

## **ADULT SERVICES COMMITTEE MINUTES AND DECISION RECORD**

1 May 2014

The meeting commenced at 9.30 am in the Civic Centre, Hartlepool

**Present:**

Councillor: Carl Richardson (In the Chair)

Councillors: Ged Hall, Linda Shields and Kaylee Sirs

Also Present: Public – Frank Harrison

Officers: Gill Alexander, Director of Child and Adult Services  
Jill Harrison, Assistant Director, Adult Services  
Jeanette Willis, Head of Strategic Commissioning  
Neil Harrison, Head of Service  
Denise Wimpenny, Principal Democratic Services Officer

### **88. Apologies for Absence**

An apology for absence was submitted on behalf of Councillor Brenda Loynes

### **89. Declarations of Interest**

None at this point in the meeting. However, a personal interest was declared later in the meeting (Minute 92 refers).

### **90. Minutes of the meeting held on 7 April 2014**

Received

**91. Section 136 Mental Health Act (MHA) 1982/2007**  
**Place of Safety Pilot Evaluation** (*Assistant Director, Adult Services*)

**Type of decision**

For information

**Purpose of report**

To inform the Adult Services Committee of the results from the six month pilot in respect of the Tees, Esk and Wear Valleys NHS Foundation Trust (TEWV) decision to move the Place of Safety Unit from Sandwell Park in Hartlepool to Roseberry Park in Middlesbrough.

**Issue(s) for consideration**

The report provided background information in relation to Section 136 of the Mental Health Act, the purpose of removing a person to a Place of Safety as well as details of the reasons for the decision to move the Place of Safety Unit from Sandwell Park in Hartlepool to Roseberry Park in Middlesbrough for a trial period of 6 months from 1 October 2013. Statistical information in terms of use of the Place of Safety for the period August 2012 to August 2013 confirmed infrequent use of the facility, details of which were included in the report.

Following a report submitted to this Committee in November 2013, it had been agreed that an update report would be presented in 6 months time with details of the evaluation from the pilot. Results from the six month pilot were included in the report and it was noted that Hartlepool's approved Mental Health Professionals had not found any negative impact on their capacity as a result of moving the Place of Safety to Middlesbrough due to the low numbers. The Emergency Duty Team, located in Stockton, had found the pilot beneficial, details of which were provided.

It was reported that the Street Triage Service, introduced in August 2012 to work in Partnership with Cleveland Police and Tees Esk and Wear Valley Foundation Trust, had made a positive impact on the number of Section 136 detentions and assessments in respect of both Hartlepool and Teeswide residents. However, due to the low number of S136 assessments over the last six months, the expectation was that the pilot would continue for a further period to allow a more robust evaluation of the numbers. Tees Esk and Wear Valley would continue to fund taxis to return people to Hartlepool if they were discharged from a Section 136 Order.

A query was raised as to whether any feedback had been undertaken with

service users or their families to determine satisfaction levels on the revised arrangements. In response, the Committee was advised that the service was part of NHS provision and exit surveys were conducted upon discharge and it was envisaged that copies of surveys were provided to their Governing Bodies. The Chair requested that copies of the surveys undertaken be circulated to all Members of the Committee for information purposes. In response to a request for clarification, the Committee was provided with details of the steps taken to support individuals accessing the service.

### **Decision**

- (i) That the contents of the report be noted.
- (ii) That the Head of Service for Mental Health continues to monitor the use of S136 in respect of Hartlepool citizens.

**Prior to consideration of the following item of business Councillor Ged Hall declared a personal interest in Minute 92 and indicated that whilst he wished to place on record a connection with two of the organisations who had been considered by the Finance and Policy Committee for Category 4 Grant Funding, he was of the view that given that there was no decision to be taken by the Adult Services Committee and, there were no contractual arrangements in place between himself and those organisations, this was neither a prejudicial or pecuniary interest.**

## **92. Community Pool Category 4 Grant Allocations 2014-15 – Update** *(Director of Child and Adult Services)*

### **Type of decision**

For information

### **Purpose of report**

To note the allocation of £21,143 to the Community Pool category 4 grant allocation from the Child and Adult Services budget.

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

The Director of Child and Adult Services reported that the Finance and Policy Committee had agreed the allocation of Category 4 grants on 28 March 2014 to eight voluntary and community sector organisations. The positive forecast uncommitted 2013/14 outturn for Child and Adult Services provided an opportunity to commit an additional £21,143 to the Community

Pool Category 4 budget. Members were asked to note that a report had been presented to the Finance and Policy Committee on 25 April 2014, to consider this proposal. A copy of the report, which included a confidential appendix, was attached to the report. **This item contained exempt information under Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 as amended by the Local Government (Access to Information)(Variation) Order 2006 namely information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding that information) (para 3).**

Members were advised that the Finance and Policy Committee had agreed that additional funding be allocated to Hartlepool Foodbank, Age UK Teesside and Hartlepool Access Group, the benefits of which were outlined. It was noted that the additional funding that had been identified was non-recurring and there was a need to work with various agencies over the year to consider future options including long term sustainability and service model for the next financial year.

### **Decision**

That the contents of the report be noted.

## **93. Hartfields – Verbal Update** (*Director of Child and Adult Services*)

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

The Head of Strategic Commissioning advised that following a request from the Committee for an update in relation to various issues raised at an earlier meeting, feedback had revealed very few complaints in relation to the heating problems previously identified at Hartfields. Energy efficiency guidance and advice had been provided to some residents and replacement radiators had also been supplied for one particular resident. With regard to the concerns expressed in relation to the inability of residents to choose a preferred energy supplier and access the most competitive rates available, analysis of energy data was currently being undertaken and, upon completion, consultation would be carried out with residents on the proposed supplier.

In the discussion that followed whilst Members were pleased to note improvements to the heating system, given that this year had been a mild winter, it was difficult to determine how effective the improvements had been and the need to continue to monitor this issue was highlighted. The Committee noted that new management arrangements were in place and some concerns were expressed regarding health and safety and access issues for elderly residents in view of the ongoing building works in the area. Emphasis was placed upon the need for developers to keep roads/pathways as clear as possible. In response to a Member's request that the building works/access issues be monitored, the Chair highlighted

that issues of this type were not matters for this Committee to discuss and should be considered outside the meeting.

**Decision**

That the information given and comments of Members be noted.

The meeting concluded at 10.30 am.

**P J DEVLIN**

**CHIEF SOLICITOR**

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