

# ADULT SERVICES COMMITTEE AGENDA



**Monday 14 September 2015**

**at 10.00 am**

**in Committee Room B, Civic Centre, Hartlepool**

MEMBERS: ADULT SERVICES COMMITTEE

Councillors Atkinson, Beck, Belcher, Loynes, Richardson, Tempest and Thomas

**1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

**2. TO RECEIVE ANY DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST BY MEMBERS**

**3. MINUTES**

- 3.1 To receive the Minutes and Decision Record in respect of the meeting held on 17 August 2015 (*for information as previously circulated*).

**4. BUDGET AND POLICY FRAMEWORK ITEMS**

- 4.1 Savings Programme 2016/17 – Adult Services – *Director of Child and Adult Services*

**5. KEY DECISIONS**

No items



**6. OTHER ITEMS REQUIRING DECISION**

No items

**7. ITEMS FOR INFORMATION**

7.1 Strategic Financial Management Report – as at 30<sup>th</sup> June 2015 – *Director of Child and Adult Services/Chief Finance Officer*

7.2 Implementation of the Care Act – *Director of Child and Adult Services*

**8. ANY OTHER BUSINESS WHICH THE CHAIR CONSIDERS URGENT**

**ITEMS FOR INFORMATION**

**Date of next meeting** – Monday 12 October 2015 at 10.00 am in Committee Room B, Civic Centre



## **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**

**PUBLICATION DATE: 24 AUGUST 2015**

# ADULT SERVICES COMMITTEE

14th September 2015



**Report of:** Director of Child & Adult Services

**Subject:** SAVINGS PROGRAMME 2016/17 – ADULT SERVICES

## 1. TYPE OF DECISION/APPLICABLE CATEGORY

1.1 Budget and Policy Framework.

## 2. PURPOSE OF REPORT

2.1 The purpose of this report is to enable Members to consider the initial 2016/17 savings proposals relating to the Committee's remit. Comments made are to be incorporated with those received from each of the Policy Committees in relation to their remits and reported to Finance and Policy Committee.

## 3. BACKGROUND

3.1 An initial update of the Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS) 2016/17 to 2018/19 was considered by the Finance and Policy Committee on 29 June 2015. This report highlighted the key issues impacting on the development of the budget for 2016/17 and future years, which reflects the following key issues:

- The scale of the Government grant cuts implemented over the lifetime of the previous Parliament. These reductions had a disproportionate impact on Council's serving more deprived communities and in 2015/16 the Council's Government grant was £30.4m less than it was in 2010/11, which is a reduction of 39%;
- Continuing significant Government grant cuts in 2016/17 and future years. It is currently forecast that further budget cuts of £14m will need to be made over the next three years, although this may increase if the actual Government grant cuts exceed current forecasts;

- The impact of financial risks transferred to Local Authorities from April 2013 arising from the implementation of the Business Rates Retention system and the transfer of responsibility for the Local Council Tax Support Scheme;
- The impact of demand led pressures – particularly in relation to older people and demographic pressures and increases in Looked After Children;
- Continued restriction of Council Tax increases.

3.2 In addition to the above financial challenges, a separate report was presented to the Finance and Policy Committee on 1 June 2015 to provide details of the outcome of the Power Station's Rateable Value appeal. The Valuation Office Agency (the organisation responsible for determining Rateable Values) has determined to reduce the Power Station Rateable Value by 48%. As a result of this reduction the Council's share of Business Rates income from the Power Station will reduce by £3.9m on a permanent basis. The Finance and Policy Committee will receive a further report on the strategy for addressing this issue. A meeting with the Local Government Minister has been requested to express the Council's concern at the impact of this reduction and to seek Government support to manage this significant reduction in Business Rates income.

3.3 As part of the process for the budget for 2016/17 it has been agreed that individual Policy Committees will consider departmental savings proposals prior to consideration by the Finance and Policy Committee and then Council.

3.4 Details are provided in this report in relation to the:-

- i) Proposals identified to make the savings;
- ii) Risks associated with the proposed savings; and
- iii) Financial considerations taken into account in developing the proposals.

3.5 In line with the process adopted in previous years and to assist Members' consideration of budget proposals, information in relation to the aim and scope of Adult Services, its service users and engagement, inputs, outputs and outcomes is provided below.

### 3.6 Service Aims

The focus of adult services is to support people to remain independent and to exercise choice and control regarding how their support needs are met. Some services are provided directly by the department (including assessment and care management and disability day services) while most services are commissioned (such as residential placements, services that support carers and day services for older people).

### 3.7 Service Users

People who use adult social care services in Hartlepool are over 18 and assessed as having a social care needs that meet the national eligibility criteria. Services support older people, people with learning disabilities, sensory loss or a physical disability, people with mental health needs, people who have alcohol dependency or substance misuse issues and carers.

### 3.8 Engagement

The department engages with people who use services through a range of methods including:

- Carers Strategy Group
- Learning Disability Partnership Board
- Mental Health Forum
- Champions of Older Lifestyles Group
- Service User Focus Groups; and
- Family Leadership Courses.

Feedback is also obtained through the annual Adult Social Care User Survey, a national Carer's Survey and through complaints and compliments.

### 3.9 Inputs

3.9.1 The current cost to the Council of the services delivered by the Child and Adult Services Department (excluding schools) is £72.8m, with £24.9m of income generated.

3.9.2 Within the departmental budget, the gross expenditure relating to adult social care is £48.5m, of which £18.5m is income from people's personal contributions, health funding and other sources, including reserves.

Category	Expenditure
Residential Placements	£19.4m
Personal Budgets	£18.3m
Social Care Activities inc Assessment & Care Management	£8.3m
Housing Related Support	£2.5m
	<b>£48.5m</b>

The breakdown of spend on personal budgets is as follows:-

Personal Budget Analysis:-	Expenditure
Home Care	£6.2m
Direct Payments	£5.4m
Supported Accommodation (including Extra Care)	£3.5m
Day Services	£1.6m
Equipment	£0.5m
Other	£1.1m
	<b>£18.3m</b>

The costs of these services to the Council have, in line with many other service areas in the Council, reduced significantly over the last 4 years.

### 3.10 Outcomes

The Care Quality Commission no longer assess or rate adult services but the last two assessments that were undertaken rated Hartlepool's services as excellent – the best rating that could be achieved. Since the last assessment, services have continued to perform well and most performance indicators for adult services have been achieved or exceeded.

Some of the outputs achieved are as follows:

- Over 5,700 people receive support from adult social care services.
- Over 2,000 carers had an assessment during the last year and received support to maintain their caring role.
- The number of people using telecare continues to grow with over 1,600 people currently being supported.
- People received over 5,600 pieces of equipment to help them stay at home and over 95% were received within 7 working days.

Some areas where particularly positive outcomes have been achieved include:

- Over 95% of people who have ongoing needs and are eligible to receive a personal budget have their support provided through a personal budget and exercise choice and control over how their support needs are met.
- Over 13% of adults with a learning disability and adults receiving mental health services are in paid employment.
- 76.3% of service users surveyed reporting that they are satisfied with adult services.
- 81.3% of people who use services and carers who were surveyed reporting that they find it easy to access information about services.
- 92.1% of carers surveyed reporting that they have been included or consulted in discussions about the person they care for.

## 4. **DEPARTMENTAL PROPOSALS**

4.1 The 2016/17 savings target for Child and Adult Services is £2.684m.

4.2 The departmental approach to identifying savings has been to focus on three key areas:-

- Reducing cost of high end demand through prevention, early intervention and reducing unit costs;
- Integration and service remodelling across functional areas; and
- Increasing income.

- 4.3 All areas of spend were reviewed under these headings, taking into account savings achieved in previous years and statutory responsibilities. Areas were identified where savings could be achieved with least impact on front line services for local people.
- 4.4 Reducing demand is a high priority for the department and measures have been taken that will impact on future demand to bring down spend in this area. There are some positive signs that these measures are being effective (such as the reduction in older people being permanently admitted to residential care), however, it will take time for the prevention and early intervention policies to take full effect, especially with demographic pressures arising from an increasingly older generation and an increasing number of children and adults with complex physical and learning disabilities.
- 4.5 Therefore, for 2016/17 it is proposed to use £0.934m of departmental reserves to help meet the savings target. This is not sustainable in the long term and is designed to provide a longer lead time to achieve these savings by delaying by one year, i.e. until 2017/18. A robust plan will be developed to ensure the deferred savings can be achieved in 2017/18.
- 4.6 It is proposed to use a combination of Children's Services reserves (£0.233m from Demand Management), Adult Services reserves (£0.233m from Demographic Pressures) and Public Health grant reserve (£0.468m), reflecting the greater integration of services between Child and Adults and Public Health.
- 4.7 In addition to the savings specific to Children's Services, Education and Adult Services the following departmental savings are generic and contribute towards the overall departmental target:
- **Further integration of early help and intervention services across social care, education and public health – Saving £0.5m.** By working more closely with Public Health it is proposed that the Public Health grant can be utilised across Child and Adult Services to support the aims of improving and enhancing Public Health across Hartlepool.
  - **Departmental Salary Abatement Target – Saving £0.25m.** It is proposed to re-introduce a salary abatement target which will account for vacant posts and incremental drift across the department. This proposal will need to be closely monitored during the year and is only a short term proposal as when officers move through the pay grade towards the top of their pay scale the ability to contribute towards this target will reduce. Robust plans will be developed to identify alternative savings when this becomes necessary and details will be reported to Members as part of future savings report.

#### 4.8 Children's Services (including Education) Proposals – Saving £0.4m

- 4.8.1 Details of these savings will be reported to the Children's Services Committee.

### 5. **ADULT SERVICES PROPOSALS**

- 5.1 Within adult services, the following savings have been made over the last four financial years:

• 2012/13	-	£1,570,000
• 2013/14	-	£860,000
• 2014/15	-	£1,325,000
• 2015/16	-	£1,075,000

- 5.1.1 Reducing budgets by this level on an ongoing basis cannot be achieved without an impact on frontline services and on people who use adult social care services, although proposals have sought to minimise this impact as far as possible. It is inevitable that further savings proposals will have an increasing impact on frontline services, as it is not possible to sustain current levels of service and performance with reducing budgets and increasing demands on services.

- 5.1.2 There is no scope to further increase income following the decision by Adult Services Committee in January 2014 to implement a revised Contributions Policy from April 2014 which requires people to contribute up to 100% of the costs of their support.

- 5.1.3 The proposed savings within adult services therefore focus primarily on integration and reducing high end demand (primarily through the Better Care Fund work) and a small element of reducing costs through a review of contracts and non pay budgets.

- 5.1.4 The proposed contribution to the departmental target from adult services is £0.6m.

- 5.2 The savings proposals specific to the Adult Services Committee are as follows:-

#### 5.3 Further Integration of Health and Social Care – Saving £0.25m

- 5.3.1 The implementation of Hartlepool's Better Care Fund (BCF) plan will further integrate health and social care services, particularly those that support older people. The aim of the BCF plan is to:

- Reduce the number of people aged 65 and over who are permanently admitted to residential care;
- Maintain current excellent performance in relation to delayed discharges attributable to social care;
- Reduce the number of delayed discharges and lost bed days from acute settings for people aged 65 and over who are medically fit for discharge;



- Reduce avoidable emergency admissions of people aged 65 and over;
- Increase the diagnosis rate of dementia;
- Increase the number of people supported by assistive technology; and
- Increase the number of people accessing reablement services.

5.3.2 This will be achieved through a focus on:

- Low Level Support and Management of Long Term Conditions
- Intermediate Care
- Improved Dementia Pathways

5.3.3 By moving to new models of service delivery, reorganisation of pathways and removal of professional boundaries, reliance on intensive, high cost interventions will be reduced which will achieve savings across the health and social care economy.

5.3.4 The Hartlepool BCF plan identifies that funding currently allocated through the NHS Transfer to Social Care has been used to enable the local authority to sustain the current level of eligibility criteria and to maintain existing integrated services that support timely hospital discharge, delivery of reablement and telecare services, commissioning of low level support services and support for carers.

5.3.5 The plan states that investment in these services will need to be sustained to maintain this as the social care offer for Hartlepool and to maintain current eligibility criteria and will need to be increased in order to deliver 7 day services and to address the implications of the Care Bill, which will require additional assessments to be undertaken for people who did not previously access social care and provision of further support for carers.

5.3.6 It is also proposed that additional resources are invested in social care to deliver enhanced reablement and step up services, which will reduce hospital admissions and readmissions as well as permanent admissions to residential and nursing home care.

5.3.7 It is anticipated that, through a combination of reducing the need for intensive, high cost services and additional investment in social care services that have a health benefit, a saving of £250,000 can be achieved through further integration of health and social care.

#### 5.4 Review of Contracts and Non-Pay Budgets – Saving £0.15m

5.4.1 A range of services are commissioned by the Council to support adults with social care needs including:

- low level support;
- housing related support;
- support for people with sensory loss;
- day services for older people; and
- support for people with dementia.

The total value of these contracts is approximately £3.3m.

- 5.4.2 A saving of approximately £1m has been made against these contracts over the past four years through renegotiation of existing contracts and retendering where appropriate to achieve better value for money, leaving little scope to achieve further savings in this area without a significant detrimental impact on people using services.
- 5.4.3 It is proposed that inflationary uplifts are not offered on these contracts from April 2016, which will achieve a saving of approximately £75,000.
- 5.4.4 In addition to a review of contracts, a review of all non pay budgets has been undertaken. This has identified a number of areas where budgets have been set based on historic spend, but have not been fully committed in recent years. This includes budgets for events, conferences, room hire etc. This review has identified savings of approximately £75,000.
- 5.5 Reduction in Demand for Services – Saving £0.20m
  - 5.5.1 Over 80% of the gross budget for Adult Services is spent on demand led services, primarily on residential placements and packages of support that are delivered in the community. In order to continue reducing spend on Adult Services, it is therefore essential that plans are implemented that aim to reduce this demand.
  - 5.5.2 Reducing demand is very challenging in the context of people living longer, an increased prevalence of dementia and increasing numbers of working age adults with complex learning and / or physical disabilities, as well as more people experiencing mental health issues.
  - 5.5.3 Strategies have been in place for some time that aim to reduce reliance on more intensive and costly services, such as residential care placements. These include investment in assistive technology / telecare, investment in extra care housing and development of reablement services that support people to regain their independence following a hospital stay. There is some evidence that these strategies are beginning to reduce demand for residential care, as the number of permanent admissions to residential care has reduced in 2014/15 when compared to the previous year. However, it should be noted that packages of support in the community are not necessarily more cost effective as people can require a significant level of support in their own homes to maintain their safety and independence.
  - 5.5.4 Through delivery of the Better Care Fund plan initiatives around early intervention, prevention and low level services, and continued work to promote alternatives to residential care, it has been identified that a saving of £200k could be achieved through reducing demand for services.

## 6. CONSIDERATION OF OPTIONS

- 6.1 A number of other options have been considered in respect of the savings proposed. A summary of these considerations is included below.

6.1.1 Reducing Capacity in Care Management Teams

This is considered too high risk due to the significant impact on people using services, impact on caseloads for social workers and the massively increased requirements in relation to Deprivation of Liberty Safeguards.

6.1.2 Reducing Spend on Residential Placements

This is not possible in light of the fair cost of care and increased pressure on residential provision. A number of providers have already contacted the Council requesting an increase in fees due to the financial pressures on providers associated with increases in the national minimum wage and increasing costs of food and utilities.

6.1.3 Reducing Spend on Personal Budgets

People who already have services can't have their personal budget reduced without evidence of a reduction in their assessed level of need as the Council has a statutory duty to meet assessed need. A reduction in assessed need is difficult to evidence when the majority of people that are supported by the department have an ongoing need or condition which is likely to result in increasing support needs over time and with age.

It is not possible to reduce spend on future personal budgets without a fundamental review of the Council's approach to personalisation and the Resource Allocation System. Any attempt to reduce spend without a full consultation exercise and a clear rationale for change would result in significant risk of judicial review, as has been seen elsewhere in the country.

This issue will be revisited when considering savings for 2017/18. Any proposed changes will have a significant lead time due to the requirement for consultation and will involve detailed financial modelling work to assess the potential saving that could be achieved.

6.1.4 Increasing Income

There is no scope to further increase income from contributions of people using services following the implementation in April 2014 of a revised Contributions Policy requiring people to contribute up to 100% of the costs of their support, dependent upon their ability to pay for services.

The savings proposals identified in 2015/16 take into account use of NHS funding via the Better Care Fund to support and protect social care services which would otherwise be at risk. Services already funded from the Better Care Fund allocation include reablement services, telecare, transitional care beds that support people after a hospital stay, support for carers, low level services, support services and equipment for older people in their own homes and day services for people with dementia

## 7. RISK IMPLICATIONS

- 7.1 Using reserves to contribute towards the savings target is not sustainable and only delays the savings until 2017/18. This has been implemented in the hope that early intervention, prevention and other policies will assist in the reduction of demand for services thus reducing costs. Given the increasing demographic pressures from an ageing population and increasing numbers of adults with complex physical or learning disabilities there is a significant risk that demand will not reduce and may in fact increase. There are also risks that costs of services increase with work that is underway nationally in terms of fair cost of care exercises for residential care and domiciliary care services. This may result in increasing costs for services, even if demand can be constrained or reduced.
- 7.2 There are risks associated with introducing a salary abatement target:-
- limited number of vacancies during the year and/or vacancies are filled immediately;
  - staff move through the pay grades and reach the top of pay scale quicker than anticipated ie. qualifications and experience based progression for Social Workers and Social Care Officers; and
  - incremental drift and vacancies have previously allowed some in-year flexibility within departmental budgets, offsetting budget pressures elsewhere within the budget and meeting urgent need.
- 7.3 There are significant risks associated with the successful delivery of the BCF Plan which are logged in a BCF risk register and will be developed further as detailed plans for BCF implementation are agreed. The risks include:
- There is insufficient time to implement the schemes to have the impact in the short term on performance and savings.
  - The schemes identified in the BCF fail to deliver the required reduction in acute and care home activity, impacting on the funding available to support core services and future schemes.
  - Partners can't agree the best model of service delivery and / or the implementation of the model.
  - Introduction of the Care Act results in significant pressures for social care services with resulting impacts on the delivery of the BCF plan.
  - There has been no confirmation regarding Better Care Fund allocations for the future. Allocations are currently only in place for 2015/16.
- 7.4 It is anticipated that the risks highlighted above in relation to using these measures to help balance the 2016/17 budget are manageable. However, the sustainability of these issues beyond 2016/17 will require careful management and if these items are not sustainable, alternative savings proposals will need to be identified and reported as part of a future year's savings report.

## 8. FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS

- 8.1 The proposals outlined above deliver the savings as summarised in the table below. These proposals include the use of £0.934 of departmental reserves in 2016/17, which provides a longer lead time to identify permanent budget savings from managing demand. Achievement of these reductions will be challenging and require carefully management and if these savings cannot be achieved alternative proposals will need to be identified for consideration by Members:-

Proposals:-	Proposed Savings
<b>Departmental</b>	
Integration of early help and intervention services across social care, education and public health	£500,000
Departmental Salary Abatement Target	£250,000
Children's Services Proposals	£400,000
Use of Children's Reserves	£233,000
Use of Adult Services Reserves	£233,000
Use of Public Health Reserves	£468,000
	<b>£2,084,000</b>
<b>Adult Services</b>	
Further Integration of Health & Social Care	£250,000
Review Contracts & Non-Pay Budgets	£150,000
Reduction in Demand for Services	£200,000
	<b>£600,000</b>
<b>Total Departmental Saving</b>	<b>£2,684,000</b>

## 9. EQUALITY CONSIDERATIONS

- 9.1 By definition, all of the savings proposals in adult services will affect the people who access adult services – those who are over eighteen and assessed as having eligible needs (older people, people with learning disabilities, sensory loss or a physical disability, people with mental health needs, people who have alcohol dependency or substance misuse issues and carers).
- 9.2 An assessment has indicated that none of the current proposals require an Equality Impact Assessment as the proposals will have limited impact on people accessing services and no disproportionate impact on people who share protected characteristics.

## **10. RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 10.1 It is recommended that Members of the Adult Services Committee note the content of the report and formulate a response to be presented to Finance and Policy Committee on 19 October 2015.

## **11. REASON FOR RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 11.1 The proposals included in this report will contribute to the delivery of the Child & Adult Services savings target for 2016/17.

## **12. BACKGROUND PAPERS**

- 12.1 The following background papers were used in the preparation of this report:-

Finance and Policy Committee - Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS)  
2015/16 to 2017/18 - 29 June 2015

## **13. CONTACT OFFICERS**

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# ADULT SERVICES COMMITTEE

14<sup>th</sup> September 2015



**Report of:** Director of Child & Adult Services and Chief Finance Officer

**Subject:** STRATEGIC FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT REPORT - AS AT 30<sup>th</sup> JUNE 2015

## 1. TYPE OF DECISION/APPLICABLE CATEGORY

For Information.

## 2. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 2.1 The purpose of the report is to inform Members of the 2015/16 forecast General Fund Outturn, 2015/16 Capital Programme Monitoring and provide details for the specific budget areas that this Committee is responsible for.

## 3. BACKGROUND AND FINANCIAL OUTLOOK

- 3.1 As detailed in the Medium Term Financial Strategy Report submitted to the Finance and Policy Committee on 29<sup>th</sup> June 2015 the Government will implement further cuts in funding for Councils in 2016/17 and future years. It is anticipated that these additional Government funding cuts will continue to have a disproportionate impact on Hartlepool, and other Councils, which are still more reliant on this funding and have higher levels of deprivation/demand for services. This position was reinforced in the Spending Review document published by the Government on 21<sup>st</sup> July 2015. Whilst this document did not provide any specific detail of the impact of the Spending Review on individual Government Departments, it did state that HM Treasury
- “is inviting government departments to set out plans for reductions to their Resources budgets. In line with the approach taken in 2010, the HM Treasury is asking departments to model two scenarios, of 25% and 40% savings in real terms, by 2019/20”.
- 3.2 The Spending Review document did not provide any detail of the phasing of the potential funding cuts over the next 4 years. On the basis of a 40% reduction being applied evenly across the next 4 years this equates to annual reductions of 10%, which is the current MTFS planning assumption, albeit that the MTFS only covers 3 financial years. However, if the Government cuts are front loaded

and/or have a greater disproportionate impact than in previous years the forecast 2016/17 budget deficit may increase.

- 3.3 The Spending Review also included Government proposals for a 1% Public Sector Pay cap for 4 years from 2016/17 and the phased implementation of a National Living Wage. Further information is needed to assess the financial impact on the MTFS forecasts, although an initial analysis suggests these changes will result in an additional budget pressure in 2017/18 and beyond.
- 3.4 The Government has stated that the Spending Review outcome will be published on 25<sup>th</sup> November 2015. This means that the Local Government Funding announcement is unlikely to be made until late December 2015, which makes financial planning for 2016/17 extremely challenging.
- 3.5 In view of the ongoing financial challenges and risks detailed in the previous paragraphs the Corporate Management Team will continue to adopt robust budget management arrangements during 2015/16 and as detailed in section 4 an underspend is forecast. This position will need to be managed carefully over the remainder of the financial year, particularly over the winter period where some services face their highest demand and therefore cost of providing services.
- 3.6 A review of reserves will also be completed and reported to Finance and Policy Committee in October. This review is unlikely to provide the same benefits as in previous years as existing reserves are aligned to specific risks or supporting the MTFS and Local Council Tax Support scheme. However, it is good financial practice to review reserves on an annual basis, as this demonstrates the purposes each reserve is held for and when it is planned the resources will be used.
- 3.7 The Finance and Policy Committee has also received a report on the outcome of the Power Station Rateable Value appeal and the significant reduction in retained Business Income for the Council. This issue is still being progressed with the Department for Communities and Local Government and a further report will be presented to a future meeting of the Finance and Policy Committee when more information is available.
- 3.8 It is recommended that one-off resources achieved from the 2015/16 forecast outturn (which for planning purposes it is assumed will be achieved) and the reserves review are earmarked to manage the risks referred to earlier in the report. This will enable a strategy for using these uncommitted one-off resources to be developed as part of the MTFS, which will ensure these resources are used to underpin the Council's financial position.

#### **4. REPORTING ARRANGEMENTS 2015/16**

- 4.1 The availability and reporting of accurate and up to date financial information is increasingly important as future budget cuts are implemented and one-off resources are used up.



- 4.2 The Finance and Policy Committee will continue to receive regular reports which will provide a comprehensive analysis of departmental and corporate forecast outturns, including an explanation of the significant budget variances. This will enable the Finance and Policy Committee to approve a strategy for addressing the financial issues and challenges facing the Council.
- 4.3 To enable a wider number of Members to understand the financial position of the Council and their service specific areas each Policy Committee will receive a separate report providing:
- a brief summary of the overall financial position of the Council as reported to the Finance and Policy Committee;
  - the specific budget areas for their Committee; and
  - the total departmental budget where this is split across more than one Committee. This information will ensure Members can see the whole position for the departmental budget.

## **5. SUMMARY OF OVERALL COUNCIL FINANCIAL POSITION**

- 5.1 As detailed earlier in the report an early assessment of the forecast 2015/16 outturn has been completed and this reflects action taken by the Corporate Management Team to achieve under spends to help address the significant financial challenges facing the Council over the next few years. Budget under spends are being achieved through a combination of robust management actions, including;
- holding posts vacant, which will help reduce the number of compulsory redundancies required to balance the 2016/17 budget;
  - achieving planned 2016/17 savings early; and
  - careful management of budgets to avoid expenditure where this does not have an adverse impact on services.
- 5.2 The latest report submitted to the Finance and Policy Committee on 28<sup>th</sup> August 2015 anticipated that there will be a forecast net under spend of between £669,000 and £889,000. The range reflects a small number of potential seasonal factors. As detailed in the report to Finance and Policy Committee it was recommended that the forecast net under spend is earmarked to help manage the financial risks referred to in section 3 and a strategy for using these one-off resources developed as part of the 2016/17 MTFS.

## **6. 2015/16 FORECAST GENERAL FUND OUTTURN – Adult Services Committee**

- 6.1 The following table sets out the overall budget position for the Child and Adult Services Department broken down by Committee, together with a brief comment on the reasons for the forecast outturn.

Budget	Description of Expenditure	June Projected Outturn Adverse/ (Favourable) Worst Case	June Projected Outturn Adverse/ (Favourable) Best Case	Comments
£'000		£'000	£'000	
30,184	Adult Committee - Core Services	0	(130)	Worst case assumes that the DoLS reserve and Supporting Social Care reserves are required to fund overspends mainly arising within Older People services, adults with a learning disability and the unbudgeted Deprivation of Liberty Safeguards requirements. Best Case reflects the uncertainty at this stage in the year regarding the level of some of the pressures.
17,690	Children's Committee	0	(65)	Worst case assumes that reserves will be required to offset overspends mainly within Children & Families. Best case reflects the uncertainty at this stage in the year regarding the level of some of the pressures.
<b>47,874</b>	<b>Total Child &amp; Adult</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>(195)</b>	
<b>Creation of Reserves</b>				
-	Adults - Care Act Risk Reserve	0	130	Worst case assumes that funding is not available from a departmental under spend to create the reserve, which would increase financial risk in future years. Best case assumes funding is available to create a reserve to manage the potential funding risks arising from delays in implementing elements of the Care Act.
-	Children's - Early Intervention Reserve	0	65	Worst case assumes that funding is not available from a departmental under spend to create the reserve, which would increase financial risk in future years. Best case assumes funding is available to create a reserve to manage the potential funding risks of remodelling early help and social care services.
-	<b>Creation of Reserves Total</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>195</b>	
<b>47,874</b>	<b>Total Child &amp; Adult - Net of Reserves</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	

6.2 Further details of the specific budget areas this Committee is responsible for are provided in **Appendix A**.

6.3 The unbudgeted costs relating to Deprivation of Liberty Safeguards (DoLS) remain a budget pressure. These costs will be funded from a combination of departmental reserves and, where possible, from the 2015/16 Adult Services managed budget underspend. This situation demonstrates the financial risks Councils face in providing services and the importance of having a multi-year financial strategy.

## 7. CAPITAL MONITORING 2015/16

7.1 The 2015/16 MTFS set out planned capital expenditure for the period 2015/16 to 2017/18.

7.2 Expenditure against budget to the 30<sup>th</sup> June 2015 for this Committee can be summarised in the following table and further details are provided in **Appendix B**.

Department	2015/16 and Future Years Budget	2015/16 Budget	2015/16 Actual to 30/06/15	2015/16 Remaining Expenditure	2015/16 Re-phased Expenditure	2015/16 Total Expenditure	2015/16 Variance from Budget Adverse/ (Favourable)
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Adult Services	5,144	3,254	16	3,238	0	3,254	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>5,144</b>	<b>3,254</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>3,238</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>3,254</b>	<b>0</b>

## **8. RECOMMENDATIONS**

8.1 It is recommended that Members:

- i) Note the report;

## **9. REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS**

To update the Members on the Committees forecast 2015/16 General Fund revenue budget outturn and provide an update on the Capital Programme for 2015/16.

## **10. BACKGROUND PAPERS**

Strategic Financial Management Report – as at 30<sup>th</sup> June 2015 – Finance and Policy Committee 28<sup>th</sup> August 2015  
Medium Term Financial Strategy Report - Council 18<sup>th</sup> December 2014.  
Medium Term Financial Strategy Report Update Report – Finance and Policy Committee 29<sup>th</sup> June 2015

## **11. CONTACT OFFICERS**

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## REVENUE FINANCIAL MONITORING REPORT FOR FINANCIAL YEAR 2015/16 as at 30th June, 2015

Approved 2015/2016 Budget  £'000	Description of Service Area	June		Director's Explanation of Variance
		Projected Outturn Variance - Adverse/ (Favourable) Worst Case  £'000	Projected Outturn Variance - Adverse/ (Favourable) Best Case  £'000	
Adult Committee				
0	Carers & Assistive Technology	0	0	
3,527	Commissioning & Adults General	(345)	(365)	The underspend mainly relates to receipt of grants in respect of Care Act implementation, winter pressures and reducing delayed hospital discharges (Helping People Home).
1,196	Commissioning-Mental Health	5	5	
10,177	Commissioning-Older People	300	250	Ongoing budget pressures within services for older people due to demographic pressures and increased demand for services.
7,866	Commissioning-Working Age Adult	400	200	Ongoing budget pressures within learning disability services arising from transitions from Children's and an increase in complexity of need.
187	Complaints & Public Information	0	0	
1,406	Departmental Running Costs	(40)	(50)	Incremental drift on salaries and underspends against various supplies and services budgets which will contribute towards 16/17 budget savings.
696	Direct Care & Support Team	45	20	
383	LD & Transition Social Work	0	0	
2,572	Locality & Safeguarding Teams	(250)	(300)	Underspend relates to vacant posts, vacant hours and incremental drift for Social Workers and Social Care Officers who are on career grades which results in a range of bandings depending on qualifications and experience. Budgets are set prudently to reflect payment at the top of scale and the underspend reflects the fact there have been a number of new workers appointed at the lower end of the scale resulting in a short term saving of up to £10k per worker.
649	Mental Health Services	(65)	(65)	Underspend relates to a vacant post which will be filled in August, incremental drift and some non-pay budgets which will contribute towards 16/17 budget savings.
210	OT & Disability Equipment	55	0	The range reflects uncertainty around the level of demand for equipment for the remainder of the year.
180	Workforce Planning & Dev	0	0	
1,135	Working Age Adult Day Services	(85)	(95)	This reflects planned budget savings to contribute towards the Prudential Borrowing costs for the new CIL.
30,184	Sub Total	20	(400)	
0	Deprivation of Liberty Standards (DoLS) - Pressure	330	270	Pressure relates to increased staffing requirements due to a 1600% increase in activity following a Supreme Court Judgement. Range reflects uncertainty over legal, medical and Best Interest Assessor costs given this is first full financial year of operation. Pressure is partly offset by one-off allocation of £50k DoLS grant.
0	Release of Departmental Reserve for DoLS	(330)	0	In the best case scenario, it is proposed to fund the cost of DoLS from within the overall departmental outturn position with the reserve being rephased to enable the DoLS pressure to be funded from reserves for a longer time period.
0	Release of Supporting Social Care Reserve	(20)	0	Contingency reserve to fund potential overspend within worst case scenario.
30,184	Adult Committee Total (before Creation of Reserves)	0	(130)	
Creation of Reserves				
0	Care Act Risk Reserve	0	130	Following the recent announcement to delay the care cap element of the Care Act until April 2020 there remains uncertainty around the additional Care Act funding received in 2015/16 and whether this will continue in future years. It is proposed to create a risk reserve to provide a contingency against any future reduction in funding.
30,184	Adult Committee Total - Net of Reserves	0	0	

**PLANNED USE OF RESERVES**

The above figures include the 2015/2016 approved budget along with the planned use of Departmental Reserves created in previous years.  
The details below provide a breakdown of these reserves

Approved 2015/2016 Budget £'000	Description of Service Area	Planned Usage 2015/2016 £'000	Variance Over/ (Under) £'000	Director's Explanation of Variance
<b>Adult Committee</b>				
33	Carers Funding	33	0	
0	Social Inclusion & Lifestyle pathways contract extension	25	25	Delays in tendering this contract have required use of the specific reserve to fund the interim costs; Contract now awarded and commences end of August 2015
270	Deprivation of Liberty Safeguards (DoLS)	0	(270)	In the best case scenario, it is proposed to fund the cost of DoLS from within the overall departmental outturn position with the reserve being rephased to enable the DoLS pressure to be funded from reserves for a longer time period.
30	Care Bill Implementation Reserve	0	(30)	The post to be funded from this reserve will now be funded from the Care Act grant allocation.
<b>333</b>	<b>Adult Committee Sub Total</b>	<b>58</b>	<b>(275)</b>	

**ADULT SERVICES COMMITTEE**
**APPENDIX B**
**CAPITAL MONITORING REPORT PERIOD ENDING 30th JUNE 2015**

Project Code	Scheme Title	BUDGET		EXPENDITURE IN CURRENT YEAR					Type of Financing	2015/16 COMMENTS
		A	B	C	D	E	F	G		
		2015/16 and Future Years Budget £'000	2015/16 Budget £'000	2015/16 Actual as at 30/06/15 £'000	2015/16 Expenditure Remaining £'000	Expenditure Rephased into 2016/17 £'000	(C+D+E) 2015/16 Total Expenditure £'000	(F-B) 2015/16 Variance from Budget £'000		
<b>Adult Committee</b>										
7234	Chronically Sick and Disabled Persons Adaptations	598	598	11	587	0	598	0	MIX	
8075	Short Break Capital Grants Pool	21	21	0	21	0	21	0	RCCO	
8108	Centre for Independent Living - New Build	4,525	2,635	5	2,630	0	2,635	0	MIX	
<b>Adult Committee Total</b>		<b>5,144</b>	<b>3,254</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>3,238</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>3,254</b>	<b>0</b>		

**Key**

RCCO Revenue Contribution towards Capital  
 MIX Combination of Funding Types  
 UCPB Unsupported Corporate Prudential Borrowing  
 SCE Supported Capital Expenditure (Revenue)

GRANT Grant Funded  
 CAP REC Capital Receipt  
 UDPB Unsupported Departmental Prudential Borrowing  
 SPB Supported Prudential Borrowing

# ADULT SERVICES COMMITTEE

14 September 2015



**Report of:** Director of Child & Adult Services

**Subject:** IMPLEMENTATION OF THE CARE ACT

## 1. TYPE OF DECISION/APPLICABLE CATEGORY

1.1 No decision required; for information.

## 2. PURPOSE OF REPORT

2.1 The purpose of this report is to provide the Adult Services Committee with an update on the implementation of the Care Act.

## 3. BACKGROUND

3.1 The Care Act introduced reforms to the provision of care and support and underlines the need for councils to promote wellbeing, prevention and independence. It also introduces a new national eligibility criteria and new rights for carers and children in transition to adult services.

3.2 The Care Act draws together a range of health and social care legislation built-up over seventy years and creates a single, modern law that clarifies and simplifies what kind of care and support people can expect.

3.3 From April 2015 a number of new duties and requirements have been introduced or strengthened, including:

- New wellbeing and prevention duties;
- New duties regarding provision of information and advice;
- New market shaping duties;
- A national eligibility criteria;
- New duties regarding assessments for carers;
- Statutory requirements in respect of Personal Budgets and Support Plans;
- Statutory requirements to offer deferred payment agreements.

#### **4. IMPACT FOR LOCAL AUTHORITIES**

- 4.1 The Care Act is expected to have a major impact on Local Authorities in terms of how they assess needs and deliver care and support. The areas where there is expected to be the greatest impact are as follows:

4.1.2 Preventing Needs for Care & Support

Councils must provide, or arrange the provision of, preventative services which help prevent or delay the development of care and support needs for individuals and carers, or help to reduce existing care and support needs.

4.1.3 Provision of Information, Advice and Advocacy

Councils are required to ensure that there is comprehensive information and advice about care and support services in their area and ensure the availability of independent advocates to support people to be involved in key processes, such as assessment and care planning, where the person would otherwise be unable to be involved.

4.1.4 Meeting Duties for Carers' Assessments

Councils have a duty to carry out assessments for all carers, and carers no longer have to be providing substantial care on a regular basis to be eligible for an assessment.

- 4.2 In order to implement the Care Act, Local Authorities are required to:

4.2.1 Quality & Safeguarding

Respond to safeguarding enquiries, set up a Safeguarding Adults Board, undertake safeguarding reviews and share information with key partners.

4.2.2 Workforce

Ensure the whole social care workforce (including those not directly employed by the council) has the required capacity, skills and knowledge to implement the Care Act effectively.

4.2.3 Commissioning

Develop the quality and range of services that local people want and need, including integrating care and support with health and housing where this delivers better care and promotes well-being.

#### **5. IMPLEMENTING THE CARE ACT IN HARTLEPOOL**

- 5.1 The Implementation Steering Group continues to meet to oversee Care Act implementation, supported by three sub groups focused on:

- Operational and Workforce Issues
- Advice and Information
- Finance, Commissioning and Performance



- 5.2 Following approval by the Adult Services Committee, the 2014/15 Care Act Implementation Grant was used to support this work through:
- Appointment of additional staff to provide project management capacity, develop public information and review of policies and procedures to accommodate the new requirements of the Care Act; and
  - procurement of a new IT solution to replace the previous Hartlepool Now website and provide a more interactive means of people accessing the information and advice that they need.
- 5.3 Staff briefings were held for all adult services staff in January / February 2015 with further information shared through newsletters, brief guides and an e-learning platform that allows large numbers of the social care workforce to demonstrate understanding and compliance with the Care Act.
- 5.4 A review of how carers are supported through Direct Payments was undertaken and a new approach implemented from 1 April 2015 which made the system more transparent and equitable.
- 5.5 Policies and procedures and documentation for assessment, review and support planning has undergone a fundamental review to ensure compliance with the Care Act, while also aiming to simplify the current system and reduce duplication for frontline staff. This has been a very time consuming piece of work which may impact in the short term on local performance indicators including the proportion of people receiving an annual review.
- 5.6 The Teeswide Safeguarding Adults Board is established as the statutory safeguarding board for the four Tees Local Authorities with an Independent Chair and a Business Unit established to support safeguarding work across Tees. A Designated Safeguarding Manager has been identified for Hartlepool and a Safeguarding Adult Review has been instigated following the murder of a vulnerable adult, in line with Care Act requirements.
- 5.7 Work is underway through the implementation of the Better Care Fund to explore how services can be better integrated across health and social care and a Housing, Care & Support Strategy will be developed which identifies the range of services required to meet local needs.
- 5.8 Care Act leads continue to meet across the region to share good practice and work collaboratively on areas where a shared approach is beneficial.

## **6. NATIONAL CARE ACT STOCK TAKE**

- 6.1 The Care Act stock take was developed by the Department of Health, Association of Directors of Adult Social Services and the Local Government Association to map progress on a national basis.

- 6.2 The fourth stock take for Hartlepool, submitted in June 2015, indicated no major concerns in relation to Care Act implementation in 2015/16. A number of risks were highlighted in relation to the proposed introduction of funding reforms from April 2016 and the unknown levels of additional demand (and associated workload and cost) that this could generate.

## **7. ANNOUNCEMENT REGARDING FUNDING REFORMS**

- 7.1 It was announced on 17 July 2015 that, in response to a letter from the Local Government Association calling for a delay, the implementation of the cap on care costs, which was due to take place in April 2016, has been delayed until 2020.
- 7.2 The letter from Jon Rouse, Director General of Social Care, Local Government and Care Partnerships, indicates that 'a clear commitment to introducing the cap in this Parliament remains in place and the preparatory work that has already been undertaken at a national and local level will by no means have been wasted. Rather, the delay will allow time for this work to be developed more fully and for us to work to explore what more we can do to improve the overall offer on paying for care'.

## **8. RISK IMPLICATIONS**

- 8.1 The latest Care Act Stock Take identified a number of risks in relation to the implementation of financial reforms from April 2016:
- Unknown levels of additional demand from 'self funders' (people who currently purchase their own care and support but may come to the council for an assessment and a Care Account once the new legislation is in place);
  - Unknown levels of additional demand from carers;
  - Unknown additional workforce capacity required to manage the raised numbers of additional assessments as a result of additional demand; and
  - Unknown total implementation costs.
- 8.2 The implementation of financial reforms has now been delayed until 2020 which defers the risks until a new implementation date is confirmed.

## **9. FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS**

- 9.1 The Council received a one off allocation of £125,000 in 2014/15 to support implementation of the Care Act, which was used as agreed by Adult Services Committee in September 2014 to support project management capacity, training and awareness raising and information and advice, with the balance remaining on the grant carried forward as a specific reserve to continue to support implementation in 2015/16.

9.2 The Council also received revenue allocations as follows:

<b>Allocation</b>	<b>Funding for 2015/16</b>
Better Care Fund	£266,000
New Burdens: Additional Assessments	£217,000
New Burdens: Deferred Payments	£155,000
New Burdens: Additional Support for Carers	£116,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>£754,000</b>

9.3 This funding is currently being used to manage demand within care management teams through additional staffing, as well as supporting advice and information provision, support for carers and provision of advocacy services.

9.4 The position in 2016/17 and future years will need to be assessed when funding allocations for these years are known. This will include assessing the impact of the baseline funding for 2015/16 being mainstreamed, which is a potential risk as it then becomes subject to cuts.

## 10. LEGAL CONSIDERATIONS

10.1 There are no legal considerations associated with this update.

## 11. CHILD AND FAMILY POVERTY CONSIDERATIONS

11.1 There are no child and family poverty considerations associated with this update.

## 12. EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY CONSIDERATIONS

12.1 The Care Act aims to improve access to services and increase equity through the introduction of a national eligibility criteria.

12.2. No equality and diversity considerations have been identified linked to local implementation.

## 13. STAFF CONSIDERATIONS

13.1 There are no staffing considerations associated with this update.

## 14. ASSET MANAGEMENT CONSIDERATIONS

14.1 There are no asset management considerations associated with this update.

## **15. RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 9.1 It is recommended that the Adult Services Committee:
- Note progress in relation to implementation of the Care Act; and
  - Receive a further update in six months which will identify how resources have been used to meet increasing demand for services.

## **16. REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 16.1 To provide the Committee with assurance that the Care Act has been implemented.
- 16.2 To ensure that the impact of implementing the Care Act is monitored on a regular basis.

## **17. CONTACT OFFICER**

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