

ADULT SERVICES COMMITTEE

MINUTES AND DECISION RECORD

23 March 2016

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

Present:

Councillor: Carl Richardson (In the Chair)

Councillors: Paul Beck and Steve Thomas

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

Also present:

Maureen Lockwood, Judy Gray and Paul Williams - Healthwatch Representatives

Frank Harrison – Years Ahead Forum

Members of the Public – Sue Little, Evelyn Leck, 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, Adult Services
Neil Harrison, Head of Service, Adult Services
David Ward, Head of Finance, Child and Adult Services
Angela Armstrong, Principal Democratic Services Officer

83. Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Brenda Loynes and Sylvia Tempest.

84. Declarations of Interest

Councillor Stephen Thomas declared a personal interest in all the following minutes.

85. Minutes of the meeting held on 7 March 2016

Received

86. Matters arising from Minutes

Minute 81 – Independent Living Fund Update – A Member suggested that the implications of the ring-fencing of the Independent Living funding should be included in a future report to this Committee for Members' consideration.

The Chair left the meeting at this point, Councillor Paul Beck, Vice Chair in the Chair.

The Assistant Director, Adult Services indicated that there had recently been a DCLG consultation exercise undertaken in relation to the Independent Living Fund which had been responded to by ADASS and this would be reported back to a future meeting of the Committee.

87. Day Opportunities – Consultation on a Fairer Pricing Framework *(Director of Child and Adult Services)*

Type of decision

Key Decision – test (ii) applies – Forward Plan Ref: CAS 036/15

Purpose of report

To seek approval from the Adult Services Committee to implement a fairer pricing framework for adult day opportunities

Issue(s) for consideration

The Head of Service presented the report which provided background information in relation to the proposals to implement a fairer pricing framework for adult day opportunities and to develop a new Centre for Independent Living. A report presented to Members in July 2015 provided an overview of the proposed process which included consultation with people using services, their families and carers and a decision to report back to the Committee regarding implementation.

Details of the current pricing framework together with feedback from the consultation process were provided, as set out in the

report. To achieve a fair and equitable pricing framework it was proposed to charge separately for day services and for transport, to charge per session as well as introduce a charging policy based on the direct costs associated with day service provision, details of which were included in the report.

A summary of the proposed changes, which identified the current number of users, which band they were likely to be in and the potential impact on their personal budget resource allocation, was attached at Appendix 1. Healthwatch representatives were also interested to understand how other local authorities compared in respect of their day service unit costs, a summary of which was attached as an appendix to the report. Members were referred to the risk and financial considerations of the proposals.

The Chair returned to the meeting – Cllr Richardson in the Chair.

The Head of Service confirmed that the figures quoted in Appendix 3 from 2013/14 were the latest figures available. A general discussion took place in relation to funding of individual care needs and the Head of Service confirmed that individuals are subject to a resource allocation process which was linked to an assessment of need, the more significant the needs, the more resources allocated and this was reviewed annually.

During the discussions that followed around the different models of care available, it was noted that the proposed new pricing framework for Local Authority Day Services would be fair and equitable and based on need. In response to a question regarding how costs compared with other providers, the Head of Strategic Commissioning indicated that the service provided by the Local Authority was a different model to services provided by other providers, which were generally based on one to one support.

With regard to the new development at the Centre for Independent Living, a Member suggested that the potential to provide enhanced services within the new Centre and attract more income should be explored including the option to extend opening hours where this was feasible. It was highlighted that this was an opportunity to further utilise what will be an excellent facility which will provide enhanced services to more people. The Assistant Director, Adult Services confirmed that work was underway to develop the new model of service, including options to make best possible use of the new building.

Decision

- (1) That the implementation of a fairer pricing framework for adult day services from September 2016 be approved.
- (2) That the potential to enhance the service provision at the new Centre for Independent Living be explored along with the option to extend opening hours where feasible.

88. Moving Forward Together – The Vision for Adult Services in Hartlepool 2014-17 *(Director of Child and Adult Services)*

Type of decision

For information

Purpose of report

To provide the Adult Services Committee with an update on implementation of Moving Forward together – The Vision for Adult Services in Hartlepool 2014-17.

Issue(s) for consideration

The Assistant Director, Adult Services reported on the background to the approval of the Vision for Adult Services 2014-17. The Vision for Adult Services reflected the direction of travel set out in the national policies over the last few years together with the Health and Social Care Act 2012.

The action plan, attached at Appendix 1 provided the framework for the detailed work required to deliver the vision. A progress update was provided for each of the agreed priorities. An action plan for 16/17 would be developed.

With regard to the financial considerations and in considering the issues outlined in the report, the Committee was reminded that significant additional Government Grant cuts would be made over the period 2016/17 to 2018/19. As a result the Council faced a budget deficit for the next three years of between £16.3 m and £18.3m depending on the level of Council Tax increases over this period. A summary of the annual budget deficits were outlined, details of which were included in the report.

During the discussions that followed, the importance of

highlighting the implications for child and family poverty as well as the equality and diversity considerations on all reports submitted to Committee for consideration was emphasised. A Member referred to the excellent work already being undertaken in relation to hospital discharges.

The collaborative work undertaken by the Fire Brigade when undertaking home safety visits was highlighted as an important factor in highlighting issues such as poverty and social isolation. A Member referred to the ongoing issue of social isolation and how this can be addressed. There had been a lot of work undertaken by the Community and Voluntary Sector but this was being hit by funding cuts as were a lot of other services. It was suggested that exploring options to tackle social isolation and build community capacity may be an area for inclusion on the Committee's Work Programme for 2016/17. The Assistant Director, Adult Services added that work was ongoing through the Better Care Fund plan to address issues of social isolation such as peer support and befriending services and progress will be reported back to a future meeting of the Committee.

A member of the public highlighted a personal issue in relation to the support provided to small employers who employ people with learning disabilities. The Head of Service agreed to contact Hartlepool Working Solutions to look into this and respond to the member of the public direct.

In relation to social isolation, it was noted that there were various groups across the town who meet up as discussion/ befriending groups, for coffee mornings and luncheon clubs to provide each other with support. It was agreed that it was important to increase awareness of these groups, and officers highlighted that they were promoted through the HartlepoolNow website. One of the key issues for the Local Authority is to work with groups such as these to encourage people to access local support and to create a sense of community. A Member referred to the importance of working closely with the Thirteen Group to identify people who were suffering from child and family poverty and social isolation.

Decision

- (1) That progress made to implement the vision for Adult Services be noted and a further update received in March 2017.
- (2) That a report be submitted to the Adult Services Committee regarding social isolation and options to address this issue, including work already being

undertaken.

89. Implementation of the Care Act (*Director of Child and Adult Services*)

Type of decision

For information

Purpose of report

To provide the Adult Services Committee with an update on the implementation of the Care Act.

Issue(s) for consideration

The report provided background information in relation to the Care Act and set out progress towards implementing the Care Act. The impact for Local Authorities of implementing the Care Act, the approach taken in Hartlepool as well as the National Care Act Stock Take was also included in the report. There had been five stock takes and the fifth stock take in November 2015 indicated no major concerns in relation to the Care Act implementation in 2015/16. Whilst a number of risks had been highlighted in relation to the proposed introduction of financial reforms from April 2016, implementation of financial reforms had now been delayed until 2020.

The Committee was referred to the financial implications of implementing the Care Act, as set out in the report.

A Member informed the Committee that he had attended a presentation on the Care Act and noted it was very positive and was welcomed, especially with regard to the provisions on carers' rights. The work commissioned by the Local Authority and undertaken by Hartlepool Carers was recognised as an excellent way of providing appropriate support to carers including ensuring people were fully aware of their benefit entitlements and how to access them. This highlighted the commitment of the Local Authority to tackle child and family poverty.

A discussion ensued on the impact local groups and foodbanks were having in addressing the issues of child and family poverty. The Director of Child and Adult Services indicated that there was work underway to address this issue, including a pilot scheme to run in the summer holidays for

children in relation to holiday hunger. It was highlighted that a consultation event was being held tomorrow on the implications of child and family poverty to help shape a new strategy for the Council to address this issue.

Decision

The Committee noted progress in relation to implementation of the Care Act and feedback from the latest national stocktake.

90. Any Other Items which the Chairman Considers are Urgent

None.

91. Last Meeting of 2015/16

The Chair noted that this was the last meeting of the current municipal year and wished to thank all Officers for all their hard work and commitment in ensuring a full work programme was undertaken by the Committee. In addition, members of the public who had attended meetings were thanked for their invaluable contribution to the meetings, it was really appreciated.

92. Local Government (Access to Information) (Variation Order) 2006

Under Section 100(A)(4) of the Local Government Act 1972, the press and public were excluded from the meeting for the following item of business on the grounds that it involved the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in the paragraphs referred to below of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 as amended by the Local Government (Access to Information) (Variation) Order 2006.

Minute 93 – (Domiciliary Care for Older People: Future Options) – This item contained exempt information under Schedule 12A Local Government Act 1972 as amended by the Local Government (Access to Information) (Variation) Order 2006 namely (para 3)

- 93. Domiciliary Care for Older People** (*Director of Child and Adult Services*) This item contains exempt information under Schedule 12A Local Government Act 1972 as amended by the Local Government (Access to Information) (Variation) Order 2006 namely (para 3)

Type of decision

Non-key

Purpose of report

To outline to the Adult Services Committee the options available for the future delivery of domiciliary care services to older people.

Issue(s) for consideration

Further details were included in the exempt section of the minutes.

Decision

Further details were included in the exempt section of the minutes.

The meeting concluded at 12.05 pm

P J DEVLIN

CHIEF SOLICITOR

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