

ADULT AND COMMUNITY BASED SERVICES COMMITTEE

MINUTES AND DECISION RECORD

6 DECEMBER 2018

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

Present:

Councillor: Stephen Thomas (In the Chair)

Councillors: Lesley Hamilton, Sue Little, Mike McLaughlin (Vice-Chair), and Carl Richardson.

Also present: Ann Baxter, Independent Chair, Tees-wide Safeguarding Adults Board
Pam McNeice, Clinical Lead Learning Disabilities, South Tees CCG
Dan Maddison, Commissioning Lead, Learning Disabilities and Mental Health, Hartlepool and Stockton-on-Tees CCG

Frank Harrison (National Pensions Convention/Years Ahead Forum),
Judy Gray, Hartlepool Healthwatch
Gordon and Stella Johnston

Officers: Jill Harrison, Director of Adult and Community Based Services
Neil Harrison, Head of Safeguarding and Specialist Services
David Ward, Head of Finance, Child and Adult Services
David Cosgrove, Democratic Services Team

39. Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Evelyn Leck.

40. Declarations of Interest

Councillor Stephen Thomas declared a personal interest as; an employee of Healthwatch Hartlepool, a Member of the Tees-wide Safeguarding Adults and the Health Action Sub Group.

Councillor Richardson declared a personal interest.

41. Minutes of the meeting held on 15 November 2018

Received.

42. Tees-wide Safeguarding Adults Board Annual Report 2017/18 and Strategic Business Plan 2018/19

(Director of Adult and Community Based Services and Independent Chair of Teeswide Safeguarding Adults Board)

Type of decision

Non key decision.

Purpose of report

To present to the Adult and Community Based Services Committee the Tees-wide Safeguarding Adults Board Annual Report 2017/18 and Strategic Business Plan 2018/19.

Issue(s) for consideration

The Chair of the Tees-wide Safeguarding Adults Board (TSAB) addressed the Committee setting out the Board's annual report and business plan for 2018/19. The annual report was in a new format, on which the Chair of the Board sought comments, and had been redesigned to make it more interesting for readers.

The Chair of the Tees-wide Board highlighted the following key points to the Committee –

- Prevention was a key activity; raising awareness among the public and professionals.
- The Board's website had over 10,000 visits – a mix of public and professionals.
- The 2017/18 annual survey had been completed by 640 people with 86% of the public feeling safe from abuse and neglect and 86% of professionals feeling well informed.
- The key priorities for 2018/19 were: -
 1. Develop the approach to early help and prevention
 2. Improve awareness of how people can protect themselves
 3. Focus on breaking down barriers to reporting abuse and neglect.
- There had been an increase in activity for the Board with a 27% increase in safeguarding concerns and enquiries between 2016 and 2018. This could be seen as either a bad thing or a good thing with people knowing how to raise concerns they hadn't felt able to in the past.
- The Board was concerned at the rise of 37% in Section 42 enquiries – action taken or instigated by the Local Authority in response to a reported concern that abuse may be taking place.
- The majority of cases were reported by care homes (30%) with nearly half (46%) of abuse cases occurring in care homes. The majority of these reports related to neglect and acts of omission.
- Where there were very serious issues around safeguarding a Safeguarding Adults Review was undertaken and the last one in the area had been the Carol review after the murder by two teenagers. The report had been published in June 2017 and had now had over

2000 reads on line.

- In 2018/19 the Board was looking towards shifting the balance towards early care and prevention as a means of stopping issues becoming serious. There was an acknowledgement of the budgetary issues being faced by all local authorities in the Tees Valley and how this may impact on reporting.
- There would also be a focus on under-reported issues and those communities that under reported.
- The Board would also continue to work collaboratively with the Children's Safeguarding Board though were aware of the changes to the children's safeguarding arrangements with the Hartlepool and Stockton Boards amalgamating.

A Member queried the number of responses (640) and asked how the survey was issued. The Director of Adult and Community Based Services commented that the survey was circulated very widely and available on the Board's website – a set number of surveys wasn't issued. The Member asked if it was possible to drill the results down to a local level. The Director commented that that would be unlikely as there were a lot of professionals that had responded to the survey who worked across Local Authority areas while the public would provide very localised responses.

A Member commented that it would be useful to have comparisons with previous results and asked if there was any correlation between increasing reporting of abuse and the economic situation; the Member specifically highlighted domestic abuse. The Director indicated that previous year's annual reports were available on the Board website for comparison and the Board Chair commented that, unfortunately, there was a link between major sporting events and domestic abuse and the Police considered domestic abuse as one of their major concerns in the Tees Valley.

The Vice-Chair questioned the repeat reporting of abuse and the concerns around that. The Director agreed that there were concerns around repeat reporting as it could indicate that the issue had not been resolved in the first instance. In relation to care home settings there could be repeat reporting associated with instances of missed medication or incidents between residents, particularly those living with dementia. The Vice-Chair asked if the numbers of physical abuse were, therefore, much lower. The Director stated that that conclusion couldn't be drawn from the numbers but her experience led her to believe the repeat incidences tended to be the less serious low level incidents that had less impact on individuals.

A Member raised concerns with the changes to the Children's Safeguarding Boards. The Independent Chair of TSAB shared those concerns but highlighted that responsibility was now being shared across the local authorities, Police and health agencies. The Director of Adult and Community Based Services stated that the statutory requirements in relation to Safeguarding Adults Boards were contained within the Care Act, and there was no indication that changes were forthcoming.

A Member raised concerns regarding the provision of support to people with mental health issues and learning disabilities in court settings. There were concerns that individuals were not always being supported appropriately through court intermediaries and witness preparation. The Independent Chair of TSAB commented that the issue had been raised with the courts as there had been issues of vulnerable people not getting justice due to the Crown Prosecution Service not considering them to be 'credible witnesses'. The Director indicated that there were schemes available around the appointment of appropriate adults and supported witness programmes but acknowledged that there did appear to be gaps in the services.

A Member questioned the instance of medication administration issues mentioned by the Director and whether these were increasing or decreasing. The Director stated that in Hartlepool a lot of work had been undertaken with care homes and an Enhanced Pharmacy Support service had been commissioned from the Better Care Fund Pooled Budget. This service gives providers access to training, advice and support around medication through dedicated pharmacist and pharmacy technician input.

The Chair thanked the Committee for their comments and questions and thanked the Independent Chair of TSAB for her attendance at the meeting. The Annual Report showed that work was progressing which reflected the significant work being undertaken by the board and staff in the local authorities.

Decision

That the Tees-wide Safeguarding Adults Board Annual Report be received and the Strategic Business Plan 2018/19 be endorsed.

43. Learning Disability Mortality (*Director of Adult and Community Based Services*)

Type of decision

Non key decision.

Purpose of report

To provide an update on learning disability mortality and local uptake of annual health checks, cancer screening and flu vaccination.

Issue(s) for consideration

The Head of Safeguarding and Specialist Services reported on national evidence on avoidable early deaths among adults with a learning disability and highlighted major concerns about health care for this client group. Evidence shows that the average age at death was 13 years younger than the national figure for men and 20 years younger for women. The most common certified underlying cause of death were heart and circulatory

disorders (23%), respiratory diseases (17%) and cancers (13%). With regard to the local position, the Head of Safeguarding and Specialist Services reported that data regarding the health needs of adults with learning disabilities in Hartlepool was collected using the RAIDR (Reporting Analysis and Intelligence Delivering Results); a healthcare intelligence tool developed in conjunction with GPs. A summary of current data was submitted as an appendix to the report.

As part of the local implementation of NHS England's programme for Enhanced Services under the Direct Enhanced Scheme, the CCG requires that GPs undertake a programme of Annual Health Checks, cancer screening and flu vaccination for people with additional needs. This enhanced service was designed to encourage practices to identify all patients aged 14 and over with learning disabilities; to maintain a learning disabilities register; and to offer people an annual health check, which included producing a health action plan together with subsequent health screening and vaccination.

Under the enhanced service GP practices should invite in all patients on their learning disabilities register, on an annual basis, for a review of their physical and mental health. Where problems or concerns were identified, practices were expected to address them as appropriate through the usual practice routes or via specialist referral if required.

As a minimum, the health check should include a collaborative review with the patient and carer (where applicable) of physical and mental health with referral through the usual routes if health problems are identified.

The Head of Safeguarding and Specialist Services drew Members' attention to the statistics set out in Appendix 2 to the report which showed the comparator numbers of people with learning disabilities across Hartlepool (656) and Stockton (856) and the health conditions they were recorded to have.

The Head of Safeguarding and Specialist Services also drew Members attention to the statistics for health check screening in Appendix 3 which revealed that flu vaccination uptake needed to be addressed.

The Commissioning Lead for Learning Disabilities and Mental Health, Hartlepool and Stockton-on-Tees CCG indicated that a significant amount of work was being undertaken with GPs to identify health inequalities across the CCG area. It had to be acknowledged that some learning disabilities did cause earlier death rates but there was general evidence that the age at death statistics were improving. Improving screening rates was one particular route to that improvement and there were two specific cancer specialists who went out into the community to improve screening rates in general.

There were now 'champions' for people with learning disabilities in each GP surgery and it was hoped they would assist in improving the screening

rates for these patients as there had also been some additional funding allocated to assist in this process.

The Clinical Lead Learning Disabilities, South Tees CCG commented that it was recognised that the issues around the health screening and general life expectancy for people with learning disabilities weren't just a local issue but a national one but there was no specific national policy relating to the health care of people with learning disabilities. Locally the rate of people with learning disabilities was 2% when the national figure was 0.52% which was a significant difference that needed to be understood.

Learning Disability Mortality Reviews were key to understanding what interventions should have been undertaken and when they could have made a difference. This learning could then be built into individual Health Action Plans to be followed through with patients and shared across the service. A mobile app was also being developed to help share information.

Members commented that the figures for breast and cervical screening were very low. The Commissioning Lead commented that work was underway in developing some simple videos that would explain what the screening process was and why it was being undertaken. Members asked if the screening venues were adapted to the needs of people with learning disabilities. The Commissioning Lead conceded they could be improved. The Clinical Lead, Learning Disabilities indicated that there were adjustments that could be made to facilitate their screening and having the individual plans that set out their needs clearly would help through this process. Information for their families was also important.

There was concern at the numbers that missed screening altogether as well as those that only attended once and had a bad experience that made them refuse to go again. The sharing of information with the patients and their families at a very early stage could only help 'ease' people with learning disabilities through these screening processes.

The meeting discussed more general issues around improving screening rates for people with learning disabilities and the more routine sharing of health information with them. Members touched upon issues around support for those living in the community, education for those in care home settings around healthy eating, sexual health and the disparity in the numbers of people with learning disabilities in Hartlepool. In relation to the numbers the Director of Adult and Community Based Services commented that the figures came from those registered by their GP as having learning disabilities. That could reflect a positive approach by GPs to identify these patients and ensuring services were properly identified for them.

The Chair thanked the representatives for their very informative report and presentation. The Chair had asked that an additional recommendation be included within the report to refer this issue to the Health and Wellbeing Board. As the Health and Wellbeing Board provided a venue for all the

appropriate partners in providing health and social services, it was appropriate to refer the matter there for their consideration as part of the wider work being done around the issues of health inequalities in the general population and building into that specific work for people with learning disabilities which would go some way to starting to reduce the gap in mortality rates.

Decision

1. That the current position in relation to learning disability mortality be noted;
2. That the report be referred to the Health and Wellbeing Board to raise awareness of this issue and to encourage other partners to take action to improve the health outcomes of adults with learning disabilities within Hartlepool.

44. Strategic Financial Management Report as at 30 September 2018 *(Director of Adult and Community Based Services and Director of Finance and Policy)*

Type of decision

For information.

Purpose of report

The purpose of the report was to inform Members of the 2018/19 forecast General Fund Outturn, the 2018/19 Capital Programme Monitoring and to provide details for the specific budget areas for which the Committee was responsible.

Issue(s) for consideration

The Head of Finance, Child and Adult Services referred to the reports submitted to the Finance and Policy Committee highlighting the potential overspend for the financial year, the reasons behind that and the measures being implemented to manage and reduce the overspend.

The Head of Finance indicated that this was the first financial management report submitted to the Committee which included the Community Based budget in line with the Committee's revised remit. The detailed appendices to the report showed a forecast for the department of a nil outturn variance, however, the 2018/19 budget includes £0.5m of non-recurring Improved Better Care Fund grant. This funding would not continue beyond 31 March 2019 and without this the Department would be reporting an overspend position. There were overspends within a number of areas including Libraries; Sport, Leisure and Recreation; and packages of care for adults with a learning disability. These overspends were mainly offset by underspends from incremental drift and staff vacancies. It was still early in the financial year, however, and there may be additional seasonal pressures that emerged in the remainder of the financial year, particularly in budgets that related to services for older people, during the

winter period.

The report also set out details of the Committee's Capital Budget and the Head of Finance indicated that there are no specific items to bring to Members attention.

A Member asked for details of how many agency social workers were being employed by the Council and the level of expenditure. The Director of Adult and Community Based Services stated that there were no agency workers in Adult Social Care but could not confirm numbers for Children's Social Care. The Chair requested that details be forwarded to Members after the meeting.

Decision

That the report be noted.

45. Adult Social Care User Survey Results *(Director of Adult and Community Based Services)*

Type of decision

For information.

Purpose of report

The purpose of the report was to provide the Committee with a summary of the results from the 2018 Adult Social Care User Survey, which contributed to the Adult Social Care Outcomes Framework, identifying how performance compared with previous years and showing comparison data from other Councils in the North East.

Issue(s) for consideration

The Director of Adult and Community Based Services reported that the Adult Social Care Outcomes Framework (ASCOF) was introduced in 2011/12 and aimed to measures how well social care services were delivering outcomes for people, with a focus on the issues that people have identified as being important for themselves and their friends and relatives. Performance and comparison data from the Adult Social Care User Survey had now been analysed. Comparisons were made nationally between the 151 Councils with Adult Social Care responsibilities and regionally between the 12 North East Local Authorities.

Social care related quality of life in Hartlepool, as reported by users of services, was fourth highest in the North East region and ninth highest in the national rankings, and 85.2% of people who responded to the survey report that they had control over their daily lives. This percentage was the highest reported within the region and the highest reported nationally and reflected a long term commitment in Hartlepool to self directed support, personal budgets and direct payments which give people choice and control over how their needs are met.

The proportion of people who use services who had as much social contact as they would like was 52.8% - the third highest performance in the North East and ninth highest nationally. Overall satisfaction of people who use service with their care and support was 67.1% and 80.4% of people who use services found it easy to find information about services (both of which were above the national average). The survey also asked people who use services if they felt safe, and whether the support they receive from adult services made them feel safe. In Hartlepool, 71.1% of people reported that they felt safe, with 92.4% reporting that the services they received made them feel safe. Again, both of these figures are above the national average with the proportion of people reporting that services made them feel safe ranking twelfth in the country.

The Director of Adult and Community Based Services commented that the results of the survey were very pleasing and reflected the hard work of officers and front line staff. Members echoed the comments and asked that their thanks be forwarded to staff. The Chair supported the comments adding that the survey results were a testament to the hard work and dedication of staff.

Decision

1. That the report and the continued positive feedback from users of adult social care services be noted.
2. That the thanks of the Committee be forwarded to staff.

46. Any Other Items which the Chairman Considers are Urgent

None.

The Committee noted that the next meeting would be held on 10 January 2019 commencing at 10.00 am in the Civic Centre.

The Chairman extended Christmas best wishes to all Members and attendees.

The meeting concluded at 11.25 am.

H MARTIN

CHIEF SOLICITOR

PUBLICATION DATE: 14 DECEMBER 2018