

# **ADULT SERVICES COMMITTEE**

## **MINUTES AND DECISION RECORD**

18 January 2016

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

**Present:**

Councillor: Carl Richardson (In the Chair)

Councillors: Paul Beck, Brenda Loynes, Sylvia Tempest and Stephen Thomas.

Officers: Jill Harrison, Assistant Director, Adult Services  
Neil Harrison, Head of Service  
Jeanette Willis, Head of Strategic Commissioning (Adult Services)  
Joan Stevens, Scrutiny Manager  
Angela Armstrong, Principal Democratic Services Officer

### **57. Apologies for Absence**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Sandra Belcher.

### **58. Declarations of Interest**

Councillor Stephen Thomas declared a personal interest in minutes 60, 61, 62 and 63 as a member of Healthwatch.

### **59. Minutes of the meeting held on 14 December 2015**

Received.

### **60. Better Care Fund – Update on Progress** (*Director of Child and Adult Services*)

**Type of decision**

For information.

### **Purpose of report**

To update the Committee regarding progress made in implementing the Better Care Fund plan.

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

The report provided the background to the provision of the Better Care Fund (BCF) along with the associated criteria and performance measures for the Fund. It was noted that progress in relation to the implementation of the BCF was reported to the North of Tees Partnership Board as set out in the BCF plan governance arrangements and the current position was outlined in the report.

In response to a question, the Assistant Director, Adult Services confirmed that since November 2015, social care staff had been available to support hospital discharges 7 days a week and the activity around this was currently being reviewed to inform future planning.

A Member, who was also a representative of Healthwatch, referred to the enhanced pharmacy support to be targeted at nursing homes. It was noted that at a recent meeting of the Local Professional Network of Pharmacists, they had indicated they were receptive to working alongside the Local Authority to explore ways of improving medicine management standards in care homes. As a representative of Healthwatch, the Member indicated he would keep the Committee updated on any progress with this. The Member then expressed concerns at the withdrawal of Government funding to Local Authorities and the impact this would have on the integration of health and social care.

### **Decision**

That the progress in relation to the implementation of the Hartlepool Better Care Fund plan was noted.

## **61. Mental Health Update** (*Director of Child and Adult Services*)

### **Type of decision**

For Information.

### **Purpose of report**

To provide the Committee with a progress update in relation to mental health.

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

The report provided the background to the key mental health framework which supports mental health improvement across all sectors heavily influenced by social inclusion perspectives. Further detail included a summary of activity and achievements over the last 12 months (January 2015 – December 2015) across the following areas:

- Joint Mental Health Implementation Plan;
- Mental Health Peer Challenge;
- TEVV Mental Health Act Inspection;
- TEVV CQC Provider Inspection;
- Crisis Care Concordat – Tees Action Plan;
- World Mental Health Day 10 October 2015 – Creative Support;
- Healthwatch Mental Health Awareness Event;
- Waverley Terrace Allotments;
- Beautiful Minds Director Updated;
- Community Learning Pathway (CLP); and
- Children and Young People's Mental Health and Wellbeing Plan: 'Future in Mind'.

It was noted by a Member, who was also a Healthwatch representative, that the Mental Health Forum and Healthwatch Lead Officers alongside Tees, Esk and Wear Valley NHS Foundation Trust were driving forward mental health issues in the Town. An update on a number of pieces of work being undertaken by Healthwatch was provided for the Committee.

A Member sought clarification on how the additional funding allocated to the North East Ambulance Service (NEAS) by the Clinical Commissioning Group had been utilised. The Head of Service indicated that funding had been allocated in recognition of the additional winter pressures faced by NEAS in 2014/15. However, the ambulance service faced unprecedented pressure on the blue light service during the winter months which utilised the majority of the additional funding. In 2015/16, funding had been identified by the CCG System Resilience Group to fund a pilot scheme involving a private arrangement with UK Specialist Ambulance Service (SAS) and early indications were that this was having a positive impact with waiting times reducing from 5.5 hours to 1 hour in some cases. A Member expressed concerns with the principle of funding private ambulances, however the Head of Service indicated that prior to the introduction of this pilot, there were occasions when Approved Mental Health Practitioners were waiting for 4-5 hours for an ambulance to transport mental health patients to appropriate care which was not sustainable from a workforce perspective and could also have a detrimental impact on the individual. In view of the concerns expressed by Members, it was suggested that consideration be given to reporting any future proposals for private health care contracts to this Committee for consideration.

In response to a question from a Member, a representative from Tees, Esk and Wear Valley NHS Foundation Trust confirmed that CQC inspections were

undertaken by 'experts by experience' as well as CQC Inspectors.

Clarification was sought on the sustainability of the Waverley Terrace Allotments project. The Head of Service indicated that as part of the bid for lottery funding, a business plan had been developed which included the aim of the allotment becoming a sustainable project in the longer term. It was noted that the process to appoint a Volunteer Co-ordinator, primarily to co-ordinate volunteers to work on the site and assess the associated risks, was underway.

The Head of Service provided the Committee with an update on the progress with the Centre for Independent Living (CIL) development as well as developments at Jones Road and potential developments at Warren Road and Seaton Carew and informed the Committee that discussions were ongoing with a number of providers who had expressed an interest in investing in the provision of care facilities within the town.

### **Decision**

The update in respect of mental health was noted with further updates being received on an annual basis.

## **62. Mental Health Update: S136 Assessment Suite and Crisis Services** *(Director of Child and Adult Services and Tees, Esk and Wear Valley NHS Foundation Trust: Hartlepool Locality Management Team)*

### **Type of decision**

For information.

### **Purpose of report**

To provide the Committee with an overview of the urgent mental health services available to adult residents of Hartlepool.

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

The report provided the rationale for relocating the s136 Crisis Assessment Suite to Roseberry Park, Middlesbrough. The Suite operates 24 hours a day, 7 days a week and offers those requiring a s136 assessment or any other urgent mental health assessment a purpose built environment suited to their needs.

It was highlighted that since opening in April 2015, the Centre had been monitored in relation to the deliverables set with assessments taking an average time of 1 hour and 52 minutes to complete. It was noted that in the final 3 months of the facility being located at Sandwell Park in Hartlepool, there

were 7 referrals for individuals requiring a mental health assessment with 8 referrals taking place at Roseberry Park in a similar three month period between September and November 2015. This highlighted that the number of referrals remained consistent and a further breakdown of performance figures was included within the report.

The Committee was informed that patient satisfaction surveys had shown very positive feedback with 72 people participating with 82% rating the overall care received as 'excellent' with the remaining 18% rating the overall care received as 'good'. Further extracts from the surveys were included in the report.

In addition to the Crisis Assessment Suite, it was noted that there were other services which were available to Hartlepool residents requiring urgent mental health treatment as follows:

- Street Triage;
- Liaison Psychiatry;
- Hartlepool Crisis and Home Treatment Service; and
- Liaison and Diversion Team.

In response to a question from a Member, a representative from Tees, Esk and Wear Valley NHS Foundation Trust commented that previously when the assessment service was provided at Sandwell Park, assessments could take around 3-4 hours. It was noted that the transfer of individuals by the Police to the suite for assessment was highest on reasons for attendance and there were concerns that future cuts to Police budgets may have implications for this provision. A representative from Tees, Esk and Wear Valley NHS Foundation Trust confirmed that the Police avoided detaining people awaiting mental health assessments on Police premises wherever possible and as the Suite was operational 24 hours a day/7 days a week there was always someone at the Crisis Assessment Centre to admit the person requiring assessment. However, in addition to this, there was a joint working arrangement with the Police with teams in place to attend people's homes therefore avoiding them having to be taken anywhere if this was considered the most appropriate course of action. It was noted that the Police had a dedicated Officer who attended the Crisis Concordat Group and was involved in planning services and it was suggested that an invite be extended to this Officer to attend a future meeting of the Committee to gain their views on how the service was operating.

Further clarification was provided on the operation of the Crisis Assessment Suite and it was suggested that future reports should include further detail on the referrals where individuals were 'discharged with no follow up required' as whilst there may be no mental health treatment required, there may be a need to refer this person to their GP or to social services for an alternative method of support. A representative from Tees, Esk and Wear Valley NHS Foundation Trust confirmed that this would be looked at as part of the six month review of the operation of the service which was being undertaken.

## **Decision**

- 1) The update on the relocation of the s136 assessment suite to Roseberry Park was noted.
- 2) The update in relation to the provision of crisis services was noted.
- 3) That the designated Police Officer be invited to attend a future meeting of the Committee to provide a view from a Police perspective of the services provided to support people with mental health needs.

## **63. Update on Care Home Provision (Verbal Update)** *(Director of Child and Adult Services)*

### **Type of decision**

For information.

### **Purpose of report**

To provide the Committee with an update on care home provision in Hartlepool.

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

The Assistant Director, Adult Services informed the Committee that in December 2015, the Care Quality Commission (CQC) cancelled the registration of the Four Winds Group which included Four Winds, Highnam Hall and Park View Residential Care Homes. It was noted that all residents from these care homes had been relocated to alternative accommodation appropriate to their needs and had remained in Hartlepool. In addition to this, the Assistant Director, Adult Services confirmed that the moratoriums on admissions for Manor Park and Warrior Park Care Homes had been lifted and these homes were now able to accept new admissions on a phased approach which was being supported through a multi agency allocations panel. Members were reassured that Council Officers, with continuing input from health partners, would continue to monitor the admission of residents to these care homes. The Chair thanked Officers for the effective intervention which had resulted in residents being relocated to alternative accommodation in a timely manner.

It was requested that an update on the number of Hartlepool residents residing in care homes outside the Town be provided at the next meeting of the Committee

It was highlighted that there were a number of care providers interested in the further development of care provision in the town and an update report would be submitted to a future meeting of the Committee once more information was

available.

A discussion ensued on the inspections of the care homes by Healthwatch representatives. The Assistant Director indicated that the inspections undertaken by Healthwatch were extremely valuable and very welcome and the reasons that the CQC had cancelled the registration of the care homes were in the main technical issues that had been identified by experts in those fields. It was noted that the report undertaken by Healthwatch on Dinsdale Lodge, Seaton Lane will be presented to the next meeting of the Committee. The Head of Strategic Commissioning commented that it was important to focus on the positive work that was ongoing in other care homes resulting in the provision of good quality care.

### **Decision**

- 1) The update on Care Home provision in Hartlepool was noted.
- 2) That the Healthwatch report on Dinsdale Lodge Residential Care Home be submitted to the next meeting of the Committee.
- 3) That an update on the number of Hartlepool residents accommodated in residential care homes out of town be provided at the next meeting of the Committee.

## **64. Any Other Items which the Chairman Considers are Urgent**

None.

The meeting concluded at 11.35 am

**P J DEVLIN**

**CHIEF SOLICITOR**

**PUBLICATION DATE: 25 January 2016**