

# **ADULT SERVICES COMMITTEE MINUTES AND DECISION RECORD**

16 June 2016

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

**Present:**

Councillor: Steve Thomas (In the Chair)

Councillors: Lesley Hamilton, Kaylee Sirs, Carl Richardson and Sylvia  
Tempest

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  
Denise Wimpenny, Principal Democratic Services Officer

## **1. Chair's Welcome/Expressions of Thanks**

The Chair welcomed new and existing Members to the Committee and expressed thanks to Councillor Carl Richardson for the work he had undertaken as Chair of this Committee over the years and his future support as Vice-Chair of this Committee

## **2. Apologies for Absence**

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Councillors Brenda Loynes and John Tennant.

## **3. Declarations of Interest**

Councillor Steve Thomas declared a personal interest in Minutes 5,6, 7 and 8 as an employee of Healthwatch.

## **4. Minutes of the meeting held on 23 March 2016**

Received

## **5. Impact of the Better Care Fund** (*Director of Child and Adult Services*)

### **Type of decision**

No decision required – for information

### **Purpose of report**

To provide the Committee with an update on the impact of the Better Care Fund in 2015/16 and plans for 2016/17.

### **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. BCF performance reports had been submitted to NHS England on a quarterly basis throughout 2015/16 with the final return submitted on 27 May 2016. Quarterly reports had been signed off by the Health and Wellbeing Board in line with national requirements.

In terms of the impact of the BCF during 15/16, Members were referred to the outcome of performance targets and key achievements as detailed in the report.

In the discussion that followed presentation of the report, the Assistant Director responded to queries raised in relation to the performance targets. Clarification was provided regarding the delayed transfers of care from hospital target, choice arrangements for permanent admissions to residential and nursing care homes and progress made to date with regard to weekend working service provision. In response to concerns regarding nursing bed provision, the Chair provided assurances that the Council as well as Healthwatch Hartlepool had highlighted this issue with Commissioners for a number of years and the Committee would continue to closely monitor this issue during the year.

In relation to the increase in use of assistive technology, whilst an increase in its use and the positive feedback from people accessing the service was welcomed, Members were of the view that such technology should not replace human contact. Some concerns were raised that some individuals were not aware that technology of this type was available and emphasised the need to increase awareness of such services. It was suggested that in addition to information being available via the Hartlepool Now website alternative methods of promoting the services available should be utilised including the Hartbeat magazine.

Emphasis was placed upon the need to monitor costs associated with the Better Care Plan. Whilst in support of the principles of the Better Care Plan, concerns were raised in terms of the financial impact on the Council as a result.

### **Decision**

- (i) That performance to date in relation to the BCF and plans for 2016/17 be noted.
- (ii) That alternative methods of promoting services available to the public be utilised to include the Hartbeat magazine.
- (iii) That the costs associated with implementing the Better Care Plan and financial impact on the Council be closely monitored.

## **6. Tackling Social Isolation** (*Director of Child and Adult Services*)

### **Type of decision**

No decision required – for information

### **Purpose of report**

To provide the Committee with an update on work that was underway to tackle social isolation.

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

The Assistant Director referred to the Committee's previous interest in what was being done within Hartlepool to tackle social isolation due to the potential impact this could have on vulnerable adults. The report provided background information in relation to research reported by Age UK and a research briefing by the Social Care Institute of Excellence (SCIE) regarding the effects of loneliness and isolation.

The Hartlepool BCF Plan included a commitment to help identify and combat social isolation, as a major influence on overall "health and wellbeing" and identified that an estimated 2,340 older people lived alone in Hartlepool. The recent national survey of users of adult services had been asked whether people had as much social contact as they would like and whilst the results for Hartlepool identified a significant improvement compared to the previous year there were currently some people who were not known to services who may be experiencing social isolation.

The Chair highlighted that this issue would be a high priority for this

Committee as well as the Health and Wellbeing Board in the ensuing year.

Members were pleased to note developments to date particularly the establishment of a befriending network, the benefits of which were discussed. A Member advised that social isolation was not just an issue for the elderly but also affected children and young people. The need to feedback this issue to the Chair of Children's Services was suggested.

In response to a request for clarification in relation to the level of interest that had been received on the befriending network contract, the Assistant Director advised that this was currently going through the quick quotes process, and an update on the outcome would be provided at a future meeting.

A lengthy discussion ensued during which personal observations/experiences were raised regarding social isolation and loneliness issues. Whilst it was suggested that social isolation appeared to be more prevalent in males, it was noted that demographically there were more older females living alone than males. The potential links between loneliness and alcohol related problems was also discussed. The need to increase awareness and promote the type of support services available as widely as possible was highlighted. The various methods of promoting services such as the "Men's Shed project" were discussed. The benefits of displaying leaflets in funeral parlours and supermarkets was also highlighted. The Assistant Director commented on the ongoing work with the CCG in terms of establishing better links with GP's in relation to early intervention and the wider BCF objectives.

In response to a request for clarification regarding engagement with older people, the Assistant Director outlined the various forums and groups that had been established to facilitate this. The Chair reported that effective communication and engagement was integral to the work of this Committee and referred to forthcoming community engagement events. Members were advised that luncheon club providers would be attending the next consultation event to facilitate a question and answer session.

### **Decision**

- (i) The Committee noted the current provision to tackle social isolation and developments that were planned, and receive a further progress update in six months.
- (ii) The issue of social isolation in children and young people particularly those involved in providing care for a family member be reported to the Chair of Children's Services Committee.
- (iii) That the various support services available in relation to social

- isolation be promoted as widely as possible.
- (iv) That an update on the befriending network contract be provided at a future meeting.

## **7. Impact of the Changes to the Independent Living Fund** *(Director of Child and Adult Services)*

### **Type of decision**

No decision required – for information

### **Purpose of report**

To provide the Committee with further information regarding the impact of changes to the Independent Living Fund (ILF).

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

The Assistant Director reported on the background to the transfer of funding and responsibilities relating to the Independent Living Fund (ILF) from July 2015. Details of how the Council had managed the new responsibilities were provided as set out in the report. The approach agreed in Hartlepool resulted in no impact on existing ILF users in 2015/16, through maintaining the status quo in terms of both expenditure and contributions.

The report set out the impact of the changes on local authorities. The Local Government Association (LGA) and Association of Directors of Adult Social Services (ADASS) raised a range of concerns about this situation in a consultation by the Department for Communities and Local Government earlier in the year, details of which were included in the report. There was an ongoing risk that the rate of reduction in funding from estimated attrition levels was greater than the actual reduction through attrition. This could result in insufficient grant funding being received to cover the cost of former ILF packages.

The Committee was advised that following the consultation, it had been confirmed that the former ILF recipient grant would be paid to local authorities as outlined in the consultation document. The Government's response to the consultation was attached at Appendix 1. Allocations for Hartlepool over the next four years had been confirmed and represented a 3% reduction year on year.

The Committee expressed a number of concerns in relation to the 3% proposed reduction in funding highlighting the impact on the most vulnerable groups as a result.

### **Decision**

The Committee noted the outcome of the DCLG consultation regarding funding for former ILF recipients and the wider impact of the changes to the ILF.

## **8. Update: Care Homes for Older People** (*Director of Child and Adult Services*)

### **Type of decision**

No decision required – for information

### **Purpose of report**

To provide the Committee with an update in relation to care home provision for older people.

### **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 an appendix to the report was an update of CQC ratings of the care home sector in Hartlepool. Information in this format would be shared with the Committee on a regular basis. A range of actions were being taken to support and improve standards within care homes, details of which were included in the report.

Some concerns were raised in relation to out of borough placements. The Assistant Director advised that some out of borough placements were based on positive choices made by individuals and families. In response to a request for clarification the Committee was advised of the financial implications of out of borough placements. A Member referred to discussions at a recent meeting of this Committee in relation to the suggestion that in-house care provision be considered. The Assistant Director advised that work was currently ongoing regarding different models of provision, an update of which would be reported to the meeting in September. A Member was keen to receive an update on this issue at all future meetings.

Further concerns were reiterated in relation to the increased costs that the local authority would have to meet in relation to Adult Social Care

given the continued reduction in funding by Central Government.

In response to a query raised in relation to homes rated as “inadequate” by the CQC, details of the re-inspection process was outlined. Reference was made to the impact of care home closures resulting in a large intake of additional residents by one particular care home as reported at a previous meeting. Assurances were sought that arrangements were in place to prevent any reoccurrence of situations of this type.

Following a request from a Member, an update on the latest position on the former Admiral Court site was provided. A query was raised in relation to the number of nursing care beds available in Hartlepool which the Assistant Director agreed to provide details of the current position under separate cover following the meeting.

### **Decision**

- (i) That the contents of the report be noted and further updates be received on a regular basis.
- (ii) That information on the current position in relation to the number of nursing care beds available in Hartlepool be provided under separate cover following the meeting.

The meeting concluded at 11.25 am.

**P J DEVLIN**

**CHIEF SOLICITOR**

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