

ADULT SERVICES COMMITTEE MINUTES AND DECISION RECORD

3 March 2014

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

Present:

Councillor: Carl Richardson (In the Chair)

Councillors: Ged Hall, Alison Lilley and Kaylee Sirs

In accordance with Council Procedure Rule 5.2 (ii) Councillor George Morris was in attendance as substitute for Councillor Brenda Loynes and Councillor Jim Ainslie was in attendance as substitute for Councillor Linda Shields

Also Present: Councillor Geoff Lilley
S Thomas, J Gray and M Metcalf - Healthwatch
Members of the Public - Evelyn Leck and Frank Harrison

Officers: Jill Harrison, Assistant Director, Adult Services
David Ward, Head of Finance (Child, Adult Services and Public Health)
Joan Stevens, Scrutiny Manager
Denise Wimpenny, Principal Democratic Services Officer

74. Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Councillors Keith Fisher, Brenda Loynes and Linda Shields.

75. Declarations of Interest

None.

76. Minutes of the meeting held on 10 February 2014

Received.

77. Six Monthly Monitoring of Agreed Scrutiny Recommendations (*Scrutiny Manager*)

Type of decision

For information

Purpose of report

To provide Members with the six monthly progress made on the delivery of scrutiny recommendations that fall within the remit of this Committee.

Issue(s) for consideration

The report provided details of progress made against the investigations undertaken by the previous Adult and Community Services Scrutiny Forum. The report included a chart which provided the overall progress made against each scrutiny recommendation since the last six monthly monitoring report was presented to the Adult Services Committee in September 2013.

It was noted that all actions had now been completed which completed the monitoring of outstanding scrutiny recommendations which fell within the remit of this Committee.

The Chair thanked the Scrutiny Team for their excellent work in the scrutiny investigation and monitoring process.

With regard to the JSNA investigation undertaken in relation to Older People, the Committee was keen to receive an update report regarding progress made by the North of Tees Dementia Collaborative and current work in relation to dementia issues generally.

Decision

- (i) That the contents of the report be noted.
- (ii) That a progress report be received in relation to the North of Tees Dementia Collaborative as well as current work in relation to dementia issues generally.

78. The 2013/14 Local Account *(Assistant Director, Adult Services)*

Type of decision

Non-key – for information and approval to publish the Local Account

Purpose of report

1. To present the 2013/14 Local Account for Hartlepool Borough Council and to seek approval for the 2013/14 Local Account to be published as a key mechanism for reporting back to citizens on performance in adult social care.
2. The Local Account will become a key accountability mechanism to the public, a means of engaging with citizens and consumers of our services around priorities and outcomes and a useful tool to inform self-improvement activity at a local level.

Issue(s) for consideration

The Assistant Director presented the report which provided background information in relation to the concept of producing a Local Account and the requirement to publish the Local Account as a mechanism for reporting back to citizens on performance in adult social care. The 2013/14 Local Account was attached at Appendix 1 which set out the context of adult services including, aims, challenges, how the budget was spent and key facts about performance.

It was noted that the focus for this year was Occupational Therapy and Macmillan Social Work.

The Chair took the opportunity to thank Healthwatch for their contribution to the document and the benefits of working in partnership with Healthwatch in the development of the document were acknowledged and welcomed.

In response to a request for clarification on the future issues that would be examined as part of the Local Account and a suggestion that hospital discharges be considered, Members were advised that Healthwatch were undertaking a piece of work in relation to hospital discharges and whilst this issue fell within the remit of Health, under the Audit and Governance statutory scrutiny function, there would be an opportunity to include this issue in a future version of the Local Account.

Following discussion in relation to the importance of ensuring adequate care plans were in place for patients upon discharge from hospital, Members requested that a report be submitted to a future meeting of this

Committee outlining current support arrangements in place for patients upon discharge, support for vulnerable adults and responsibilities of social workers/local authorities in this regard. The Assistant Director advised that a report would be submitted to Members in support of a report from Healthwatch on the Council's perspective on hospital discharges and arrangements could be made to invite Health colleagues to that meeting. The Healthwatch Representative referred to the timescales for completion of this work and commented on the importance of examining patient needs and the links between domiciliary care, dementia and hospital discharges.

With regard to satisfaction rates in terms of the quality of domiciliary care service delivery in Hartlepool, the Healthwatch Representative placed emphasis upon the importance of focusing on quality of services as opposed to cost and highlighted that these issues would continue to be monitored by Healthwatch. It was highlighted that Healthwatch representatives were keen to receive feedback from the Council in response to the recommendations contained within their Domiciliary Care report to which the Assistant Director stated that a report would be submitted as soon as possible. The Assistant Director outlined the arrangements in place to deal with any areas of concern and was pleased to report the Council's continued high levels of performance in terms of satisfaction rates emphasising that the Council had the second highest satisfaction rates nationally.

Decision

- (i) That the contents of the 2013/14 Local Account be noted.
- (ii) That publication of the Local Account be endorsed.
- (iii) That a report be submitted to a future meeting of this Committee in relation to the hospital discharge process and that NHS representatives be invited to attend to respond to queries raised by Members.

79. Strategic Financial Management Report – as at 31 December 2013 *(Director of Child and Adult Services and Chief Finance Officer)*

Type of decision

For information

Purpose of report

The report informed Members of the 2013/14 Forecast General Fund

Outturn; 2013/14 Capital Programme Monitoring, and provided details for the specific budget areas that the Committee was responsible for.

Issue(s) for consideration

The Head of Finance (Child, Adult Services and Public Health) indicated that a report had been submitted to the Finance and Policy Committee on 27 February 2014 and the report advised Members that there would be an overall underspend at the year end of between £0.729m and £1.160m. As a minimum the lower forecast 2013/14 uncommitted underspend of £0.729m should be available to support the Medium Term Financial Strategy over the period 2014/15 and 2016/17 and this had been taken into account in the final Medium Term Financial Strategy Report presented to Finance and Policy on 31 January 2014.

Members were referred to the overall budget position for Adult Services, the reasons for the forecast outturn, projected grant income which, if received late in the financial year would be earmarked to fund 2014/15 expenditure together with details of the capital programme, as detailed in the report.

Decision

That the contents of the report be noted.

80. Date and Time of Next Meeting

The meeting concluded at 10.25 am.

P J DEVLIN

CHIEF SOLICITOR

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