

ADULT SERVICES COMMITTEE

MINUTES AND DECISION RECORD

23 November 2017

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

Present:

Councillor: Stephen Thomas (In the Chair)

Councillors: Paul Beck, Lesley Hamilton, Brenda Loynes, Mike McLaughlin
and Carl Richardson

Also present:

In accordance with Council Procedure Rule 5.2 (ii) Councillor
Shane Moore was in attendance as substitute for Councillor Tom
Hind

Members of the public:

Gordon and Stella Johnston, Frank Harrison and Sue Little

Officers: Jill Harrison, Director of Adult & Community Based Services
Denise Wimpenny, Principal Democratic Services Officer

40. Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Hind. The Chair submitted apologies on behalf of Evelyn Leck and took the opportunity to convey the Committee's best wishes for a speedy recovery.

41. Declarations of Interest

Councillor Stephen Thomas declared a personal interest as an employee of Healthwatch.

42. Minutes of the meeting held on 5 October 2017

Received.

43. Transforming Care – North East and Cumbria

(Director of Adult and Community Based Services)

Type of decision

For information

Purpose of report

To provide the Committee with an update on progress of the North East and Cumbria – Transforming Care Programme.

Issue(s) for consideration

The Director of Adult and Community Based Services reported on the background to the development of the North East and Cumbria Transformation Plan. Following the launch of the national plan (Building the Right Support) and subsequent roll out in 2016/17, the North East and Cumbria had received an additional £1.2m of national transformation funding to support local delivery of its plan. North East and Cumbria progress however, had been less pronounced during this period, although there were a number of key developments and achievements which should be acknowledged, details of which were included in the report.

The Transforming Care Board had agreed a work programme which identified priority areas and established associated work streams. During 2015/16 the programme had demonstrated positive progress against delivery of its local plan through achievement of planned trajectories and bed closures. The Tees area had effectively reduced its commissioned inpatient assessment and treatment bed capacity significantly. Within Hartlepool the community infrastructure had seen investment through the delivery of an enhanced community support service, provided by Tees Esk and Wear Valley NHS Foundation Trust and, in January 2016, a 12 month pilot had been trialled in relation to 7 day working within the adult learning disability social work team. Members were referred to Hartlepool's stepped Care Referral Pathway, attached at Appendix 1.

Members were advised of the number of people affected in terms of achieved and planned discharges and, whilst the numbers for Hartlepool were relatively low, they did present significant challenges, given the complex needs of the individuals concerned.

The Committee was referred to the risk and financial considerations to the authority and it was highlighted that whilst additional funding had been made available, it was considered nationally that this was not adequate in terms of covering the whole cost of the plan.

A number of concerns were raised regarding the impact of the proposals and disappointment was expressed that a representative from the CCG was not in attendance to respond to the Committee's queries. The Committee requested that the CCG be invited to attend the next meeting of this Committee to provide clarification in response to the following

issues:-

- The impact of the proposals on individuals and families with learning disabilities.
- How safeguarding implications had been considered and what safeguards were in place to ensure needs were being met.
- Whether there had been a thorough review of autism and whether there were sufficient inpatient beds to meet the required needs.
- The role and input of families in implementing the Transforming Care Action Plan.
- Whether there were sufficient skills and expertise to manage placements of this type in the community effectively.
- How the funding allocations to CCG's was being utilised and whether there was sufficient funding to meet the required needs.

A lengthy discussion ensued on the potential financial implications for the Local Authority from the closure of inpatient beds and the subsequent provision of care and support in the community. Concerns were expressed that funding allocations to support transitional costs from inpatient care to community based provision were insufficient funding to support community based provision.

In response to a query raised regarding the impact on the quality of care as a result of these changes, the Director advised on the assessment and review arrangements and indicated that individuals would not be discharged from a hospital setting before there has been a detailed assessment of how their needs would be met in the community. The potential risks associated with such changes were debated including the difficulties around recruitment and retention of nurses.

The Chair reiterated the importance of ensuring that the care and support provided within the community was appropriate to the level of need.

Decision

- (i) The Committee noted the update and progress to date against the regional plan.
- (ii) That the CCG be invited to the next meeting to provide clarification in response to the issues raised, as set out above.

44. Independent Living Fund Update (*Director of Adult and Community Based Services*)

Type of decision

For information

Purpose of report

To provide the Committee with an update regarding the transfer of funding and responsibilities relating to the former Independent Living Fund (ILF)

Issue(s) for consideration

The Director of Adults and Community Based Services 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. This approach had been consistently applied since 1 July 2015 and in this time the number of users in receipt of former ILF payments had reduced from 43 to 35 through attrition. Having reviewed packages for individuals it had been decided that continuing with the status quo was no longer feasible and would therefore be mainstreamed and considered alongside adult services funding within a single funding allocation, details of which were provided. The ongoing financial and risk implications in terms of insufficient grant funding being received to cover the cost of former ILF packages were noted including the risk that grant funding would be significantly reduced in 2020 and beyond.

In the lengthy discussion that followed the Director of Adult and Community Based Services responded to queries raised by Members. Clarification was provided regarding the various benefits and financial support available to individuals as well as how the funding allocations were calculated. Concerns were expressed regarding the implications of grant funding continuing to reduce as well as the uncertainties ahead in future years. A number of concerns were also expressed regarding the impact of transferring additional responsibilities to local authorities, without the appropriate funding to manage additional pressures of this type.

A Member expressed disappointment at the limited financial support available to veterans in the town who were in receipt of a war pension. The need to seek advice from the Director of Finance and Policy in this regard was highlighted.

Decision

- (i) The Committee noted the change in approach for ILF users which incorporated former ILF funding in to mainstream Personal Budgets and operated a single contribution policy for the 35 individuals concerned.
- (ii) That a further update be received should grant conditions or funding allocations be significantly altered.
- (iii) That clarification be sought from the Director of Finance and Policy in terms of the financial support available to veterans.

45. Tackling Social Isolation (*Director of Adult and Community Based Services*)

Type of decision

For information

Purpose of report

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

Issue(s) for consideration

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 35% of 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 had showed improvements there were currently some people who were not known to services who may be experiencing social isolation.

Members were pleased to note developments to date, particularly the establishment of a Befriending Network with Age UK, work with Cleveland Fire Brigade, Project 65, provided by Incontrol-able and the Home Library Service, the benefits and outcomes of which were included in the report. Information and quotes from case studies from individuals using the service had also been very positive with a high level of satisfaction.

A query was raised as to whether social isolation issues were more prevalent in men. The Director of Adult and Community Based Services advised that statistics suggested that this appeared to be an issue in both men and women. Following some recent work with people living with dementia, which highlighted a particular issue around male carers suffering from social isolation, ongoing support had been made available to male carers. The potential reasons for social isolation were debated including the benefits of the various services and support groups available.

The Committee was pleased to note the positive feedback received regarding the home library service in terms of the high satisfaction rates and were keen to see services of this type continue.

Clarification was sought in relation to the number of people over 65 living alone. Members were advised that it was estimated that approximately 35% of the people aged 65 and over living in Hartlepool lived alone.

Emphasis was placed upon the need to increase awareness and promote

the type of support groups available as widely as possible. The various methods of promoting services such as the “Men’s Shed” and Befriending Service with hard to reach groups, or people who were not known to services who may be experiencing social isolation, were discussed and it was noted that regular updates to raise awareness were included in the Council’s Hartbeat magazine.

The Chair commented on the benefits of Elected Members liaising with officers with details of any local community groups within their wards who may benefit from receiving further information on the services available.

In response to a query raised in relation to post hospital discharge support arrangements, the Director of Adult and Community Based Services was pleased to report that this had been recognised as a potential issue and support arrangements via the Home from Hospital Service, commissioned by the Better Care Fund, had been implemented, details of which were provided.

Following discussion regarding the benefits of the recently established Befriending Network, the Committee was advised of the challenges facing the provider in terms of the difficulties recruiting volunteers to enable the service to continue.

Concerns were expressed around the increase in male suicide, and an update of this issue was requested for a future meeting of this Committee. Members were advised of ongoing work in relation to men’s mental health.

It was noted that a recent survey of people who used services and carers had revealed that a high proportion of people had reported that they found it easy to access information and advice.

In concluding the debate, the Chair welcomed progress made to date to address social isolation and loneliness issues and took the opportunity to convey the Committee’s thanks and to commend staff and partner organisations involved in this work over the last 18 months.

Decision

- (i) The Committee noted the current provision to tackle social isolation and the implementation of previously planned developments.
- (ii) That the various support services available in relation to social isolation be promoted as widely as possible and that regular updates be included in the Council’s Hartbeat magazine.
- (iii) That an update on male suicide be reported to a future meeting of this Committee.
- (iv) That the Committee’s thanks be conveyed to staff and partner organisations involved in developments to tackle social isolation.

46. Any Other Items which the Chairman Considers are Urgent

The Chairman ruled that the following item of business should be considered by the Committee as a matter of urgency in accordance with the provisions of Section 100(B) (4)(b) of the Local Government Act 1972 in order that the matter could be dealt with without delay.

47. Any Other Business – Mental Capacity Act and Deprivation of Liberty Safeguards

The Director of Adult and Community Based Services reported that following a report presented to Committee regarding the Mental Capacity Act and Deprivation of Liberty Safeguards when it was agreed that a letter be sent to the local MP regarding the financial pressures facing the Council, a response had been received from the Local MP who had agreed to raise this issue in Parliament and with local MP colleagues. The Committee would be kept updated on developments.

Decision

That the information given be noted.

The meeting concluded at 11.05 am

P J DEVLIN

CHIEF SOLICITOR

PUBLICATION DATE: 30 NOVEMBER 2017