

# **ADULT SERVICES COMMITTEE**

## **DECISION RECORD**

25 November 2013

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

**Present:**

Councillor: Carl Richardson (In the Chair)

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

Also Present: Councillor Geoff Lilley  
Steve Thomas, Judith Gray and Maureen Lockwood,  
Healthwatch  
John Stamp, Senior Commissioning Manager, CCG  
Ruth Hill, Tees Esk and Wear Valley NHS Foundation Trust

Officers: Gill Alexander, Director of Child and Adult Services  
Jill Harrison, Assistant Director, Adult Services  
Geraldine Martin, Head of Service, Adult Social Care  
Denise Wimpenny, Principal Democratic Services Officer

### **51. Apologies for Absence**

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Councillor Kaylee Sims and Healthwatch representatives.

### **52. Declarations of Interest**

None

### **53. Minutes of the meeting held on 4 November 2013**

Received

## **54. The Local Authority Mental Health Challenge** *(Director of Child and Adult Services)*

### **Type of decision**

Non key

### **Purpose of report**

To provide information regarding the Mental Health Challenge for Local Authorities.

Members of the Committee were requested to identify a 'member champion' for mental health and to sign up to the 'Time to Change' pledge to tackle mental health discrimination.

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

The report provided background information regarding the Mental Health Challenge, details of the actions that would enable Councils to promote mental health, the requirement to appoint a Mental Health Champion as well as their role in the initiative. Nominations were sought for a Member Champion for Mental Health.

Given the increase in mental health problems, a query was raised as to how this issue could be further embedded within the Council's culture. Members were advised what whilst the transfer of public health responsibility to the Council and the development of Health and Wellbeing Boards would assist, there was a need to ensure that mental health and wellbeing initiatives were promoted and prioritised across all areas of the Council's work. The Committee went on to raise concerns regarding the stigma attached to mental health issues, the impact of funding pressures on the future delivery of services, the current financial climate as well as the impact of welfare reform on people's mental health.

The Committee expressed their support for the Mental Health Challenge initiative to tackle stigma/discrimination and the benefits of identifying a member champion for mental health. Given the importance of the issue Members were of the view that this opportunity should be open to all Members of the Council and suggested that nominations be sought at the next meeting of full Council.

### **Decision**

- (i) The Committee supported the Mental Health Challenge'

- initiative to tackle stigma/discrimination to promote mental health and wellbeing.
- (ii) That the appointment of a Member Champion for Mental Health be supported and referred to the next meeting of full Council to seek nominations.
  - (iii) The Committee agreed to the signing up to the 'Time to Change' pledge by adding Hartlepool Borough Council to the many other organisations, Councils and members of the public already posted on the online pledge wall.

**55. 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 Assistant Director presented the report which 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. The latest Dementia Collaborative briefing, attached at Appendix 1, outlined the remit of each RPIW and achievements to date. Feedback from the RPIW, which focused on preventing unnecessary A and E attendances by people with dementia living in care homes had been particularly successful. Based on the outcomes achieved in the pilot, Hartlepool and Stockton on Tees CCG had identified funding for the new approach to be rolled out to all care homes in Hartlepool and Stockton. A case study which provided further information on this RPIW was attached at Appendix 2.

In the lengthy discussion that followed, the Assistant Director provided clarification in response to queries raised by Members which included details of training available to care home staff to assist with reporting medical issues of care home dementia patients, advice and guidance arrangements as well as the decision making process in terms of

determining the most appropriate care.

In response to some concerns that the 33% reduction in 999 calls across the 3 homes involved in the pilot would result in additional risks for patients, the Committee was provided with assurances that whilst the purpose of the initiative was to prevent unnecessary accident and emergency admissions, patients continued to receive appropriate support with improved outcomes and anyone who required urgent medical care would be referred appropriately. Monitoring information to measure the success of the scheme would be available as this new approach was rolled out to more care homes.

### **Decision**

- (i) The Committee noted progress made by the North of Tees Dementia Collaborative.
- (ii) That further reports be received as appropriate.

## **56. Quality of Care in Older People's Care Homes** (Assistant Director, Adult Services)

### **Type of decision**

For information only

### **Purpose of report**

To update the Adult Services Committee on the results of the 2013 assessments of quality of care in older people's care homes using the Quality Standards Framework (QSF).

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

The report included background information in relation to the Quality Standards Framework. The initial QSF assessment resulted in 6 of the 21 care homes achieving the top Grade 1 rating, 12 being rated as Grade 2 and 3 being rated as Grade 3. No care home fell within the lowest (Grade 4) banding. The 2013 QSF assessment was undertaken between May and August 2013, with support from Healthwatch Hartlepool, in relation to resident interviews, which brought another level of independence to the assessment. The results determined the grades and fee levels for the older people care homes for October 2013 to September 2014, details of which were set out in the report.

The assessment indicated further improvements in the evidence presented by providers and subsequently verified by officers with 11 of the 21 care homes achieving the top Grade 1 rating, 9 rated as Grade 2 and 1 rated as Grade 3. As in the previous year, no care home fell within the lowest (Grade 4) banding. In relation to the next steps, it was reported that officers would be undertaking a trend analysis of the results from the 2013 assessment to identify any areas for further development and future service improvements. There was a commitment to implementing a QSF approach across all regulated services within Hartlepool.

In response to a query relating to the benefits of choosing a higher graded care home, Members were advised that a number of factors influenced the final grade and were referred to on the Council's website which gave further detail on which outcomes had been met by which home. A summary of the process and grades was detailed in the Guide to Extra Care and Care Homes booklet which was available both on line and in hard copy. Members emphasised the importance of publicising information of this type and were keen for as much information as possible to be readily available to the public.

The complexity of the grading process was discussed and the benefits of Members having an understanding of this process was highlighted. It was suggested that a more detailed presentation be provided to the Committee on the quality standards framework in advance of the submission of next year's results. Members welcomed the support of Healthwatch representatives in relation to the grading determination process and it was suggested that Healthwatch representatives be invited to attend the presentation to Members.

With regard to occupancy levels and capacity issues in terms of residential and nursing care, a Member requested further information which the Assistant Director agreed to provide to a future meeting of the Committee.

## **Decision**

- (i) That the outcomes of the 2013 Quality Standards Framework assessments for older people's care homes be noted.
- (ii) That the planned next steps in terms of analysing performance trends, further reviewing the assessment process and implementing the QSF be noted
- (iii) Further information be provided in relation to the QSF grading determination process as well as details of care home occupancy levels.

## **57. Any Other Items which the Chairman Considers are Urgent**

The Chairman ruled that the following item of business should be considered by the Committee as a matter of urgency in accordance with the provisions of Section 100(B) (4)(b) of the Local Government Act 1972 in order that the matter could be dealt with without delay.

## **58. Any Other Business – Proposed Closure of Victoria Road, Mental Health Rehabilitation Service, Hartlepool**

The Chair reported receipt of a letter and briefing note from the CCG addressed to the Assistant Director, Adult Services which sought views in relation to the proposed closure of the mental health rehabilitation service for adults, located at Victoria Road. A copy of the letter and briefing note was tabled at the meeting and Members were given time to pursue the contents of the information. Some concerns were expressed by Members that the information had not been circulated in advance of the meeting to allow Members sufficient time to consider the proposals. The Assistant Director indicated that the information had been tabled following agreement by the Chair and Vice-Chair and had not been received until after despatch of the agenda papers.

The Committee's views were sought in relation to the proposals. Members were advised that representatives from Tees Esk and Wear Valley Foundation Trust and the CCG had been invited to the meeting to respond to any questions from Members.

A lengthy discussion ensued during which the Committee raised a number of concerns in relation to the proposed closure and the level of support within the community once the Victoria Road site closed. Concerns were raised that another service was transferring out of Hartlepool and Members questioned the long term implications of the proposals. Members emphasised that consultation was key on such changes and were of the view that consultation should have commenced earlier in the process and were concerned that the decision to close the facility appeared to have already been taken.

The representative from the CCG outlined the range of community and inpatient services for patients who required rehabilitation at Park House in Middlesbrough and Lustrum Vale in Stockton. Whilst noting that the current facility at Victoria Road no longer met the requirements of national guidance and best practice, Members together with representatives from Healthwatch went on to reiterate concerns regarding the potential need for crisis beds and commented that the proposals appeared to be a cost cutting exercise. In response, Members were informed that additional money had been

invested in crisis services and home treatment services to minimise hospital admissions. The numbers requiring crisis beds across the whole Trust area was very low. The services provided by the crisis team and the number and location of crisis beds across the whole Trust area were being reviewed.

In concluding the debate, whilst acknowledging that the number of people requiring crisis beds across the whole Trust area was very low, Members were of the firm view that beds should be available when required and adaptations to the current building should be further explored to meet national guidance requirements. The aim to either support and treat people in their own homes or transfer them to an unfamiliar environment 20 miles away was not viewed as an acceptable outcome in all cases.

The Assistant Director agreed to draft a response to the CCG on behalf of the Committee to reflect the concerns of Members, as detailed above.

### **Decision**

That the Assistant Director, Adult Services, in consultation with the Chair be authorised to formulate a response on behalf of the Committee to reflect the concerns of Members, as detailed above.

The meeting concluded at 11.45 am.

**P J DEVLIN**

**CHIEF SOLICITOR**

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