

ADULT AND PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICES PORTFOLIO DECISION RECORD

24th July 2006

Present:

Councillor Ray Waller (Adult and Public Health Services Portfolio Holder)

Officers: Ralph Harrison, Head of Public Protection and Housing
Maggie Heaps, Adult Education Co-ordinator
Ewen Weir, Assistant Director (Commissioning)
Jo Wilson, Democratic Services Officer

2. Hartlepool Adult Education Three Year Development Plan 2006-2007 *(Director of Adult and Community Services)*

Type of decision

Key Decision – Test ii applies

Purpose of report

To endorse the submission of the draft of the Hartlepool Adult Education Three Year Development Plan 2006-2007 to the Learning and Skills Council in order to release funding for the service for the 2006-2007 academic year.

Issue(s) for consideration by Portfolio Holder

Since 2004 the Learning and Skills Council had required Local Authorities to produce a Three Year Development Plan each year to secure funding to deliver a range of vocational and non-vocational training. The Plan was appended to the report for the Portfolio Holder's attention and details were given of the content and financial implications.

Decision

That the submission of the Three Year Development Plan update to the Learning and Skills Council be endorsed.

3. Adult Education Fees *(Director of Adult and Community Services)*

Type of decision

Key Decision – Test ii applies

Purpose of report

To consider the level of adult education fees for the academic year 1st August 2006 to 31st July 2007.

Issue(s) for consideration by Portfolio Holder

The report gave detailed background information and the current fee levels for Adult Education courses funded through the Learning and Skills Council and the fee levels for 2005/2006 were detailed in an appendix to the report. The report also identified factors affecting adult education course fees in Hartlepool for 2006/07 and looked at options for fee levels.

The Portfolio Holder was advised that if adult education fees are set in accordance with LSC guidance, then there would be no financial implications for the Council's budget as the level of fee increases would be sufficient to enable the Adult Education Service to operate LSC funded courses within the budget allocated by the LSC.

Detailed recommendations were made for the level of adult education fees for the academic year August 2006 to July 2007

Decision

That the recommendations contained in the report be approved.

4. Neighbourhood Services Departmental Plan Update March 2006 *(Head of Public Protection and Housing)*

Type of decision

Non-Key

Purpose of report

To agree the update on performance of the Neighbourhood Services Departmental Plan for 2005/2006, covering the period from 1st April 2005 to 31st March 2006.

Issue(s) for consideration by Portfolio Holder

The Portfolio Holder was advised that the Council's corporate aims had

been developed to align with those of the community plan and the Hartlepool Partnership and the Neighbourhood Services Departmental Plan showed how the department would complement the work towards these corporate aims. The Departmental Plan Update set out the department's aims and objectives and included performance to the end of March 2006 against a range of key national and local indicators.

The Plan also detailed service development initiatives that were planned for the year and a summary of the progress achieved during 2005/06 had been recorded against the service improvements. A copy of the Departmental Plan indicator report was appended for the Portfolio Holder's attention.

Decision

That the update to the plan be approved.

5. Neighbourhood Services Departmental Plan 2006/2007 *(Head of Public Protection and Housing)*

Type of decision

Non-Key

Purpose of report

To agree the Neighbourhood Services Departmental plan for 2006/2007

Issue(s) for consideration by Portfolio Holder

The Departmental Plan Update set out the department's aims and objectives and detailed the actions to be taken over the coming 12 months toward achieving these. The plan also included performance indicators associated with these actions, together with a range of key national and local indicators. A copy of the plan was appended for the Portfolio Holder's attention.

Decision

That the Plan be approved.

6. Protection of Vulnerable Adults *(Director of Adult and Community Services)*

Type of decision

Non-Key

Purpose of report

- i. To report the findings of an investigation into services for people with learning disabilities at Cornwall Partnership NHS Trust

- ii. To provide information on preventative measures in place for vulnerable adults in Hartlepool.

Issue(s) for consideration by Portfolio Holder

The Portfolio Holder was advised that the Healthcare Commission and Commission for Social Care Inspection had recently reported on a joint investigation into services for people with a learning disability in Cornwall. The findings were that institutional abuse had been going on for a considerable time and it was evident that there was widespread lack of understanding of the rights of people with learning disabilities.

Details were given of the preventative measures in place in Hartlepool to protect against a similar situation to that in Cornwall. These included contract compliance monitoring of care providers and an assessment and care management process carried out with each service user. In addition the Council had responsibility for developing multi-agency policies and procedures to protect vulnerable adults from abuse and investigate allegations of abuse which were made. This was done through the Hartlepool Vulnerable Adults Protection Committee and links with Teeswide groups. It was felt these arrangements met the national standard but continued vigilance was essential in order to prevent and deal with abuse.

Decision

That the report into the allegations in Cornwall and the arrangements in place to prevent and deal with any similar problems in Hartlepool be noted.

J A BROWN

CHIEF SOLICITOR

PUBLICATION DATE: 25th July 2006