

ADULT SERVICES COMMITTEE DECISION RECORD

21 May 2013

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

Present:

Councillor: Carl Richardson (In the Chair)

Councillors: Keith Fisher, Ged Hall, Alison Lilley, Brenda Loynes, Linda Shields and Kaylee Sirs

Also Present: Councillors Paul Beck, Rob Cook and Geoff Lilley
Steve Thomas, Links

Officers: Jill Harrison, Assistant Director for Adult Services
Neil Harrison, Head of Service, Adult Social Care
Denise Wimpenny, Principal Democratic Services Officer

1. Apologies for Absence

None

2. Declarations of Interest

Councillor Ged Hall declared a personal interest in minute 6.

3. Minutes

No items.

4. A Problem Shared: Making Best Use of Resources in Adult Social Care *(Assistant Director, Adult Services)*

Type of decision

For information only

Purpose of report

To provide the Adult Services Committee with a briefing regarding A Problem Shared: Making Best Use of Resources in Adult Social Care.

Issue(s) for consideration

The Assistant Director provided background information relating to the report commissioned in response to the unprecedented challenges and severe financial pressures facing adult social care and to offer local authorities and their partners some guidance on making the best possible use of resources. A summary of the report was attached at Appendix 1. The report contained a number of key messages which included the need to place emphasis upon the promotion of independence, utilise Health and Wellbeing Boards to steer integrated working as well as the need to work closely with local communities and local people to make the best use of their knowledge and experience.

It was highlighted that the report may assist Members when making decisions on future funding.

A discussion ensued on the severe financial pressures facing adult social care and the ongoing work with the Clinical Commissioning Group and other partners. It was noted that significant funding was being provided from the CCG (via the NHS transfer to support adult social care) to support reablement and early intervention which was guaranteed until 2015. Concerns were raised regarding the lack of clarity as to whether that funding would continue and the potential financial impact as a result. In response to a request for clarification, the Committee was provided with details of current NHS partners.

A representative from HealthWatch commented on the benefits of a partnership approach and the areas which had been examined previously by Hartlepool LInK utilising such an approach. In response to comments regarding the importance of continuing to examine and protect quality of care, the Assistant Director indicated that the work that had recently been undertaken with care homes to develop a quality standards framework would be extended with a view to implementing a similar framework with other home care providers.

Decision

That the information within the A Problem Shared: Making Best Use of Resources in Adult Social Care summary document be noted.

5. Update on Carers Services and National Carers Survey Results *(Assistant Director, Adult Services)*

Type of decision

For information only

Purpose of report

To inform the Committee of the results of the Carers Survey 2012 and to provide an update regarding services for carers in Hartlepool together with the intended direction of travel over the next 12 months.

Issue(s) for consideration

It was reported that there were now 6.4 million people in the UK providing care. The vast majority of this care was provided by family, friends and relatives with a large number of people providing unpaid care. The report included information on the support available to carers and the new duty on local authorities to promote carers' well being. At the last census in 2011, 9,924 people in Hartlepool identified themselves as carers which represented 11% of the population. Approximately 2,700 people identified themselves as providing over 50 hours of care per week. In 2011/12 there were 2,004 carers being provided by services by the Council and over the last 12 months, 150 carers had been in receipt of a direct payment to support their caring role. Members were provided with details of the Carers Strategy, the role of the Carers Strategy Group as well as the services provided for carers in Hartlepool, as set out in the report.

The Carers' Survey was undertaken across the borough in November 2012 which resulted in a 37% response rate. Full national information on the results would be available in August 2013. Some headline information around the Adult Social Care outcomes Framework measures had been released, details of which were included in the report and showed that Hartlepool was performing very well in comparison to other authorities in the NE region.

With regard to future direction of travel, the Council had recently been awarded a contract for the provision of Assessment, Support, Information and Identify Cards for adult carers in Hartlepool with a value of £150,000 pa from 1 June 2013 for a period of three years with an option to extend twice for a further twelve months subject to satisfactory performance and funding. The Carers Strategy for Hartlepool for 2011-2016 was attached with an updated action plan.

A query was raised regarding the level of support available for elderly

carers, young carers under the age of 18 and whether any additional support was available to carers of people with dementia. The Assistant Director outlined the various support mechanisms available and highlighted that work was currently ongoing with Hartlepool Carers to identify any gaps in provision and this issue would be further explored over the next 12 months to further develop models of support. The Committee went on to discuss the figures identified in the last census together with the response rate of the Carers' Survey and whilst it was pleasing to note that a positive response had been achieved, some concerns were raised regarding the number of carers who had not been identified to which the Assistant Director outlined the various mechanisms in place to publicise support available for carers. The Assistant Director responded to further queries raised by Members which included the expected benefits and outcomes for carers as a result of the recent contract awarded to support carers. With regard to the National Carers Survey, Members were pleased to note the positive results demonstrated for Hartlepool and, in particular, that 92% of carers in Hartlepool had reported that they had been included in or consulted in discussions about the person they cared for.

Decision

- (i) The Committee noted the positive results demonstrated by the National Carers Survey for Hartlepool 2012.
- (ii) The Committee endorsed the intended direction of travel to continue delivering high quality services through the contract with Hartlepool Carers, promoting self-directed support through direct payments for carers and continuing to explore options to optimise available resources for carers within the current challenging financial and demographic environment.

6. Results of the Learning Disability Self Assessment Framework 2011/12 *(Assistant Director, Adult Social Care)*

Type of decision

For information only

Purpose of report

To update the Adult Services Committee on the results of the 2011/12 Learning Disability Self-Assessment Framework.

Issue(s) for consideration

The report provided background information to the inquiry of Sir Jonathan

Michael in 2007 that people with learning disabilities had higher levels of unmet need and received less effective treatment than the general population and a recent inquiry by Mencap which highlighted that considerable improvement was still needed.

A summary of findings for the Learning Disability 2011/12 Self-Assessment Framework was outlined in the report and included results across the twelve local authority areas as well as an analysis of Hartlepool's strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats and recommended three priority areas for development.

The Head of Service provided clarification in response to queries raised by Members regarding the sources and accuracy of the data provided, the potential reasons as to why take up of annual health checks for people with a learning disability had remained at 50% and had not improved and the measures in place to address any weaknesses identified. Members were keen to receive further information in relation to take up of annual health checks given the challenging target to improve this figure to 90%. It was noted that a further self assessment by the North of England Commissioning Support Team would be undertaken from July 2013, the results of which would be available to the Committee.

Following further discussion regarding the findings and whilst acknowledging the future challenges, Members welcomed Hartlepool's overall performance noting that across the North East region Hartlepool was one of the few localities that achieved a green rating in nine or more areas.

Decision

That the 2011/12 Learning Disability Self-Assessment Framework annual update and action plan for 2013 be noted.

7. Fulfilling Lives: Ageing Better (*Assistant Director, Adult Services*)

Type of decision

For information only

Purpose of report

To update the Committee on the launch of Fulfilling Lives: Ageing Better, the Big Lottery Fund's latest investment to tackle the problem of social isolation in older people.

Issue(s) for consideration

The Assistant Director referred Members to the Big Lottery Fund's commitment of at least £70 million to fund up to 20 areas across England to tackle social isolation in older people. 100 local authorities had been invited to express an interest in this funding and Hartlepool had been selected as one of these authorities. Five funding outcomes had been identified as detailed in the report and successful projects would be those that could meet all of the outcomes. Expressions of interest would be assessed and up to 30 local authority areas would be selected to proceed to the next stage of the process. A decision regarding the shortlisted areas was expected by late July 2013. From the shortlisted areas, approximately 15-20 would be selected to receive funding to deliver their proposals.

A Member commented on the process by which grants were awarded and expressed disappointment that funding of this type was not allocated based on demographics as well as deprivation levels. In the event that the Council were successful in the bidding process, it was suggested that interested groups in the town be kept informed of developments.

Decision

- (i) That the Council's submission of an Expression of Interest for Fulfilling Lives: Ageing Better funding be noted.
- (ii) That further reports be received should the proposal be shortlisted.

8. North of Tees Dementia Collaborative (*Assistant Director, Adult Services*)

Type of decision

For information only

Purpose of report

To update the Committee on the work of the North of Tees Dementia Collaborative.

Issue(s) for consideration

The report provided background information in relation to the National Dementia Strategy together with details of the key aims of the strategy and the collaborative approach with a number of organisations to improve quality and outcomes for people with dementia.

The Dementia Collaborative commenced in January 2013 with plans to deliver seven Rapid Process Improvement Workshops (RPIWs) focussing on key issues affecting people with dementia. Feedback from the first RPIW, which focused on the process for making decisions about eligibility for NHS continuing healthcare funding was provided and had resulted in significant improvements in a number of areas including a 67% reduction in the number of errors in paperwork and a saving of up to 80 minutes in completion of assessment documents. Positive feedback was provided from two further reviews which focussed on preventing unnecessary admissions from care homes to Accident and Emergency and looking at timely and appropriate discharge from acute wards. Further RPIWs were planned, details of which were included in the report.

As part of the programme, staff from each of the organisations involved had been offered the opportunity to access training and become Certified Leaders in the Quality Improvement approach.

In the discussion that followed, the Chair sought clarification as to what element of training would be available for Elected Members to which Members were advised that the training available to providers and Council staff on raising awareness on dementia and mental health issues could be extended to Elected Members. Members views were also sought on the option to visit some of the current services within adult social care i.e. care homes and day services. Members welcomed the training options available.

Decision

- (i) The Committee noted progress made by the North of Tees Dementia Collaborative.
- (ii) That further reports be received as appropriate.
- (iii) That training be provided for Elected Members in accordance with individual training requirements.

9. Regional Reablement Review (*Assistant Director, Adult Services*)

Type of decision

For information only

Purpose of report

This report provided the Adult Services Committee with the findings from the Regional Reablement Review which was commissioned by the

Association of Directors of Adult Social Services (ADASS) in the North East via North East Purchasing Organisation (NEPO) in July 2012.

The review aimed to establish a clear regional picture across the North East and identify where improvements, resources and effort should be focused to enable positive developments in reablement services across the region.

An initial report was provided to Cabinet in February 2013. This report covered the additional phases of the project which were completed in April 2013.

Issue(s) for consideration

The report set out the background to the development of in-house reablement services and the demographic pressures facing Hartlepool. Details of the findings from Phase 1 of the Reablement Review were provided. The overriding conclusion from Phase 1 was that it was unrealistic to make direct comparisons of unit costs and performance across the 12 councils due to the fundamental differences in operating models and their differential impact on unit costs. The reablement service in Hartlepool was shown to be performing well with 73.9% of people using the service improving to the point of needing no further services when measured 90 days after discharge from the reablement service. The neighbouring cost per hour was low compared to some neighbouring authorities. Only 36% of referrals came from the community with 64% coming from health services/hospital. The report included details of the key findings from phases 2 and 3 of the review, best practice for Hartlepool as well as areas for development. It was highlighted that the Council would continue to review and evaluate reablement services in Hartlepool over the next 12 months.

With regard to commissioned services, a Member commented on the need to reiterate the benefits and importance of investing in reablement to the Clinical Commissioning Group.

Decision

That the findings of the regional review of reablement services and the intended direction of travel for reablement services over the next 12 months be noted.

The meeting concluded at 3.30 pm

P J DEVLIN

CHIEF SOLICITOR

PUBLICATION DATE: 29 MAY 2013