

# **ADULT SERVICES COMMITTEE**

## **MINUTES AND DECISION RECORD**

17 August 2015

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

### **Present:**

Councillor: Carl Richardson (In the Chair)

Councillors: Kelly Atkinson, Paul Beck, Brenda Loynes and Stephen Thomas

### **Also Present:**

In accordance with Council Procedure Rule 5.2 (ii) Councillor Jim Ainslie was in attendance as substitute for Councillor Sylvia Tempest and Councillor Allan Barclay was in attendance as substitute for Councillor Sandra Belcher

Judith Gray, Maureen Lockwood and Ruby Marshall – Healthwatch Representatives

Frank Harrison – Years Ahead Forum  
Members of the Public – Evelyn Leck, Sue Little, Stella Johnson, Gordon Johnson and John Lynch

Officers: Jill Harrison, Assistant Director, Adult Services  
Neil Harrison, Head of Service, Adult Services  
John Lovatt, Head of Service, Adult Services  
Alastair Rae, Public Relations Manager  
Denise Wimpenny, Principal Democratic Services Officer

## **21. Apologies for Absence**

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Councillors Sandra Belcher and Sylvia Tempest.

## **22. Declarations of Interest**

Councillor Thomas declared a personal interest in Minutes 24, 25 and 26 as an employee of Healthwatch.

## **23. Minutes of the meeting held on 6 July 2015**

Received

## **24. Centre for Independent Living Development** *(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 regarding the development of a new Centre for Independent Living.

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

The Head of Service referred to previous reports that had been submitted in relation to the proposals to develop a new Centre for Independent Living. The Centre would provide a range of services that supported adults with a disability to live more independently with a focus on promoting health and wellbeing, meaningful activity and access to community facilities and employment, details of which were set out in the report.

Members were advised that following a tender process, the contract to project manager and construct the new Centre for Independent Living had been awarded to the Council's in-house Building Design and Construction Section. Work had commenced on site in July 2015 and the new building would be completed in August 2016 and operational in September 2016.

A Project Management Board, supported by a Project Delivery Group had been established to oversee the development. A series of engagement events with key stakeholders had been held to ensure that the people who used the services understood both the nature of the development and the phases of construction.

Members welcomed the proposals and progress made to date and commented on the benefits of the new development. Tributes were paid to officers for their hard work in relation to the development.

In the discussion that followed the Head of Service and Assistant Director responded to issues raised by Members and members of the public in relation to the proposals.

As part of the development the need to widely examine transport issues was emphasised given that the location of the Centre was not well served by public transport. Members were keen to see an ongoing robust community engagement process as well as the need for a strategy to ensure the long term success of the building. A Member referred to the implications for Warren Road in terms of its potential future use and requested that the process for managing existing buildings following closure be outlined in future update reports. Members requested that future update reports should also explore transport issues, the long term success of the new building, the wider impacts on the town, feedback from community engagement as well as access and diversity considerations.

The Chair referred to the impact on individual wards and was of the view that individual Ward Members should be kept informed of the impact of the closures in their respective wards.

### **Decision**

- (i) That the progress with the development of the new Centre for Independent Living and comments of the Committee be noted.
- (ii) That future update reports should explore transport issues, the long term success of the new building, the process for managing existing buildings, the wider impacts on the town, feedback from community engagement and access and diversity considerations.

## **25. Hartlepool Local Executive Group – 2014/15 Performance Report** (*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) year end performance report for 2014-15 and to share a summary of the progress made with the implementation of the Tees-wide Safeguarding Adults Board (TSAB) strategic aims and objectives for the same period.

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

The report provided background information in relation to the pending

changes to adult protection arrangements in readiness for the implementation of the Care Act which included the establishment of a Local Executive Group. Linked to safeguarding and protecting adults from abuse or significant harm were Deprivation of Liberty Safeguards (DoLS), details of which were set out in the report.

Members were referred to a Year End Performance Report, attached as an appendix to the report. The report identified that there had been a significant increase in safeguarding alerts identifying possible cases of abuse of adults but a reduction in the number of alerts that then led to further investigation and action under safeguarding adult procedures. Although 302 alerts required no specific further action in terms of safeguarding procedures, these alerts were genuine concerns reported to the department and examined appropriately.

The report also highlighted the impact of the changes in relation to DoLS with referrals increasing from 38 in 2013/14 to 648 in 2014/15. As previously reported, this had created a significant pressure for Adult Services in relation to staffing, details of which were provided. The report provided details of the number of significant developments in relation to adult safeguarding in 2014/15 which included the formal establishment of the Tees-wide Safeguarding Adults Board and sub-groups to take specific projects forward, the development of an induction programme for TSAB Members, arrangements to finalise the TSAB annual report and strategic plan as well as the outcome of various case reviews.

Given the major changes taking place around safeguarding and deprivation of liberty standards, a Member commented on the benefits of the Committee receiving background information in relation to the key elements of those changes and how such changes had impacted upon local authorities and other organisations involved in these processes. The Head of Service advised the Committee of the challenges facing the Council as a result of the changes particularly in terms of resources and responded to further issues raised by Members in relation to the requirements and implications of the Deprivation of Liberty Safeguards.

It was noted that changes were likely to continue for a number of years. Given the complexity and financial implications of the changes and to assist Members with understanding and knowledge of these areas, it was suggested that compulsory training be provided to all Members of this Committee in relation to the changes and implications for the Council.

In response to a request for clarification, the Head of Service outlined the monitoring and recording process for dealing with referrals/complaints.

Concerns were expressed regarding the impact of additional budget pressures being placed on Adult Services and other organisations such

as the police and NHS in managing the changes to adult safeguarding arrangements. The Committee discussed the various mechanisms of ensuring all agencies were on board with the requirements and sought assurances in this regard. The Assistant Director of Adult Services added that an annual report and strategic plan from the Tees-wide Safeguarding Adults Board would be submitted to the November meeting of this Committee where there would be an opportunity to raise any concerns with the Independent Chair who would be in attendance. A Member of the Committee, who attended meetings of the Tees-wide Board, also agreed to convey the concerns expressed on behalf of the Committee.

In considering performance figures, the potential reasons for an increase in safeguarding alerts identifying possible cases of abuse of adults was discussed. The Chair advised that this demonstrated that people were now better informed and knew what to do should they want to raise a concern. In terms of the Deprivation of Liberty Safeguards figures, the increase was a reflection of legislative changes which had impacted similarly on other councils.

A Member reiterated concerns raised at previous meetings regarding the limited number of nursing beds available in the town which would only increase towards the winter months. The importance of preparations being made in advance of the winter period to avoid a crisis situation was emphasised.

The Chair advised that older persons care provision which would include nursing bed provision would be considered by this Committee, as a single item agenda on Monday 12 October 2015 and encouraged as many people as possible to attend. In response to further queries raised regarding the number of nursing beds currently available and a suggestion that this information be publicised, the Assistant Director advised that whilst the availability of nursing beds remained a concern, the data was not publicised given that it was constantly changing and would immediately be out of date. The Committee was assured that the levels were continually monitored by officers and information on nursing bed trends would be presented to the meeting in October to which the CCG, as responsible commissioner of nursing bed provision, and the CQC had been invited to attend.

A Health Watch representative referred to the impact on domiciliary care as a result of the nursing bed availability situation highlighting the shortage in nursing personnel within that sector. The need to have arrangements in place in the event that carers were ill as well as the importance of extending nursing provision within the home was highlighted and the Head of Service gave information regarding the Carers Emergency Response Service that was in place.

## **Decision**

- (i) That the contents of the report and comments of Members be noted.
- (ii) That the ongoing impact of the Supreme Court judgement in relation to Deprivation of Liberty Safeguards be noted.
- (iii) That a further report be received regarding the Tees-wide Safeguarding Board Annual Report and Strategic Plan when the documents were finalised.
- (iv) That compulsory training be provided to all Members of this Committee in relation to the changes to adult social care and implications for the Council as detailed above.

## **26. Learning Disability Update – Tees Integrated Commissioning Group (TIC)** *(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 in relation to the Tees Integrated Commissioning Group action plan for adults with learning disabilities and a number of key areas affecting this agenda.

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

The Head of Service presented the report which provided background information in relation to the establishment and purpose of the Tees Integrated Commissioning Group which had been operating since 2006 to ensure consistency of approach across Tees. Members were referred to the Action Plan for 2015/16, attached at Appendix 1.

The report included details of progress made on previous actions and main actions identified for TIC commissioners through the review and concordat.

The transforming care timescales identified nationally posed a significant challenge given the complexity of the people identified. The timescales required a 50% reduction in the number of people in hospital provision by June 2014. Most regions were not able to achieve this target. Three Hartlepool patients identified from the initial Winterbourne

Assessment Process had been successfully resettled into bespoke packages of care in the community, details of which were provided.

Members were advised that five areas had been identified to receive extra support to transform services for people with learning disability and/or autism and challenging behaviour or a mental health condition which included Cumbria and the North East. The five areas would receive extra technical support from NHS England to draw up transformation plans and would be able to access a £10million non-recurring transformation fund to kick start implementation from autumn 2015.

With regard to the next steps, the Committee was advised that the Tees Integrated Commissioning Group met and discussed the proposals on 10 July and had identified a number of areas for consideration as part of a regional bid, details of which were included in the report.

In the discussion that followed, whilst the report was welcomed disappointment was expressed regarding the indication in the report that crisis care arrangements needed further examination. Reference was made to the serious concerns that had been raised at previous meetings of this Committee regarding the proposed changes in crisis care provision within Hartlepool and assurances that had been provided by Tees Esk and Wear Valley NHS Foundation Trust at that time that all relevant issues had been considered prior to the decision being taken to close crisis beds and rehabilitation beds at Victoria Road in Hartlepool. Views were expressed that such considerations should have included the requirements of people with learning disabilities.

A member of the public expressed concerns that one individual in need of support was offered services in Whitby and was unable to accept this support due to transport problems. The Head of Service highlighted that different arrangements applied for in patient assessment and treatment beds and referred to a Government mandate placed on the NHS to reduce their bed capacity by 50%. The Committee was keen to review this issue and requested that the CCG, as the commissioner of crisis care provision, be invited to a future meeting of this Committee along with Tees Esk and Wear Valley NHS Foundation Trust.

## **Decision**

- (i) The Committee noted actions to date, updates on recent developments and to receive further reports as plans progressed.
- (ii) That this report had also been considered by the Health and Wellbeing Board on 3 August 2015 due to the implications across health and social care.
- (iii) That representatives from the CCG and Tees Esk and Wear Valley NHS Foundation Trust be invited to a future meeting of this Committee to discuss crisis care arrangements in Hartlepool in

response to concerns of Members as detailed above.

The meeting concluded at 11.10 am.

**P J DEVLIN**

**CHIEF SOLICITOR**

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