

# **ADULT SERVICES COMMITTEE**

## **MINUTES AND DECISION RECORD**

9 March 2015

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

**Present:**

Councillor: Carl Richardson (In the Chair)

Councillors: Paul Beck, George Springer and Stephen Thomas

Also Present:

Frank Harrison, Years Ahead Forum  
Members of the Public – Stella and Gordon Johnson and  
Evelyn Leck  
Maureen Lockwood, Zoe Sherry - Healthwatch

Officers: Jill Harrison, Assistant Director, Adult Services  
Jeanette Willis, Head of Strategic Commissioning  
Neil Harrison, Head of Service, Adult Services  
John Lovatt, Head of Service, Adult Services  
Kerry Trenchard, Strategy and Performance Officer  
Denise Wimpenny, Principal Democratic Services Officer

### **63. Apologies for Absence**

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Councillor Brenda Loynes and Ruby Marshall, Healthwatch.

### **64. Declarations of Interest**

Councillor Thomas declared a personal interest in Minute 73 as an employee of Healthwatch.

## **65. Minutes of the meeting held on 9 February 2015**

Received.

## **66. Matters Arising from the Minutes**

In relation to Minute 61 – Hear My Voice – Inclusion North Event, 27 March 2015 – Verbal Update, the Chair reminded all those in attendance of the Inclusion North Event to be held on 27 March at 10.30 am until 1.00 pm in the Council Chamber of the Civic Centre.

## **67. Council Plan 2015/16 – Child and Adult Department Proposals** *(Director of Child and Adult Services)*

### **Type of decision**

Budget and Policy Framework

### **Purpose of report**

To provide an opportunity for the Adult Services Committee to consider the Child and Adult Services Department's proposals for inclusion in the 2015/16 Council Plan that fell under the remit of the Committee.

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

The Assistant Director, Adult Services reported on the proposals included in the 2015/16 Council Plan that fell under the remit of the Adult Services Committee. As in previous years detailed proposals were being considered by each of the Committees throughout February and March. A further report would be prepared for the Finance and Policy Committee on 23 March 2015 detailing the comments/ observations of each of the Committees along with a full draft of the 2015/16 Council Plan.

In support of the report, the Assistant Director provided a presentation which detailed the key challenges that Adult Services faced over the next year and beyond and how these would be addressed.

In response to a query regarding the support available to 16 year olds after leaving care, it was reported that issues of this type fell within the remit of Children's Services Committee. The Committee was provided with an update in relation to progress made to date on the new Independent Living Centre following a Member's request. It was noted that the development was on target for completion in 2016.

Clarification was sought regarding the latest position in terms of re-commissioning of low level support services and the timescales involved. Members were advised that as previously reported, it had not been possible to award a single contract covering low level services, day services and social inclusion for older people and those with dementia. Contracts for handyperson services, information and signposting and support for people with dementia had been awarded and work was ongoing with the preferred provider in relation to social inclusion for older people with a contract expected to be awarded during April.

Whilst Members welcomed the plans and policy direction for the future concerns were expressed regarding the lack of funding in Adult Services to deliver these services given the continuing financial pressures placed upon the Council and legislative changes contributing to these pressures.

Officers responded to further queries raised in relation to the actions.

### **Decision**

That the proposals reported for inclusion in the Council Plan 2015/16 be supported and the comments of Members be utilised to formulate a response on behalf of the Committee for consideration by the Finance and Policy Committee.

## **68. Joint Mental Health Implementation Plan & Mental Health Update** *(Director of Child and Adult Services)*

### **Type of decision**

Non key decision

### **Purpose of report**

To seek approval from the Adult Services Committee for the Joint Mental Health Implementation Plan.

To request that the Adult Services Committee refers the Joint Mental Health Implementation Plan to the Hartlepool Health and Wellbeing Board and Hartlepool and Stockton on Tees Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) for approval and monitoring of the action plan.

To provide an update on a number of key reviews of mental health services

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

It was reported that a number of key framework documents had been

produced in recent years that related to mental health services, details of which were provided. A Joint Mental Health Implementation Plan for 2015-18, attached at Appendix 1, was co-produced with the CCG and incorporated key national and local mental health outcomes. The action plan would be refreshed annually to demonstrate progress and reflect any changing national and local priorities. Information in relation to how the Plan had been developed was set out in the report.

It was noted that as part of Sector Led Improvement, all North East Councils had agreed to the LGA undertaking a Peer Challenge within adult social care over a three year period. Hartlepool's Peer Challenge had taken place in November 2014 and had focused on mental health services, the recommendations of which were included in the report. An action plan was being developed with Tees Esk and Wear Valley to address the recommendations and progress had already been made in a number of areas.

The report also included feedback from a CQC Mental Health Act Monitoring Visit to Tees Esk and Wear Valley NHS Foundation Trust, details of the Crisis Care Concordat as well as details of the main changes to the Mental Health Act Revised Code of Practice.

Reference was made to the CQC's recommendations and it was confirmed that funding had been agreed to develop additional resources to support people self-presenting at Roseberry Park. Some concerns were raised regarding the number of 'at risk' individuals self presenting at night at Roseberry Park and the Head of Service highlighted some of the potential reasons for the increase. In response to a query regarding the number of individuals self presenting and utilising crisis services in Hartlepool, the Head of Service agreed to explore this issue at a future meeting regarding the Crisis Care Concordat.

Whilst the benefits of the strategy were welcomed, concern was expressed that there was limited input to the Mental Health Forum from users of mental health services or patients themselves and it was noted that a sub group had been established to address this. The Committee discussed at length the importance of crisis services and was keen to examine statistical evidence of how crisis services were currently being provided and patient experiences in Hartlepool over the last 18 months to determine whether the newly configured services had addressed the concerns raised at previous meetings in this regard. Emphasis was placed upon the need to continually monitor the level of resources to ensure needs were being met.

The Committee commented on the increase in mental health needs generally, the importance of prevention and adequate support being available to prevent mental health relapse and the need to provide adequate support for veterans suffering from severe post traumatic stress disorders. Feedback was requested from Tees Esk and Wear Valley NHS Foundation Trust as well as Council officers in terms of how successful the new crisis care arrangements had been. More detailed feedback from the recent Peer

Review and Care Quality Commission review was also requested for consideration at a future meeting of this Committee.

### **Decision**

- (i) That the Joint Mental Health Implementation Plan be approved.
- (ii) That the Joint Mental Health Implementation Plan be referred to the Health and Wellbeing Board for approval and monitoring.
- (iii) That the outcomes of recent reviews and actions taken to address the recommendations be noted.
- (iv) That the revised Code of Practice for Mental Health be noted.
- (v) That the comments of Members, as outlined above, be noted.
- (vi) That feedback be provided to a future meeting of this Committee in relation to:-
  - a) a review of Section 136 suite and crisis care arrangements.
  - b) the recent Peer Review and Care Quality Commission Review.

## **69. Hartlepool Local Executive Group – Adult Safeguarding Statistics and Progress Report for the Period April – December 2014** (*Director of Child and Adult Services*)

### **Type of decision**

No decision required – for information

### **Purpose of report**

To present the Hartlepool Local Executive Group (LEG) statistics covering the period from 1 April 2014 to 31 December 2014 and to share a summary of the progress made with the implementation of the Teeswide Safeguarding Adults Board (TSAB) strategic aims and objectives for the same period.

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

The report provided background information in relation to adult safeguarding arrangements and the significant changes in the Care Act which would affect the protection of vulnerable adults. One of the key changes was the statutory requirement for a Safeguarding Adults Board. To support the work of this Board, Hartlepool had established a Local Executive Group.

In the reporting period 1 April 2014 to 31 December 2014 there were 310 alerts identifying possible cases of abuse of adults 86 of which met the safeguarding adults threshold guide and led to actual referrals. In the same reporting period last year there had been 247 alerts, 103 of which had led to referrals. Within the current reporting period 47% of referrals related to

people aged 65 and over with a physical disability. As in previous reporting periods, care homes continued to be the most common location of reported abuse, details of which were set out in the report.

The report provided background information in relation to the Deprivation of Liberty Safeguards as well as the trends for the period April 2013 to March 2014 where there had been 49 requests. Between April and December 2014 there had been 441 requests for authorisation.

In relation to safeguarding vulnerable adults there had been a number of developments in the first nine months of this reporting period, details of which were provided as outlined in the report.

In the discussion that followed presentation of the report, concerns were expressed in relation to the financial implications for the Local Authority as a result of the Supreme Court Judgement in relation to Deprivation of Liberty Safeguards in terms of both workload/staffing capacity and cost. The importance of closely monitoring this issue particularly the significant increase in the workload element was emphasised. The Head of Service responded to issues raised by the Committee in relation to the requirements and implications of the introduction of Deprivation of Liberty Safeguards. In response to a query as to whether all care homes in Hartlepool were compliant with the new Deprivation requirements it was confirmed there were two homes where work was being undertaken and it was anticipated that this should be completed by 31 March.

### **Decision**

- (i) That the contents of the report and comments of the Committee be noted.
- (ii) That the implications of DOLS be closely monitored.

## **70. Implementation of the Care Act** (*Director of Child and Adult Services*)

### **Type of decision**

No decision required – for information

### **Purpose of report**

To provide the Adult Services Committee with an update on progress regarding implementation of the Care Act and the financial implications in 2015/16

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

The report provided background information in relation to the Care Act and set out progress towards implementing the Care Act from April 2015. Regional and national support to implement the Care Act and information on the National Care Act Implementation Stocktake Programme was also included in the report. There had been three stocktakes across the year in May 2014, September 2014 and February 2015 which indicated that Hartlepool was making progress towards implementing the Care Act and demonstrating a significant level of confidence that the care reforms would be delivered within timescales. The main risks identified for Hartlepool in association with delivering the Care Act were the unknown levels of additional demand from carers and self funders, unknown additional workforce capacity and unknown total implementation costs.

The Committee was referred to the financial implications of implementing the Care Act, as set out in the report. Nationally, funding of £420m would be provided for implementing the Care Act in 2015/16. The confirmed revenue allocations for Hartlepool Borough Council for 2015/16 were £754,000, a breakdown of which was included in the report. In addition, as part of the Social Care Capital Grant allocation, £279,000 had been allocated for Hartlepool in 2015/16. Funding remained an extremely complex area and it was not yet possible to give an indication as to whether the additional funding allocated would meet the anticipated additional demand and costs. For 2015/16 planning purposes it was currently anticipated that the changes would be budget neutral. The financial impacts would need to be monitored on an ongoing basis.

In support of the report the Assistant Director provided a detailed and comprehensive presentation on the Care Act and the Wellbeing Principle which included the aims of the Care Act, what the Act was trying to achieve, Framework of the Act, Definition of the Wellbeing Principle, Wellbeing Care and Support, new responsibilities of local authorities towards all local people, what this meant for people needing care and support, what this meant for carers as well as the implications for the Council.

The Assistant Director responded to queries raised in relation to the changes to care and support as a result of the Care Act. Clarification was provided on the care cap arrangements and assessment process as a result of the Care Act. It was noted that consultation on the Care Act funding reforms, to be implemented from 1 April 2016, was currently underway and would end on 30 March. Regulations relating to this second phase of implementation were expected to be issued in October 2015.

### **Decision**

- (i) That progress to date in relation to implementation of the Care Act from April 2015 be noted.
- (ii) That funding allocations to support Care Act implementation be noted.
- (iii) That further reports be received throughout 2015/16.

## **71. Moving Forward Together – The Vision for Adult Services in Hartlepool 2014-17** (*Director of Child and Adult Services*)

### **Type of decision**

No decision required – for information

### **Purpose of report**

To provide the Adult Services Committee with an update on implementation of 'Moving Forward together – The Vision for Adult Services in Hartlepool 2014-17'

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

The Assistant Director, Adult Services, presented the report which provided the background to the vision for Adult Services in Hartlepool following approval by the Committee in July 2014. The overall aim was for people to stay healthy and actively involved in their communities for longer thereby delaying or avoiding the need for targeted services.

An action plan for 2014/15, attached as an appendix to the report, provided the framework for the detailed work required to deliver the vision and included an update on progress. In terms of the next steps, an action plan for 2015/16 would be developed based on the priorities identified in Appendix 2.

Following presentation of the report the Assistant Director responded to issues raised in relation to step up/step down services which aimed to prevent avoidable hospital admissions and to support people following discharge from hospital.

### **Decision**

The Committee noted progress made to implement the vision for Adult Services and noted that a further update would be received in March 2016.



**72. Support for People with Dementia in Hartlepool** (*Director of Child and Adult Services*)

**Type of decision**

No decision required – for information

**Purpose of report**

To provide the Adult Services Committee with a further update regarding support for people with dementia in Hartlepool, following a report in August 2014.

**Issue(s) for consideration**

The report provided background information to the National Dementia Strategy and the support available for people in Hartlepool living with dementia. Details of national developments around dementia, how Hartlepool had addressed the National Strategy as well as the process for raising awareness of dementia in Hartlepool was provided, as set out in the report.

It was reported that a Steering Group had been established to deliver the Working to Build a Dementia Friendly Hartlepool Project, bringing together a large range of local organisations to actively look at Hartlepool becoming accredited as a Dementia Friendly Community. An action plan, attached at Appendix 3, had been developed and was regularly updated. Members were referred to the process in terms of engagement with the wider community, as detailed in the report.

The Chair, on behalf of the Committee, took the opportunity to thank Steve Thomas, Modernisation Lead for Older People, who would shortly be retiring from the authority, for his hard work and contribution to the developments in relation to support for people with dementia and their carers.

**Decision**

- (i) That the developments in relation to support for people with dementia and their carers be noted and further reports be received as appropriate.
- (ii) That all Council Members be invited to pledge their support for the Working to Build a Dementia Friendly Hartlepool Project.

**73. Update on Domiciliary Care Services in Response to Recommendations by Healthwatch Hartlepool** (*Director of Child and Adult Services*)

**Type of decision**

No decision required – for information

**Purpose of report**

The Healthwatch Hartlepool investigation into domiciliary care services made several recommendations. The report provided the Adult Services Committee with an update regarding how the recommendations were being addressed.

**Issue(s) for consideration**

The Head of Strategic Commissioning updated the Committee on progress made in relation to the Healthwatch recommendations following their investigation into domiciliary care. The report set out progress made on implementing each individual recommendation.

Following the investigation into domiciliary care services, a desktop review of the requirements of the Unison Ethical Care Charter had been undertaken by the Council. This had not been a formal review but would form part of the renegotiation of contracts which would take place in the spring of 2016.

A Healthwatch Member was pleased to note the progress made to date and emphasised the importance of closely monitoring the recommendations.

With regard to the Unison Ethical Care Charter which aimed to ensure employees of organisations were properly remunerated and protected whilst carrying out their employment, a Member spoke in support of the Charter and whilst acknowledging that both providers were already meeting some of the requirements of the Charter was keen to see this issue placed high on the authority's agenda to implement the recommendations in full. Concerns were reiterated in relation to levels of pay of care workers and views were expressed that 15 minute visits should be kept to a minimum, the reasons for which were shared with the Committee.

**Decision**

- (i) That the current position in relation to domiciliary care and comments of Members be noted.
- (ii) It was noted that domiciliary care contracts were due to be

renegotiated in Spring 2016.

## **74. Winter Update** (*Director of Child and Adult Services*)

### **Type of decision**

No decision required – for information

### **Purpose of report**

To provide the Adult Services Committee with an update on the management of winter pressures.

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

It was reported that for a number of years, health and social care agencies had worked together to plan for increased activity and pressure over the winter months. This was currently undertaken through a Systems Resilience Group. It had been well publicised in the national media that health providers had experienced unprecedented levels of pressure over the winter months in 2014/15. In North Tees and Hartlepool Foundation Trust, there had been up to 52 additional beds open over the winter months to manage the additional demand and bed occupancy had consistently been above the recommended national average of 85%.

The Council had received additional funding of £70,000 linked to the Systems Resilience Plan to fund additional rehabilitation beds at West View Lodge and to commission additional domiciliary care capacity over weekends. There had been a 40% increase in hospital discharge referrals compared to the same period last winter which had created pressures for social care staff. Throughout the winter period to date, despite the huge increase in hospital discharge referrals, there had not been a delayed discharge that was due to a delay in a social care assessment or a social care package being in place. Activity in relation to care home admissions for the winter months was currently being analysed. An initial review of the data indicated that care home admissions for 2014/15 would be lower than in previous years. It was reported that there had been an announcement at the end of January 2015 that all local authorities would receive a one off ring-fenced 'Helping People Home' Grant, details of which were provided. The allocation for Hartlepool was £75,000.

### **Decision**

That the current position in relation to winter pressures be noted.

## **75. Chair's Closing Remarks**

Prior to closing the meeting the Chair stated that this was the last meeting of the Committee prior to the Council Elections and took the opportunity to thank all attendees for their contributions over the last year.

The meeting concluded at 12.45 pm

**P J DEVLIN**

**CHIEF SOLICITOR**

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