Cabinet supported the consultation set out in the report with the additions outlined above. In relation to Council Tax, Cabinet reluctantly agreed to recommend acceptance of the government grant and maintain a council tax freeze for 2012/13. Cabinet did recommend that the consultation with scrutiny include an indicative council tax rise of 3.5% being built into the budgets for 2013/14 and 2014/15.

### **Decision**

1. That the following issues be referred to Scrutiny Coordinating Committee for formal scrutiny:
  - (i) Details of revised outturn detailed in Appendix A to the report and proposal to earmark: -
    - a. £50,000 to provide a cash backed fund for the completion of housing works in default;
    - b. between £29,000 and £359,000 to support the 2012/13 budget; and
    - c. the remaining 2011/12 outturn balance of £867,000 to £1,197,00 to be carried forward to 2013/14 to either support the 2013/14 budget, or to provide a transitional scheme to partly mitigate the impact of changes to the Council Tax Benefit regime.
  - (ii) Seek views on the use of the 2011/12 savings of £76,848 from the Acting Chief Executive arrangements and £21,402 from the joint Head of HR role.
  - (iii) Seek views on the use of the one-off saving arising from the Industrial Action based on an estimated value of £50,000.
  - (iv) Proposed pressures detailed in Appendix B to the report.
  - (v) Revised planning assumptions detailed in Appendix C to the report.
  - (vi) Proposed savings detailed in Appendix D to the report.
  - (vii) Review of Reserves detailed in Appendix E. to the report
  - (viii) Seek views the proposed acceptance of the government's one year grant in order to maintain a council tax freeze for 2012/13 but that indicative council tax rises of 3.5% be set for 2013/14 and 2014/15.

- (ix) Seek views in the proposed strategy for funding the increased costs on the PCP capital schemes detailed in paragraph 4.12 of the report.
  - (x) Seek views on the proposal to create a capital investment fund of between £0.8m and £1.0m to develop a business case to buy and refurbish existing properties to provide affordable houses. This would also need to consider the impact of Section 106 monies secured on the Wynyard development of £1.2m. It was anticipated these monies would be phased over a few years and would increase the total resources to £2.2m.
  - (xi) Seek views on the allocation of the available Furniture Project reserve of £50,000 to kick start this project.
  - (xii) Seek views on whether the Major Regeneration Capital budget of £0.39m should be retained, or the budget should be deleted and a revenue saving of £39,000 taken by removing the Prudential Borrowing repayment budget, subject to the Director or Regeneration and Neighbourhoods providing more information.
  - (xiii) Seek views on the proposal to demolish the Brierton 'top site' building and ancillary buildings.
  - (xiv) Seek views on the proposed purchase of the Ambulance Station.
2. That a written response to 2012/13 Local Government Finance Settlement consultation, which closes on 16 January 2012, be submitted by the Chief Finance Officer following agreement with the Mayor and does not seek a meeting with the Minister.

**P J DEVLIN**

**CHIEF SOLICITOR**

**PUBLICATION DATE: 23 DECEMBER 2011**

**SUMMARY OF SCRUTINY FEEDBACK ON BUDGET PROPOSALS AND CABINET RESPONSE**

<b>Scrutiny Comments on Cabinet Proposal</b>	<b>Cabinet Response to Scrutiny</b>
<b>Adult and Community Services Scrutiny Forum 8 November 2011</b>	
<b><u>Reserves to be Reviewed</u></b>	
<p>In relation to the Mill House reserve of 146K, Members suggested that 100k of this be used to support the 100k pressure created by Brierton Sports Centre. Members were of the opinion that the Sports Centre needs to be retained and income generation maximised.</p> <p>Members were also of the view that any unwanted reserves be transferred back into the general fund.</p>	<p>There are a number of opportunities and risks involved with both sites.</p> <p>Funding may be required to contribute to any re-development opportunity at Mill House – including the refurbishment/renewal of the Indoor Bowls Club which is supported by the Portfolio Holder. Funding of developer/consultants for Mill House site also needs to be considered.</p> <p>There are also risks in operating costs of the transferred Brierton Sports Centre. There is an emerging issue that Dyke House School may have a claim for deficit in running the centre.</p> <p>The Centre also needs an operating/maintenance budget to be set and funded.</p>

**SCHEDULE OF 2012/13 BUDGET PRESSURES - Child and Adult Services**

Budget Area	Value of Pressure £'000	Description of Pressure	Comment
Older People Commissioning	450	<p>There are two elements within this above inflationary pressure. The first relates to increased demographic pressures owing to an ageing population and increased prevalence of dementia, resulting in more older people requiring care and support with increasingly complex needs. The second element relates to fees payable to older people care home providers which are due for renegotiation from October 2011. These fees need to be set at a level which is comparative with other councils and ensures that local providers remain economically viable and able to invest in the sector locally. An initial assessment of these pressures has been made and this will need to be reviewed when detailed negotiations have been completed and a new cost of care model developed. It is worth noting that Hartlepool currently pays the lowest care home fees (for older people) in the North East region. There is potential to stage increases should the model identify a significant uplift in fees, although this would commit part of the headroom included in future years budget forecasts for pressures.</p> <p>A more detailed report on older peoples care home fees will be presented to Cabinet in November / December.</p>	Pressure may be higher and further work is needed to quantify this issue - detailed report to Cabinet in Nov / Dec 2011.
Brierton Sports Centre	100	<p>Brereton Sports Centre has been run since it's inception as a Community Facility managed by Brierton School. Since the closure of Brierton School and the decant of Dyke House School the facility has been managed directly by Dyke House School. Dyke House School have advised that after December 2011 (when they return to the Dyke House site) they will relinquish their management of the site. Early indications show that there would be a potential revenue cost of circa £100K per annum to maintain the facility for community use. In relation to the part year pressure in the current year this can be covered by a virement within existing budgets. There is a review underway of the future of the Brierton site - there is potential for an additional £100K capital pressure if equipment funded by Dyke House is removed from the site.</p>	
	550		

**SCHEDULE OF BT PROGRAMME BUDGET REDUCTIONS**

<b>Dept</b>	<b>Projects (Title)</b>	<b>Target savings (£K)</b>	<b>Scrutiny Forum</b>	<b>Date reported to Cabinet</b>
C&A	Community Pool Grants	£49,000	Adults & Community Services Scrutiny Forum	21st November
C&A	Community Services Review	£298,000	Adults & Community Services Scrutiny Forum	5th December
C&A	Adult Social Care	£1,512,000	Adults & Community Services Scrutiny Forum	5th December
R&N	Parks & Recreation	£45,000	Adults & Community Services Scrutiny Forum	24th October
	<b>Total Target Savings</b>	<b>£1,904,000</b>		

## HARTLEPOOL BOROUGH COUNCIL - RESERVE BALANCES AS AT 31 MARCH 2011

## APPENDIX C

RESERVES TO BE REVIEWED (NOT COMMITTED NOR HELD IN TRUST)

Created 2010/11 as per Outturn Strategy £'000	Department	Reserve	Actual Balance 31/03/2011 £'000	Reason for/purpose of the Reserve	Total Value of Reserve to be released for Redundancy Costs £'000	Value of Reserve to be retained £'000	Reason for retention of reserve
£000			£000		£000	£000	
185	Adult	Supporting People Reserve	972	Reserve created from Grant underspend and earmarked for potential clawback. To be used to fund transition arrangements following SDO reductions taking place during 2011/12.	787	185	Reserve created in 10/11 to be utilised in 2011/12 to fund the transitional costs of reducing contracts to providers following the significant cuts in resources made to Supporting People funding. If the full £185k is not required, the balance can be released.
0	Adult	Adult Education	570	Created from LSC (Learning Skills Council) grant fund to address short and long term pressures from within the Adult Education service.	40	530	Remainder of reserve is specific grant funding which needs to be held as can be subject to recall by LSC linked to numbers of students supported.
421	Adult	Older People - SRR	421	Increased income received in 2010/11. To be used to fund demographic pressures on Older People.	0	421	New reserve created in March 2011 as Strategic Risk Reserve owing to the very significant demographic pressures in Older People Services.
188	Adult	Social Care Reform Grant	359	Reserve created from specific grant received in 2010/11. To be used to fund project slippage in 2011/12 and 2012/13.	171	188	Reserve to be utilised to fund commitments relating to temporary staffing in 2011/12 and 2012/13.
0	Adult	Mill House	146	The reserve arose from a rates rebate following a review of the leisure centre rateable values in 2006/07.	0	146	Member decision to agree whether reserve should be transferred to capital funding or for ongoing maintenance within the overall council.

Created 2010/11 as per Outturn Strategy £'000	Department	Reserve	Actual Balance 31/03/2011 £'000	Reason for/purpose of the Reserve	Total Value of Reserve to be released for Redundancy Costs £'000	Value of Reserve to be retained £'000	Reason for retention of reserve
0	Adult	Tall Ships Reserve	139	This reserve has been set aside to support the Tall Ships visit in 2010.	0	139	As reported in the 2010/11 Outturn Strategy this amount is available should any residual contractual commitments arise in 11/12 - a review will be undertaken throughout the year. A strategy for using any residual balance can be developed as part of the 2012/13 budget process.
0	Adult	Seaton CC 'Management'	108	Balance carried forward from previous years. Some of this fund pertains to Children's Services. However, the amount is still being determined by the overseeing board.	0	108	Reserve to be held to contribute to any development proposals currently being discussed at Cabinet.
100	Adult	Reablement Funding	100	PCT income received for reablement of service users.	0	100	New reserve created in March 2011 re PCT specific funding received in March 2011 for agreed outcomes - timing delays - expected to fully spend the reserve.
0	Adult	Respite Provision for Autism	80	Income received from PCT for use to provide capital for creation of specialist housing provision of Autism respite.	0	80	Specific funding provided by PCT to contribute to capital scheme which has not come to fruition. Negotiations underway with interested parties to utilise the resources to attain long term benefits for the investment, non-use may lead to return of resources.
0	Adult	CSDP Contribution to capital	68	Reserve created from revenue to increase capital reserve for Adaptations for Disabled people.	0	68	Reserve to be utilised for DFG's to expedite waiting lists and ensure ongoing care costs are reduced.

Created 2010/11 as per Outturn Strategy £'000	Department	Reserve	Actual Balance 31/03/2011 £'000	Reason for/purpose of the Reserve	Total Value of Reserve to be released for Redundancy Costs £'000	Value of Reserve to be retained £'000	Reason for retention of reserve
£000			£000		£000	£000	
8	Adult	Community Grants Pool	59	Reserve created year on year from the underspend on the Community Grants Pool budget as this expenditure is 'ring-fenced' by Members for contributing towards the community.	0	59	Member decision.
0	Adult	Carer Emergency Respite Care service	54	Reserve created from specific grant as contract for Emergency respite granted for a period of 2 years. Expenditure on respite for Carers can be sporadic and this is to be utilised to meet statutory duties around carers. Service now in place and usage has levelled out so reserve no longer required.	54	0	N/A
26	Adult	Mental Health Capacity Act specific grants	53	Reserve created from a mixture of PCT/grant funding.	27	26	Contribution from PCT in 10/11 towards costs for 11/12 post - in year underspends led to non use of residual reserve.
0	Adult	Tobacco Control	43	Reserve created owing to grant income provided to carry out work over a 2 year period.	0	43	Needed to fund staffing posts to meet the terms & conditions of the original grant - exit strategy in place for staffing etc.
0	Adult	Telecare GD, DOH, Preventative Technology Grant c/fwd	41	Reserve created from under utilised specific grant to create a equipment replacement fund. Alternative funding provided by the PCT.	41	0	N/A
13	Adult	DOH Grant Stroke Care	34	Reserve created from specific grant.	21	13	Reserve required to continue to temporarily fund two Stroke Clubs within the community as per DOH specific grant.
0	Adult	Public Health Phys Activity	29	Reserve created from PCT monies. Monies to be awarded by HBC in grants to the community and voluntary sector on behalf of the PCT.	0	29	PCT funding for community and Voluntary Sector activities.



Created 2010/11 as per Outturn Strategy £'000	Department	Reserve	Actual Balance 31/03/2011 £'000	Reason for/purpose of the Reserve	Total Value of Reserve to be released for Redundancy Costs £'000	Value of Reserve to be retained £'000	Reason for retention of reserve
£000			£000		£000	£000	
21	Adult	Campus Reprovisioning Grant	21	Reserve created from specific grant received in 2010/11. To be used to fund project slippage in 2011/12.	0	21	Reserve to be utilised to offset unfunded costs in Campus Reprovision via NHS funding transfer - work underway to reduce ongoing contract costs through staffing changes currently covered by TUPE.
0	Adult	Adult Social Care	20	Income from PCT for various social care expenditure i.e., OT equipment, IT for Care homes <u>Residual balance not required for project</u>	20	0	N/A
12	Adult	Archaeology Projects	16	Reserve to be used for specific archaeology projects following SDO reductions.	4	12	Specific project underway to move archaeological items from Bunker - will be <u>complete by September 2011.</u>
0	Adult	Renaissance in the Regions	14	Reserve created from unspent grant funding to support the overall HUB shared by all 4 Tees Valley Authorities.	0	14	Specific grant underspend to support the overall hub - expected to be spent by <u>September 2011.</u>
0	Adult	Sports Activities - various	14	Underspend on grants for sports & health activities.	0	14	To be utilised for Olympic event summer 2011.
0	Adult	Grayfields Pitch Improvements	13	Reserve created to complete the pitch improvements at Grayfields.	0	13	Delayed owing to weather condition expected to be completed by September 2011.
11	Adult	Library System Improvements	11	Reserve set aside to fund Library System improvements in line with Government requirements for Data Protection and Security.	0	11	Upgrade of Library systems being installed June, tested and completed by July.
0	Adult	Sir William Gray House Storage Facilities	8	Reserve created to secure match funding from Heritage Lottery Fund to improve collections storage and facilities at Sir William Gray House.	0	8	Specific project underway to move archaeological items from Bunker - will be complete by September 2011.
5	Adult	Sports & Recreation - Sports Awards	7	To fund sports coaches training awards.	0	7	To be utilised for Olympic event summer 2011.
7	Adult	Marketing Reserve	7	Reserve to be used to fund Marketing expenditure in 2011/12 to generate increased income as part of the SDO target.	0	7	To be utilised this summer.

Created 2010/11 as per Outturn Strategy £'000	Department	Reserve	Actual Balance 31/03/2011 £'000	Reason for/purpose of the Reserve	Total Value of Reserve to be released for Redundancy Costs £'000	Value of Reserve to be retained £'000	Reason for retention of reserve
£000			£000		£000	£000	
0	Adult	Health Walks programme Natural England	6	Grant from Natural England required to sustain health walks programme in 2010/11 & 2011/12. Other grant source for this year obtained via devolved funding bid from Sport England (Adults into Sport) using this as match funding.	0	6	Plan to spend reserve by September.
0	Adult	Adult Social Care - Communities for Health Grant	6	Specific grant received close to 2008-09 year end - residual balance not needed. <u>Residual balance not required for project.</u>	6	0	N/A
0	Adult	Archaeology - Monograph Series	5	Creation of reserve to ensure completion of project and ensure no loss of external funding for the overall project.	0	5	Fund to be used to print the series and meet conditions of grants received.
0	Adult	Culture Shock Community Engagement Project	2	Reserve created to make up shortfall of income from Heritage Lottery Fund for the project - <u>residual balance not needed.</u>	2	0	N/A
0	Adult	Throston Library Youth Worker	1	Reserve created to fund sessional Youth Worker at Throston Library. - residual balance not needed.	1	0	N/A
0	Adult	Development of Historic Quay	1	Residual balance, not needed.	1	0	N/A
0	Regeneration & Neighbourhoods	Allotments	50	Implementation of the Council's Allotment Development Strategy as agreed by Members.	0	50	Insufficient revenue budget to invest in service asset improvement.
996			3,476		1,174	2,302	

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

16 January 2012



**Report of:** Scrutiny Support Officer

**Subject:** INVESTIGATION INTO EARLY INTERVENTION AND  
REABLEMENT SERVICES – EVIDENCE FROM  
YORK UNIVERSITY - COVERING REPORT

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

- 1.1 To inform Members of the Forum that the Professor of Social Policy at York University has been invited to attend this meeting to provide details of the research carried out by York University and how the research might influence the delivery of reablement services in Hartlepool in the future.

### **2. BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

- 2.1 Members will recall that at the meeting of this Forum on 18 July 2011, the Terms of Reference and Potential Areas of Inquiry / Sources of Evidence for this Scrutiny investigation were approved by the Forum.
- 2.2 Subsequently, the Professor of Social Policy at York University has been invited to attend this meeting to provide details of the research carried out by York University into early intervention and reablement services.

### **3. RECOMMENDATION**

- 3.1 That Members of the Forum consider the views of the Professor of Social Policy and seek clarification on any relevant issues where felt appropriate.

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**BACKGROUND PAPERS**

The following background paper was used in preparation of this report:-

- (a) Scrutiny Investigation into 'Early Intervention and Reablement Services'-  
Scoping Report (Scrutiny Support Officer) – 18.07.11

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

16 January 2012



**Report of:** Scrutiny Support Officer

**Subject:** ADULT AND COMMUNITY SERVICES SCRUTINY  
FORUM - HARTLEPOOL SAFEGUARDING  
VULNERABLE ADULTS BOARD - QUARTERLY  
STATISTICS AND UPDATE – COVERING REPORT

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

- 1.1 To provide Members of the Adult and Community Services Scrutiny Forum with the Safeguarding Vulnerable Adults quarterly statistics covering the period from 1 April 2011 to 30 September 2011.

### **2. BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

- 2.1 As part of the Adult and Community Services Scrutiny Forum's investigation into Adult Safeguarding, Members recommended that the Forum be kept up to date on the provision of Adult Services in the town through the receipt of relevant aspects of the regular updates received by the Portfolio Holder for Adult and Public Health Services.
- 2.2 The Portfolio Holder for Adult and Public Health Services received a report in November 2011 which provided information on the Safeguarding Vulnerable Adults quarterly statistics for the period 1 April 2011 to 30 September 2011.
- 2.3 The Portfolio Holder report is attached as item 7.2(b) of today's agenda.

### **3. RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 3.1 The Adult and Community Services Scrutiny Forum is requested to note the Quarterly update and seek clarification on its content where felt appropriate.

**Contact Officer:-** Laura Stones – Scrutiny Support Officer

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**BACKGROUND PAPERS**

No background papers were used in the preparation of this report.

## **ADULT AND PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICES PORTFOLIO**

Report to Portfolio Holder  
14<sup>th</sup> November 2011



**Report of:** Director of Child and Adult Services

**Subject:** HARTLEPOOL SAFEGUARDING  
VULNERABLE ADULTS BOARD - STATISTICS  
& SAFEGUARDING PROGRESS REPORT

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### **SUMMARY**

#### **1.0 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.

#### **2.0 SUMMARY OF CONTENTS**

This report provides information concerning Safeguarding Vulnerable Adults statistics for the first six months of the 2011/12 reporting period. It also outlines information relating to progress with the HSVAB Safeguarding Action Plan covering the same period.

#### **3.0 RELEVANCE TO PORTFOLIO MEMBER**

The Local Authority holds the lead responsibility for the co-ordination of adult safeguarding arrangements.

#### **4.0 TYPE OF DECISION**

No decision required – report for information.

#### **5.0 DECISION MAKING ROUTE**

Adult and Public Health Services Portfolio – 14<sup>th</sup> November 2011

#### **6.0 DECISION(S) REQUIRED**

The Portfolio Holder is asked to note the contents of the report.

**Report of:** Director of Child and Adult Services

**Subject:** HARTLEPOOL SAFEGAURDING  
VULNERABLE ADULTS BOARD STATISTICS  
& SAFEGUARDING PROGRESS REPORT

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## **1. PURPOSE OF REPORT**

- 1.1 To present the Hartlepool Safeguarding Vulnerable Adults Board (HSVAB) statistics covering the period from April 1<sup>st</sup> – 30<sup>th</sup> September 2011 and to report on the progress of the HSVAB Safeguarding Action Plan.

## **2. BACKGROUND**

- 2.1 This report responds to a request from the Portfolio Holder for a regular submission of information about trends, activity and challenges.

## **3. TRENDS**

- 3.1 In the reporting period of April 1<sup>st</sup> – September 30<sup>th</sup> 2011 there were 192 referrals identifying possible cases of abuse or neglect brought to the attention of the Duty Team, 86 of these referrals required further investigation and action under safeguarding adult procedures.
- 3.2 In the same period last year there were 159 referrals identifying possible cases of abuse and 85 required further investigation and action under safeguarding adult procedures.
- 3.3 In relation to this reporting period, those referrals that required no further action in terms of safeguarding procedures were dealt with via the social work and care management teams or the commissioned services team. Alternatively some referrals were simply managed by providing more detailed information, advice or guidance at the Duty point.
- 3.4 Within this reporting period, regarding the alleged victims of abuse / neglect approximately 52% of people were under the age of 65; 15% were between the age of 65-79 and 33% were aged 80 or over. More females than males were referred into the Safeguarding Framework. .
- 3.5 Care homes continue to be the most common location of abuse, with neglect and acts of omission and physical abuse being the most frequent causes. The perpetrators of abuse have been for the most part other service users or paid carers. Importantly however it should be noted that there continues to be a slight reduction in the number of



safeguarding investigations in care homes from 57 in the first six months of last year to 53 in the first six months of 2011/12. This reduction of 4 cases is a reduction of 7% in activity.

- 3.6 Comparison with the same reporting period last year shows the total number of safeguarding referrals received in 2011/12 thus far has increased by 33 cases, or approximately 21%. The number of cases of further investigation and action taken under safeguarding procedures has marginally increased from 85 cases in 2010/11 to 86 cases this period, an increase of approximately 1.2%.
- 3.7 It should be noted that whilst the volume of further investigation and action taken under safeguarding procedures has only marginally increased, there is evidence to suggest that the cases have become more challenging. This is supported by the content of the discussion at the complex case reference group and practice sub-group, as well as the necessity to continue to make applications to the Court of Protection.
- 3.8 In relation to Deprivation of Liberty Safeguards (DoLS), the figures for the reporting period are as follows:
- Total Number of DOLS Referrals – 24
  - Total Number of DOLS Reviews - 6
- 3.9 In comparison with the same reporting period last year DOLS Referrals have decreased from 34 to 24 cases a reduction of 29%..

#### **4. CONTINUOUS IMPROVEMENT - UPDATE ON SAFEGUARDING ACTION PLAN**

- 4.1 The Teeswide Safeguarding Vulnerable Adults Board (TSVAB) has recently completed a development day and members now intend to use the learning from this event to develop a new business plan, review membership of the Board and its Sub-groups and outline a new work programme.
- 4.2 The HSVAB continues to have representation on all of the sub groups of the TSVAB and our representatives are actively involved in the development and implementation of the new work programme. The chair for the TSVAB has recently been changed to Mike Robinson Director of Adult Social Care - Middlesbrough Borough Council.

- 4.3 The Policy and Procedure Subgroup has now finalised its work in relation to updating the Safeguarding Interagency Policy and Procedure. These have been updated in response to changes affecting adult protection processes and to reflect best practice. Importantly the revised arrangements promotes the concept of involving service users and their carers more proactively in the safeguarding process. The policy and procedure has now been ratified by the TSVAB and they are available to all staff through the Management Guide on the Hartlepool website.
- 4.4 The Hartlepool led pilot scheme to develop an 'Expert by Experience' model of working has recently commenced. This pilot includes the involvement of an independent provider specifically commissioned to undertake the work. This important development continues the work of the Information, Engagement and Involvement Subgroup of the TSVAB. The purpose of this work is to actively explore how lessons can be learnt from those people who have experienced safeguarding investigations and determine how satisfied those involved with the safeguarding investigation are with the quality of the support they received. The learning from this pilot scheme will inform our understanding and enable us to make further improvements in operational practice. This learning will also be used to increase our understanding of the training requirements of the work-force.
- 4.5 The Head of Service or Assistant Director (Adult Social Care) continue to attend Multi Agency Public Protection Arrangements (MAPPA) meetings to assist with the management of people at high risk of causing significant harm to vulnerable people and possibly staff. The purpose of this arrangement is to ensure risks are minimised through effective communication, risk assessments and risk management within a multi agency forum.
- 4.6 Following the recommendations of the Safeguarding Peer Review. The Hartlepool Safeguarding Vulnerable Adults Board has recently completed a development day. Members now intend to use the learning from this event to develop a new strategic safeguarding plan which will reflect a greater focus on achieving outcomes rather than concentrating on processes. Additionally the intention is to review the membership of the Board, the content of the subgroups and their membership for the period 2011/13. Once it is finalised a copy will be provided to the Portfolio Holder for Adult & Public Health Services.
- 4.7 Work is currently being undertaken with regard to improving the interface between Adult Protection, NHS Incident Reporting and Serious Untoward Incident(s) as both the 2011/12 Safeguarding Board Action Plan and the recent Peer Review have highlighted the under reporting of incidents from health services / professionals. The significance of this interface has been acknowledged nationally and it is important lessons are learnt and best practice shared..

- 4.8 Work has commenced on improving Residential and Nursing Care in Hartlepool, further work is to be undertaken.

**5. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 5.1 There are no financial implications arising from the report.

**6. RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 6.1 It is recommended that the contents of the report are noted

**Contact Officer:**

John Lovatt

Head of Service (Adult Social Care)