

ADULT SERVICES COMMITTEE DECISION RECORD

12 August 2013

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

Present:

Councillor: Linda Shields (In the Chair)

Councillors: Keith Fisher and Brenda Loynes

In accordance with Council Procedure Rule 5.2 (ii) Councillor Rob Cook was in attendance as substitute for Councillor Carl Richardson

Officers: Jill Harrison, Assistant Director, Adult Services
Dave Stubbs, Chief Executive
Denise Wimpenny, Principal Democratic Services Officer

23. Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Councillors Ged Hall, Carl Richardson and Kaylee Sirs.

24. Declarations of Interest

None at this point in the meeting. However, a personal interest was declared later in the meeting (Minute 27 refers).

25. Minutes of the Meeting held on 15 July 2013

Received.

26. Extra Care Evaluation 2013 (*Assistant Director, Adult Services*)

Type of decision

For information only

Purpose of report

To inform members of the results of the Extra Care Evaluation 2013.

Issue(s) for consideration

The Assistant Director, Adult Services provided background information in relation to the extra care schemes within Hartlepool which offered 457 units of accommodation. The creation of the extra care housing schemes was to provide an alternative housing option for older people rather than the more traditional sheltered housing or residential/nursing care homes and consisted of a number of key elements as set out in the report.

The overall aim of the evaluation was to evaluate to what extent extra care was effective as a means of long-term housing and care provision for older people. A number of methods were used to evaluate the extra care schemes, details of which were outlined in the report. The evaluation, attached at Appendix 1, found that extra care housing was an effective way of providing housing and care for older people.

Following presentation of the report, the Assistant Director responded to issues raised by Members in relation to the results of the evaluation and monitoring arrangements. A lengthy discussion ensued regarding the ongoing problems at Hartfields in relation to the heating system during which Members raised concerns that residents were unable to individually control heating temperatures and commented on the impact on health and wellbeing as a result. The Assistant Director advised that the Adult Social Care Team were aware of this issue and feedback from Hartfields had suggested that whilst attempts had been made to address this issue, unfortunately a satisfactory outcome for the residents had not yet been achieved. The Assistant Director agreed to highlight the Committee's concerns at a future meeting with Hartfields and provide an update as soon as possible. In the absence of a resolution to the problem, the option to invite a representative from Hartfields to a future meeting of the Committee was discussed.

Clarification was sought with regard to the Council's contribution and involvement in the Joseph Rowntree Trust. Members were advised that whilst the organisation operated under two separate arms, Joseph Rowntree managed all aspects of Hartfields as an asset. In terms of financial involvement, the Council's contribution on extra care was £1.6m (including the housing related support element).

The Chair commented on the difficulties in proving to what extent extra care was effective in preventing and reducing the level of admissions to residential care. The Assistant Director advised that given the ageing population resulting in more complicated health needs and the increasing prevalence of dementia, it was expected that the number of people requiring residential nursing care would have increased. However, that rate had remained the same. Whilst it was difficult to attribute this solely to the success of extra care, it was evident that a significant number of people had been supported to stay in their homes and maintain independence as a

result of various care support packages available.

With regard to the evaluation report which highlighted concerns that HBC Care Managers did not work well with Extra Care staff, a query was raised as to what measures had been introduced to address this issue. The Assistant Director reported on the measures that had been introduced which included providing additional training for Care Managers and Social Care staff, the potential outcomes and benefits of which were provided.

In relation to resident feedback sessions, a Member queried the reasons why no residents were present during the two sessions with Hartifields. The Assistant Director confirmed she would explore this issue and provide clarification following the meeting.

Decision

That the Extra Care Evaluation 2013 be noted.

Prior to consideration of the following item of business (Minute 27) Councillor Cook declared a personal interest.

27. Tender for the Provision of Low Level Support Service *(Assistant Director, Adult Services)*

Type of decision

For information only

Purpose of report

To inform Members of the outcome of the tender process relating to the provision of a Low Level Support Service.

Issue(s) for consideration

The Assistant Director reported on the background to the current contract for low level support services which had been awarded to Who Cares (NE) on 1 November 2011 and ended on 31 March 2013. On 4 February 2013 Cabinet decided that the Low Level Service contract would be put out to tender with the existing contract being extended until such time as the tendering process could be reasonably completed.

Details of the tender timescale was outlined in Appendix 1. With regard to the outcome of the tender process, two tender submissions had been received and evaluated, the outcome of which was detailed in the report.

The contract had been awarded to Hartlepool Voluntary Development Agency (HVDA) and would commence on 1 October 2013 ending on 31 March 2014 .

Decision

The Committee noted the outcome of the tender process relating to the provision of Low Level Support Service.

The meeting concluded at 10.40 am.

P J DEVLIN

CHIEF SOLICITOR

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