

ADULT SERVICES COMMITTEE

MINUTES AND DECISION RECORD

29 March 2018

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

Present:

Councillor: Stephen Thomas (In the Chair)

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

Also present:

Evelyn Leck and Sue Little

Officers: Jill Harrison, Director of Adult and Community Based Services
Jeanette Willis, Head of Strategic Commissioning – Adult Services
Neil Harrison, Head of Service (Adults)
David Ward, Head of Finance (Child and Adult Services)
Daniel Briggs, Senior Trading Standards Officer
Steven Carter, Health Improvement Practitioner
Angela Armstrong, Principal Democratic Services Officer

78. Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Paul Beck, Frank Harrison and Gordon and Stella Johnston. The Chair informed the Committee that both Frank and Gordon had been unwell and on behalf of the Committee wished them both a speedy recovery.

79. Declarations of Interest

Councillor Stephen Thomas restated his previously declared personal interest as an employee of Healthwatch Hartlepool.

80. Minutes of the meeting held on 1 March 2018

Received.

81. Suicide Prevention and Support for Men and Mental Health Issues *(Interim Director of Public Health)*

Type of decision

Non key.

Purpose of report

The report was provided in response to a request by the Chair of Adult Services Committee.

Issue(s) for consideration

The report noted that suicide and non-fatal self harm account for more than 4,000 deaths and 200,000 hospital presentations every year in England with suicide being one of the biggest killers for men under the age of 50. This trend was reflected locally in Teesside with a higher proportion of suicide deaths also being males under 50 years of age. It was noted that Hartlepool had the lowest number and rates of suicide in Teesside with a downward trend in suicide rates being observed in recent years.

Members were informed that a Tees Suicide Prevention Taskforce had been formed and had developed an implementation plan and accompanying action plan as the local response to the national suicide prevention strategy – Preventing Suicide in England. The Taskforce brings together key partners, local knowledge about groups at higher risk of suicide, applying the evidence of most effective interventions and highlights resources needed to implement these plans. The key areas identified for action within these plans were listed in the report.

There were two suicide prevent programmes commissioned on a Tees-wide basis to support the delivery of suicide prevention action plan and these were:

- Suicide Prevention Co-ordinator; and
- Mental Health Training Hub.

In addition to the above, the Tees Mental Health Training Hub had been in place since 2013 and was a key contributor to the delivery of the suicide prevention implementation plan. The Hub also co-ordinated and commissioned training, supported organisations to effectively build training capacity and supports those who had been trained to utilise their knowledge and skills within their role and continue to develop. There was also a Cleveland wide multi agency group working together to put in place the principles of the National Crisis Care Concordat.

It was proposed to launch a local marketing campaign to raise awareness of mental health issues in men in order to reduce inequalities in accessing services.

A Member sought clarification on the low number of suicides in Hartlepool

compared to the remainder of the Teesside area. The Health Improvement Practitioner commented that one of the reasons was that Middlesbrough, Redcar and Stockton have more defined hotspots such as bridges and coastal cliff areas. In response to a follow up question, the Health Improvement Practitioner added that whilst there was currently no formal mental health preventative strategy, he confirmed that education around emotional wellbeing would be picked up within schools as part of Personal, Social and Health Education (PSHE). In addition to this, there was a lot of work ongoing with young people's emotional wellbeing and general resilience within the family, particularly with those identified as troubled families.

A lengthy discussion took place during which it was confirmed that alcohol and substance misuse were the biggest factors in suicides and work was ongoing to target the most vulnerable groups. In addition to this, there had been a lot of issues identified around the introduction of Universal Credit through increased numbers of people accessing the foodbank and the holiday hunger scheme and work was currently being undertaken within the Community Hubs providing financial wellbeing and crisis support. During the discussion it was highlighted that the current economic climate along with the introduction of Universal Credit were having a major effect on the mental health wellbeing of people in the north east area.

A number of areas to be utilised to raise awareness of the suicide prevention strategy and support available were suggested such as the Miles for Men race and the Big Lime Triathlon and it should include who people need to contact if they were concerned about someone's non-emergency situation. In response to a question from a Member, the Health Improvement Practitioner indicated that the Tees Suicide Prevention Strategic Plan would be aimed at all demographics across the area and would ensure appropriate information was available for everyone.

The Chair sought clarification on the involvement of the Council's Armed Forces Champion and groups that support veterans. The Health Improvement Practitioner confirmed that discussions were ongoing with armed forces groups, particularly around encouraging veterans to be physically active.

The Health Improvement Practitioner was thanked for the very informative report which had resulted in a wide ranging discussion.

Decision

- (1) The contents of the report were noted.
- (2) The creation of a campaign to be launched by the Hartlepool Mental Health Forum to raise awareness on men's mental health issues and how to access services was approved.

82. Mental Health Update (*Director of Adult and Community Based Services*)

Type of decision

Non key.

Purpose of report

To provide an update to the Committee on progress against the Mental Health Joint Implementation Plan.

Issue(s) for consideration

The Mental Health Forum was tasked with monitoring progress against the Hartlepool Mental Health Joint Implementation Plan and was chaired by Healthwatch Hartlepool with representation from Hartlepool Borough Council, Hartlepool and Stockton on Tees Clinical Commissioning Group, Tees Esk and Wear Valley NHS Foundation Trust, local stakeholders from the private and voluntary sector as well as people who use services and carers. The updated Joint Implementation Plan was attached at Appendix 1.

The Mental Health Forum also worked with partner agencies to monitor progress against the recommendations of Tees Crisis Care Concordat Working Group. A summary of key achievements in relation to the Crisis Care Concordat was attached at Appendix 2.

In addition to the above, Hartlepool Matters brought partners together to shape the future of health and social care in Hartlepool. The recommendations made in relation to mental health were attached at Appendix 3 along with a summary of achievements against those recommendations.

It was noted that a tremendous amount of work around mental health wellbeing was being undertaken and particular thanks were forwarded to the Mental Health Forum and the Chair, Zoe Sherry, for co-ordinating activities around Mental health Day which was a resounding success in Hartlepool.

Decision

- (1) The progress to date was noted.
- (2) That further discussions with key partners in respect of a new plan from 2019 onwards were supported.

83. Raising Awareness of Adult Safeguarding (*Author*)

Type of decision

For information.

Purpose of report

To provide an update to Committee on the adult safeguarding awareness campaign in February 2018 and associated local developments.

Issue(s) for consideration

The report outlined the significant progress made since the creation of the Teeswide Safeguarding Adults Board (TSAB) in raising public awareness of adult safeguarding were key priorities. The current position including the development of an Adult Safeguarding Awareness Campaign was detailed in the report. It was noted that an Adult Safeguarding Learning and Networking Event had taken place on 6 February 2018 at the Centre for Independent Living. This event was well attended with very positive feedback received from attendees representing over 30 organisations.

The importance of prevention was a theme throughout the Learning and Networking Event and there were many examples of how local initiatives in Hartlepool were working well to support the prevention agenda. Further details of a joint project between Trading Standards and Adult Services was included within Appendix 3.

A representative from Trading Standards provided the Committee with a comprehensive update on the ongoing work around the prevention of nuisance calls and the installation of the Truecall devices which block unwanted telephone calls. It was highlighted during the discussion that followed, that the reporting of doorstep scams was low and work was ongoing with carers, banks, police etc to encouraging reporting of such incidents. Representatives from Trading Standards were attending residents groups to raise awareness of the services and support available around preventing nuisance calls and scams and it was suggested that a future presentation to the Council's Community Forums may be beneficial.

The Chair thanked Officers for the update adding that it was in everyone's gift to raise awareness of the services and support available and suggested that inclusion of the information available could be contained within Members' ward newsletters as this was a very effective way of doing this.

Decision

The Committee noted the report along with the positive progress being made to raise awareness of adult safeguarding and how they could contribute as Elected Members to further raise awareness.

84. Strategic Financial Management Report – as at 31 December 2017 *(Director of Adult and Community Based Services and Director of Finance and Policy)*

Type of decision

For information.

Purpose of report

To inform the Committee regarding the 2017/18 forecast General Fund Outturn, the 2017/18 Capital Programme Monitoring and to provide details for the specific budget areas that the Committee is responsible for.

Issue(s) for consideration

The Head of Finance, Corporate reported that an updated assessment of the forecast 2017/18 outturn had been completed and a net over spend of £0.124m was now anticipated, which was lower than the previous forecast of £0.250m. Details of the specific budget areas this Committee was responsible for were provided in Appendix A and it was noted that there were overspends within commissioning budgets for older people (£300k) and mental health (£150k) and also in relation to Deprivation of Liberty Safeguards (DoLS) (£110k). These overspends were being funded in the current year from non recurrent Improved Better Care Fund grant that supported the protection of social care, which replaced planned use of reserves to balance the budget.

It was noted that the Chair of Children's Services Committee had written to the Secretary of State raising the Council's concerns over the continuously reducing financial support for children's social care. The Director of Adult and Community Based Services added that the Improved Better Care Fund was being utilised to support the current budget but this was not sustainable for the longer term future and this was becoming increasingly challenging.

In conclusion, the Chair noted that the current budget position was a temporary solution that supported a £600k shortfall with one-off funding from the Improved Better Care Fund. In addition to this, concerns were expressed for the future funding of adult social care from 2019/20 onwards as this was subject to a Government review.

Decision

That the report was noted.

85. Progress Update – Centre for Independent Living

(Director of Adult and Community Based Services)

Type of decision

For information.

Purpose of report

To provide the Committee with an update on the Centre for Independent Living (CIL).

Issue(s) for consideration

The key focus of the CIL was to support working age adults with disabilities to maximise their independence with approximately 95 people accessing day opportunities throughout the week with an increase in

referrals to the day service in recent months. The service had delivered numerous events and was seeing increased demand which had resulted in a waiting list of people wishing to access the day service. During the first year of operation of the CIL, a number of providers had attended events, training or utilising the building as a meeting point.

Since the opening of the CIL, information had been collected in relation to 'footfall' and room usage and this was included in the report. Feedback received had praised the 'positive and friendly environment' with many positive comments received regarding the facilities on offer. There had been several opportunities for partnership working with a number of disability specific providers through the leasing of office accommodation and further details were included in the report.

It was recognised that there was significant potential for the CIL to develop further and the Council had engaged the support of an independent partner with significant experience in modernising day services and developing social enterprise models to assist with this piece of work.

A lengthy discussion ensued on the activities undertaken at the CIL including the education and training facilities available for adults with learning disabilities. The frustrations of local residents around car parking was raised and it was noted that staff had been asked to utilise the car parking in the current Havelock site and to be aware of residents' concerns.

The Chair highlighted that the CIL represented a £4m commitment of the Council to develop services for the local community and work was ongoing to further develop and increase the offer and services available. The CIL should be seen as the fourth community hub within the town as it included the provision of a lot of services and opportunities for working age adults with disabilities within the community.

Decision

That the progress update on the provision of services and further development of the CIL was noted and that a further report would be received on the future direction of travel for services for working age adults with disabilities in due course.

86. Support for Adult Carers in Hartlepool (*Director of Adult and Community Based Services*)

Type of decision

For information.

Purpose of report

To provide the Committee with an update regarding support available for carers following a request at Finance and Policy Committee.

Issue(s) for consideration

The detailed and comprehensive report provided the background to the local authorities responsibilities to carers as a result of the Care Act 2014. It was noted that in 2016/17, the Adult Services statutory return recorded that 2,229 carers in Hartlepool received some element of support. There were a number of ways to support carers in their caring role and a wide range of services were available in Hartlepool and further details were included within the report.

The report highlighted the statutory Carers' Survey and that Hartlepool was the best performing council overall in 2016/17, which was consistent with performance from 2014/15. The last Carers' Strategy for Hartlepool "Who Cares for Carers" was a multi-agency strategy for 2011-2016.

It was highlighted that Carers' Week 2018 runs from 11 June – 15 June and includes a variety of road show events planned throughout the week culminating in a celebration event at the Historic Quay. In order to consult with carers and partners, it was proposed to have a meeting on 15 June at the Historic Quay to submit proposals from carers around a Council strategy.

A discussion ensued on the support provided by the NHS and it was noted that 43% of the Better Care Fund supported the expenditure around supporting carers and this was a pooled budget with health colleagues. It was noted that Council officers and health partners work well together and the new NHS Continuing Health Care guidance which was due to be published in October makes reference to the NHS recognising the supporting role carers play.

The Chair commented that a massive debt of gratitude was owed to Hartlepool carers and that everyone should be proud of the care within our local communities with the financial investment of £800k being returned many times over through the value of local carers. Moving forward, carers will face more challenges as people were living longer and there was an increasing number of young carers. With this in mind, it was vital to fund and work effectively with carers to build upon very strong partnerships and the thanks of the Committee were passed on to all carers within the community for their hard work and commitment to the provision of care.

Decision

- (1) The development in relation to support for carers was noted with further progress updates provided as appropriate.
- (2) It was noted that Carers' Week 2018 would take place from 11 June – 15 June and a full timetable of events for the week would be circulated once finalised.

87. Care Quality Improvement Programme *(Director of Adult and Community Based Services)*

Type of decision

For information.

Purpose of report

To provide the Committee with information regarding the Care Quality Improvement Programme, which had been implemented to improve the quality of care in care homes and wider social care services.

Issue(s) for consideration

The Care Quality Improvement Programme in 2017/18 incorporated the following three key themes:

- Standards, Quality and Best Practice;
- Enhance Support Offer; and
- Investment in Care Homes for Older People.

The report provided a summary of the key achievements during 2017/18 highlighting an additional £1.3m had been invested. It was noted that previously Hartlepool did have five homes rated inadequate by the Care Quality Commission (CQC). However, in view of a number of dramatic improvements, there were currently no homes rated as inadequate with a 14% increase in homes rated as good. In addition to this, Sheraton Court had recently been rated as outstanding within the caring domain which showed a fantastic commitment as it had previously been rated as required improvement. This overall improvement was an incredible achievement by the staff within the sector supported by Council officers in partnership with the NHS. The Chair noted that to move to a position where the majority of homes within Hartlepool were rated as good with one achieving outstanding within the caring domain was a tremendous achievement. However, Members were asked to be mindful that the care homes market was a very fragile market and could change quickly.

The Chair commented that the final piece of the jigsaw was the further development and establishment of a care academy to raise the profile of caring as a profession and career pathway. The Chair thanked the Officers and Members involved in progressing this agenda.

Decision

The report and positive steps that had been taken to improve support for the local care market and improve the quality of care for local people was noted.

83. Any Other Business – Last meeting of municipal year

As this was the last meeting of the municipal year, the Chair thanked all officers and members of the public for their invaluable input into the work of the Committee during the municipal year.

The meeting concluded at 12 noon.

HAYLEY MARTIN

INTERIM CHIEF SOLICITOR

PUBLICATION DATE: 9 APRIL 2018