

ADULT SERVICES COMMITTEE MINUTES AND DECISION RECORD

15 February 2016

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

Present:

Councillor: Carl Richardson (In the Chair)

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

Also Present:

Judith Gray, Maureen Lockwood, Liz Fletcher, Evelyn Leck and
Ruby Marshall - Healthwatch Representatives

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

Officers: Sally Robinson, Director of Child and Adult Services
Jill Harrison, Assistant Director, Adult Services
Jeanette Willis, Head of Strategic Commissioning
Kerry Trenchard, Strategy and Performance Officer
Denise Wimpenny, Principal Democratic Services Officer

65. Apologies for Absence

None

66. Declarations of Interest

Councillor Steve Thomas declared a personal interest in Minute 72
as an employee of Healthwatch.

67. Minutes of the meeting held on 18 January 2016

Received

68. Matters Arising from the Minutes

In relation to Minute 61, a Member requested that the thanks and appreciation expressed at the last meeting to Zoe Sherry be placed on record, who was a Healthwatch volunteer, for her hard work and invaluable support on the Mental Health Forum.

Decision

That the Committee's appreciation to Zoe Sherry, Healthwatch volunteer, be placed on record, for her hard work and invaluable support on the Mental Health Forum.

69. Council Plan 2016/17 – Proposals for Consideration (*Director of Child and Adult Services*)

Type of decision

Budget and Policy Framework

Purpose of report

To provide an opportunity for the Adult Services Committee to consider the Child and Adult Services Department's proposals for inclusion in the 2016/17 Council Plan that fell under the remit of the Committee.

Issue(s) for consideration

The Assistant Director, Adult Services reported on the proposals included in the 2016/17 Council Plan that fell under the remit of the Adult Services Committee. As in previous years detailed proposals were being considered by each of the Committees throughout January and February. A further report would be prepared for the Finance and Policy Committee on 14 March 2015 detailing the comments/ observations of each of the Committees along with a full draft of the 2015/16 Council Plan.

A Member commented on key risks identified in the Plan and the serious implications for the elderly and vulnerable in terms of future care provision. Given the current situation, level of cuts in the adult social care budget and the increasing demand on adult social care services due to demographic and financial pressures, the need to continually monitor these risks was emphasised

In relation to the risk of delayed transfers of care from hospital due to

reduced capacity and changing working arrangements, a Member commented that given that the issue had been highlighted on a number of occasions and remained a concern, there was a need for ongoing consideration of this issue by the CCG. The importance of this Committee closely monitoring the long term picture in this regard was also highlighted. Examples of delayed transfers from hospital were shared with the Committee.

Clarification was sought in terms of provision for under 65s requiring nursing care. Members were advised that this information would be requested from the CCG, as commissioner of nursing beds, and presented to a future meeting of this Committee.

With a view to managing the risk in relation to insufficient capacity to meet placement demand, as detailed in the report, it was suggested that an action be included within the Plan to explore in house provision and partnership working. The Assistant Director advised that a report examining future delivery options would be submitted to the next meeting of the Committee.

Decision

- (i) That the proposals reported for inclusion in the Council Plan 2016/17 be supported and the comments of Members be utilised to formulate a response on behalf of the Committee for consideration by the Finance and Policy Committee.
- (ii) That information in relation to nursing care provision for under 65s be presented to a future meeting of this Committee.

70. Care Home Update and Action Plan (*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 in relation to care home provision and actions progressed since December 2015.

Issue(s) for consideration

The Assistant Director, Adult Services reported on the background to the meeting on 12 October 2015, when representatives from the Care Quality Commission (CQC) and Hartlepool and Stockton on

Tees Clinical Commissioning Group had provided a presentation to the Committee in relation to care home provision. Attached as appendices to the report were an update on the care home sector as well as an action plan update, which included actions identified at the Adult Services Committee on 12 October 2015. In response to care home closures in January, a significant level of support was being provided to those homes who had accepted large numbers of new residents at short notice, details of which were provided.

The Care Quality Commission was seeking views on its plans for the next five years as it developed its approach to regulation. The consultation was open until 14 March 2016 and a response would be submitted by the Council. The response would reflect issues raised previously by the Adult Services Committee including consistency, support for providers who required improvement and protection of people who were not receiving good quality care.

Concerns were raised in relation to the impact of care home closures on existing residents as a result of additional residents moving into homes at short notice. Examples of situations where those with dementia were now living alongside individuals without dementia were outlined and the potential impact on the individuals was noted.

Two members of the public, who were invited to speak, shared with the Committee personal experiences of close family members being adversely affected as a result of a large intake of additional residents, some with challenging needs, following urgent care home closures. Whilst thanks were expressed to the management and care staff who were coping well in a difficult situation, in terms of the standard of care, concerns were raised regarding the disproportionate amount of time staff needed to spend with individuals with more complex needs which was having a detrimental impact on the care of others. Thanks were also expressed to the Council for the support they were providing to the homes and their response since the matter was brought to their attention. Clarification was sought as to how situations of this type were managed in other local authority areas. Members were advised of the processes in place to manage the situation and it was noted that the Council was currently working with families and individuals as well as providers to address these concerns.

Discussion ensued on the importance of carefully considering the implications of home closures, the need to ensure sufficient time was available for families and residents to make an informed choice, the importance of places being available in town and in the correct setting and the need to learn from the issues shared with the Committee today was highlighted. Officers responded to further queries raised in relation to the various categories of care provision, CQC ratings and concerns in relation to an individual who was not able to be discharged from hospital due to the lack of availability in

the home of their choice.

With regard to the ongoing CQC consultation, the importance of the authority contributing to the consultation was emphasised and feedback in relation to the authority's contribution was requested at a future meeting of this Committee.

Decision

- (i) That the contents of the report and comments of Members be noted and further update reports be received on a regular basis.
- (ii) That feedback in relation to the authority's contribution to the CQC consultation process, be provided to a future meeting of this Committee.

71. Hartlepool Local Executive Group – 2015/16 Q2 Performance Report (*Director of Child and Adult Services*)

Type of decision

For information

Purpose of report

To present the Hartlepool Local Executive Group (LEG) mid year performance report for 2015/16 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 adult safeguarding arrangements and the significant changes in the Care Act which would affect the protection of vulnerable adults. One of the key changes was the statutory requirement for a Safeguarding Adults Board. To support the work of this Board, Hartlepool had established a Local Executive Group.

Members were referred to the 2015/16 Quarter 2 performance report, attached at Appendix 1, which included information on safeguarding activity, categories of abuse and outcomes as well as Deprivation of Liberty Safeguards (DoLS) activity and local developments/issues.

The report included background information in relation to the

Deprivation of Liberty Safeguards as well as the trends for the reporting period. It was noted that there had been an increase in referrals from 38 in 2013/14 to 648 in 2014/15. Quarter 2 data indicated that the increase in activity was continuing and it was estimated that there would be approximately 900 to 950 referrals in 2015/16 based on activity to date.

In relation to safeguarding vulnerable adults there had been a number of developments to date in 2015/16, details of which were provided as outlined in the report.

In the discussion that followed presentation of the report, concerns were expressed regarding the financial implications for the Local Authority as a result of the Supreme Court Judgement in relation to Deprivation of Liberty Safeguards in terms of both workload/staffing capacity and cost. It was noted that a legal challenge had been submitted by a number of London boroughs regarding national funding for Local Authorities to appropriately implement DoLS, the outcome of which was awaited.

Decision

- (i) That the contents of the report and continued increase in DoLS activity as well as the comments of the Committee be noted.
- (ii) That further updates regarding safeguarding issues be received on a regular basis.

72. Hospital Discharge: Action Plan – Update on Progress (*Director of Child and Adult Services*)

Type of decision

For information

Purpose of report

To update Members of the Adult Services Committee in relation to the action taken following Healthwatch Hartlepool's Hospital Discharge Project.

Issue(s) for consideration

The Assistant Director referred the Committee to the action plan, attached at Appendix 1, in response to the recommendations of Healthwatch following their investigation into hospital discharges.

The action plan outlined the actions being taken to address each recommendation. It was noted that a number of issues raised in relation to hospital discharges were reflected in Hartlepool's Better Care Fund Plan.

In relation to current performance, the 2015/16 Quarter 1 performance report indicated that the overall number of Delayed Transfer of Care for Hartlepool was reducing and meeting the BCF target with 378 'days delayed' reported for Hartlepool residents in April – June 2015 compared to 694 for the same period the previous year. The Quarter 2 performance report again showed an improvement with 591 'days delayed' in April to June 2015 compared to 734 for the same period the previous year, but the increase from Q1 to Q2 meant that the Q2 BCF target had not been achieved and would therefore be closely monitored. The Assistant Director was pleased to report that the latest performance information indicated that there continued to be no delays reported that were attributable to the Local Authority's Adult Social Care arrangements.

A number of concerns were raised in relation to hospital discharges continuing to take place in the early hours of the morning. The potential reasons for the delays were debated including whether the delays were as result of waiting for medication or transport not being available or delays due to patients waiting for letters from consultants. A member of the public raised concerns in relation to the outcome of the Trust's recent CQC inspection which had given the Trust an overall rating of "Requires Improvement".

Reference was made to a recommendation from Healthwatch that "under no circumstances should a patient with a complex package of care and complex needs be discharged back home or into a care facility after 5pm." Given the Trust's indication, in response to this recommendation, that they would aim to work towards earlier in the day discharges, the Committee was keen to receive clarification from the Trust on the hospital discharge process and details of the number of discharges that had taken place after 7.00 pm in the evening.

The Committee requested that the Trust be formally invited to the next meeting of the Committee to provide an update on the current position and to respond to the concerns as detailed above.

Decision

- (i) The Committee noted the progress made to address the recommendations of Healthwatch Hartlepool's Hospital Discharge Project, noting also the links to the Better Care Fund.
- (ii) That the Foundation Trust be formally invited to the next meeting of this Committee to provide an update on the current

position and respond to the concerns, as outlined above, in relation to the hospital discharge process and the number of discharges that had taken place after 7.00 pm in the evening.

The meeting concluded at 11.20 am.

P J DEVLIN

CHIEF SOLICITOR

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