

# **ADULT AND COMMUNITY BASED SERVICES COMMITTEE**

## **MINUTES AND DECISION RECORD**

15 November 2018

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

### **Present:**

Councillor: Stephen Thomas (In the Chair)

Councillors: James Brewer, Lesley Hamilton, Sue Little, Mike McLaughlin (vice-chair), Carl Richardson and Mike Young.

Also present: Gordon and Stella Johnston and Judy Gray, Hartlepool Healthwatch  
Frank Harrison, National Pensioners Convention

Officers: Jill Harrison, Director of Adult and Community Based Services  
David Cosgrove, Democratic Services Team

### **30. Apologies for Absence**

None.

### **31. Declarations of Interest**

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

Councillor Carl Richardson declared a personal interest during the discussions at Minute No. 34 'Care Homes for Older People'.

### **32. Minutes of the meeting held on 11 October 2018**

Received.

### **33. Savings Programme 2019/20** (*Director of Adult and Community Based Services*)

#### **Type of decision**

Budget and Policy Framework

#### **Purpose of report**

To enable the Committee to consider proposals to achieve further savings in 2019/20 and to provide feedback on these proposals to the Finance and

Policy Committee meeting on 26 November 2018.

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

The Director of Adult and Community Based Services reported that for 2019/20 the total value of savings proposed for consideration by the Adult and Community Based Services Committee was £237,500 which is made up as follows:

#### **Review of Grant Income - £97,500**

A review of grant income has identified two areas where savings can be made with minimal or no impact for people using services.

The first proposal relates to the Disabled Facilities Grant (DFG), specifically the administration / management fee that is payable from the grant to offset costs incurred by the Council in administering and managing the DFG process. This is currently set at 12% and it is proposed to increase this to 15%, generating a saving of £37,500. There would be no impact on individuals receiving grants as the administration / management fee will be top sliced, and the maximum grant award maintained at £30,000. The increase in the administration / management fee will enable the service to absorb the pay award, as required by other grant regimes, as well as maintaining current waiting times.

The second proposal relates to a grant made to councils linked to financial assessment and the implementation of new duties. The grant was made to compensate local authorities for income lost as a result of the changes; however the new duties were already being undertaken within Hartlepool, managed from within existing resources. Payment of this grant effectively recognises the impact of good practice previously adopted by the Council and means the Council does not have to subsidise this service from the General Fund. The £60,000 can therefore be used to contribute to offset the Council's financial position.

#### **Recovery of Direct Payment Contingencies - £65,000**

A new approach to contingency funding within Direct Payments was introduced in April 2017. Historically, personal budgets for people who chose to take a direct payment and employ personal assistants were calculated based on the hourly rate paid to the person, plus on-costs with an element of contingency funding included in order to meet any unforeseen costs associated with sickness and / or redundancy. In the majority of cases, the contingency funding had not been required and work had been undertaken over the last two years to recover this funding through reconciliation of Direct Payment accounts. In future, departmental reserves will be used to meet any unforeseen costs associated with Direct Payments. Ongoing payments to users of service have reduced to remove funding for contingencies, which will avoid significant sums of money building up in service user bank accounts in the future. Based on work undertaken to date and the number of outstanding reconciliations, it is estimated that a further saving of £65,000 can be achieved in 2019/20.

### **Inflation Freeze / Salary Abatement - £75,000**

In addition to the potential savings identified relating to income (outlined above), it is proposed that Adult Services implements an inflation freeze for all non pay budgets (excluding contracts that include annual inflationary uplifts). This, combined with a review of all supplies and services budgets that have historically underspent, will achieve a saving of £25,000.

A departmental salary abatement target of £200,000, which accounted for vacant posts and incremental drift across the department, had been introduced from April 2016. This had been closely monitored and it was proposed that the target could be increased by a further £50,000 for 2019/20. This may only be a short term proposal as when officers moved through the pay grade towards the top of their pay scale the ability to contribute towards this target would reduce. It would also be dependent upon staff turnover and recruitment.

The Vice-Chair commented that while the budget reductions had to be made it was positive that they weren't being drawn from front line services. In relation to the Direct Payment Contingencies the Vice-Chair questioned if the changes would result in having to reclaim monies from clients. The Director stated that this was not the case as since the new approach had been adopted no monies to cover these contingencies had been paid to service users.

A Member suggested that a letter to the local member of parliament spelling out the Council's case in seeking further funding should be sent. Other Members did indicate that letters had been sent to government in the past to little avail. In terms of the savings proposed, Members commended officers for their efforts in producing savings without affecting front line services. A Member referred to the announcements of additional funding in the recent Budget and how much would Hartlepool be receiving and when. The Director stated that of the £240m of one-off winter funding announced, the Hartlepool share was around £0.5m. The conditions attached to this one-off funding were not yet known. Officers were already working with NHS partners to see how services could be supported particularly around hospital admissions and preventing people from being admitted in the first instance.

The Chair referred to the long awaited Government green paper on Adult Social care which had once again been delayed. The Chair went on to indicate that he had read the recently published report by the Local Government Association which outlined the responses they had received to their consultative Green Paper on the future delivery of Adult Social Care and stated that it laid out a compelling case for immediate reform of the manner and level at which Local Authority funding was provided.

The Director commented that while front line services had been protected and there had been few redundancies services were now centred only on the core statutory services. Any further cuts in budget would undoubtedly lead to a reduction in services at the front line. Any future approach to

savings would be corporate and would involve Members fully.

The Chair echoed Members comments in relation to the work undertaken by officers in minimising the impact of savings at the front line. However, even a stand still budget made managing services extremely difficult and until the issue of funding for adult social care was tackled nationally, there appeared to be little light at the end of the tunnel.

### **Decision**

1. That the report be noted.
2. That Finance and Policy Committee be informed that the Adult Services Committee reluctantly supports the proposed savings set out in the report.

## **34. Care Homes for Older People** *(Director of Adult and Community Based Services)*

### **Type of decision**

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**

There had been a number of developments since the last report to the Committee as follows:

**CQC Ratings** – A summary of the CQC ratings was attached as Appendix 1. This identified that two care homes rated as 'good' had been re-inspected and were now rated as 'requires improvement'. The two recently opened care homes had also been inspected and were now rated 'good' and 'requires improvement' respectively. There continued to be no homes rated as 'inadequate'. Care homes rated as 'requires improvement' had actions plans in place and were being closely monitored by link officers. The Council remained committed to supporting further improvements in care through the Care Quality Improvement Programme for 2018/19.

**Support provided to the Care Home Market** – The Manager Forum was held in September 2018 and continued to be well attended with positive feedback from attendees who welcome the opportunity to share learning and best practice.

**Capital Investment** – Capital funding from the Better Care Fund had been provided to care homes to enable improvements around creating environments that were more dementia friendly, developing accessible outdoor space and addressing environmental issues identified in CQC

inspections. A report summarising how the capital funding had been invested will be presented to a future meeting.

**Annual Programme of Care Home Visits** – The Chair of Adult and Community Based Services Committee and the Director of Adult and Community Based Services were undertaking a programme of visits to all care homes for older people in Hartlepool. In addition to this, the Chair and Director had also visited a care home for older people in a neighbouring authority which had an ‘outstanding’ overall rating and this had provided lots of practical ideas and inspiration for consideration locally. As a result of this, an event was being planned for care home providers in the coming months and will involve the Registered Manager from the home with ‘outstanding’ rating as well as input from the local CQC Inspection Team.

The vacancies reported indicated that there were 36 residential only places available in the town and 5 nursing care beds and 1 dual residential/nursing care bed. The Director indicated that since the report had been prepared the numbers had increased and there were now 30 residential only beds, 9 nursing care beds and 33 dual residential/nursing care bed. In terms of out of borough placements, these had reduced to 26 with all of those placements being at the choice of the individual and most to allow them to be closer to family.

Councillor Carl Richardson declared a personal interest at this point in the meeting. The Councillor welcomed the reported situation in relation to out of borough placements though did have concerns at the pressure the growing elderly population would bring.

Members questioned why a number of homes had been downgraded after inspection recently; was there any consistent reason. The Director commented that in the past the CQC had highlighted an issue with drug management and this had been resolved by through training. The director did not feel there was one specific reason, though did highlight that there had been some changes in Registered Managers over recently months. The Director indicated that work was being undertaken to ascertain if there were any issues that needed to be addressed. There were a lot of pressures on registered managers and new appointees would find this quite a significant step up. Some of the homes managers in the town had been in place for quite some time and it was possible that more needed to be done to build up deputies towards taking that next step. The issue was being examined nationally as part of the overall approach to care staff to examine ways of making the jobs more attractive through proper career pathways and generic qualifications.

Members referred to the recent publicity around Allied Health Care and questioned if Hartlepool was reliant on their services or any other large scale provider. The Director stated that the Council did have responsibilities around market management and as a lot of Council’s were discovering, covering the potential failure of such large scale providers

could be extremely difficult. There was, however, no such issue in Hartlepool. Allied do not operate in the town and no provider, national or local, operated more than two homes. If a home was to close, however, the vacancies would soon be taken up.

Members requested an update on the opening date of Admiral Court. The Director reported that as far as she was aware there was no date set for the re-opening of Admiral Court as it was understood the site was up for sale again.

Members raised issues around the numbers of people waiting to be discharged from hospital and the potential changes which would give greater powers to home managers to prevent people being moved from homes by family members under powers of attorney. The Director commented that no more than two or three people at any one time were waiting to be discharged from hospital and they were unlikely to be delayed more than a day. In terms of the changes to manager's powers, the Deprivation of Liberty Safeguards were in place to protect individuals and those powers lay with the authority. There was a concern that the powers proposed by the Law Society would place even more responsibility on care home managers potentially making the role unattractive.

The Chair commented that there was a good diversity of homes in Hartlepool and a clear commitment of staff to care for older people and this had become very clear to him during his recent visits to care home around the town. Caring for older people in care homes was only one side of the coin and caring for people in their own homes to allow them to maintain as much independence as possible was the other and the Chair requested a report on that work to provide balance to the reports on the positions with care homes.

The Chair also referred to the point made by the Director in the debate as to the potential development of generic training for care staff in the north east. A 'care academy' would be a positive move in bringing forward well trained staff for the care industry at all levels. There still remained the national issue that this was still a grossly under-paid profession that only a national approach to long term elderly care could address.

In light of the timescales for future meetings of the Committee, the Chair requested that the next update be submitted in four months time; at the March meeting.

### **Decision**

1. That the report be noted with a further update to be received at the March 2019 meeting.
2. That a similar update on the care provided in maintaining people in their own homes be submitted to the Committee

### **35. Quality Ratings for Commissioned Services** *(Director of Adult and Community Based Services)*

#### **Type of decision**

For information.

#### **Purpose of report**

Further to an update provided in February 2018 and regular updates relating to Care Homes for Older People, this report provided the Committee with an update on quality ratings for all other commissioned social care services that were regulated by the Care Quality Commission (CQC).

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

The report provided updates on the following commissioned regulated services:

**Home Care for Older People** – Homecare for older people was commissioned from two providers, one covering the south of the town and one covering the north. Homecare services had recently been tendered and new contracts will commence in April 2018, although the outcome of the tender process was not publicly available at the time of the meeting.

**Non Residential Services for Working Age Adults** – A number of providers were accredited to provide these services and the person has a choice about which provider to use.

**Residential Care for People with Learning Disabilities** – There were a number of providers for residential care for adults with learning disabilities within Hartlepool with a number of former residential care settings moving to a supported living model over the last few years.

**Residential Care for People with Mental Health Needs** – Most people with mental health needs were supported in their own homes or in supported housing settings. In addition, there were a small number of residential care settings that were regulated by CQC and support adults with mental health needs.

**Extra Care Support** – There were two purpose built Extra Care schemes, one at Hartfields, operated by the Joseph Rowntree Housing Trust and the other at Laurel Gardens, operated by Dale Care. In addition there were a number of virtual Extra Care Schemes operated by Dale Care in sheltered housing at Richard Court, Albany Court and Bamburgh Court. The majority of people accessing these services were over 55 but there were exceptions where those of working age with either learning or physical disabilities, met specific criteria to have their care needs supported.

A summary of all the current CQC ratings for all of these services was attached as Appendix 1. It was positive to note that the vast majority of

services (17 out of 18) were rated as 'good' and the Director indicated that the service rated 'requires improvement' was currently being inspected with the hope that it too would be rated as good in the near future.

There were two new recent developments, one at Whitethorn Gardens, off Seaton Lane and one at Gainford House providing supported living and accommodation for adults with learning disabilities. Neither of these two developments had any contract with the Council, thereby meaning both developments were at the owners own risk.

A Member referred to the past arrangements the Council had with Gainford House and asked if these were no longer in place, how were the clients previously supported at Gainford House being dealt with now. The Director indicated that she would share that information with Members following the meeting.

### **Decision**

That the report be noted.

## **36. Adjournment**

The Chairman agreed to a short adjournment as the presenter for the next item had been delayed.

Upon reconvening, the following were present:

Councillor: Stephen Thomas (In the Chair)

Councillors: Lesley Hamilton, Sue Little, Mike McLaughlin, and Carl Richardson.

Also present: Caroline Ryder-Jones – Tees, Esk and Wear Valleys NHS Trust  
Gordon and Stella Johnston, Hartlepool Healthwatch  
Frank Harrison, National Pensioners Convention

Officers: Jill Harrison, Director of Adult and Community Based Services  
David Cosgrove, Democratic Services Team

## **37. Dementia Friends Session**

### **Type of decision**

For information.

### **Purpose of report**

To Members present received a presentation from Caroline Ryder-Jones – Tees, Esk and Wear Valleys NHS Trust on the Alzheimer's Society Dementia Friends initiative enabling those present to become Dementia



Friends and support the society's aim to have four million dementia friends by 2020.

**Decision**

That Caroline Ryder-Jones be thanked for her very informative presentation.

**38. Any Other Items which the Chairman Considers are Urgent**

None.

The meeting concluded at 12.15 pm

**H MARTIN**

**CHIEF SOLICITOR**

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