

ADULT AND COMMUNITY BASED SERVICES COMMITTEE

MINUTES AND DECISION RECORD

10 January 2019

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

Present:

Councillor: Stephen Thomas (In the Chair)

Councillors: James Brewer, Lesley Hamilton, Sue Little, Carl Richardson and
Mike Young

Also present:

Frank Harrison, National Pensioners Convention
Ruby Marshall, HealthWatch

Officers: Jill Harrison, Director of Adult and Community Based Services
Gemma Ptak, Assistant Director, Preventative and Community
Based Services
Jeanette Willis, Head of Strategic Commissioning
Neil Harrison, Head of Safeguarding and Specialist Services
Angela Armstrong, Principal Democratic Services Officer

47. Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Judy Gray (HealthWatch Hartlepool).

48. Declarations of Interest

Councillor Carl Richardson declared a personal interest in minute 52 and Councillor Stephen Thomas declared his usual personal interest as an employee of HealthWatch Hartlepool.

49. Minutes of the meeting held on 6 December 2018

Received.

50. Accessable – Accessibility Guide *(Director of Adult and Community Based Services)*

Type of decision

For information.

Purpose of report

To provide an update to Adult and Community Based Services Committee on the development of an online accessibility guide.

To make Adult and Community Based Committee aware of a proposed future launch event

Issue(s) for consideration

The Head of Service provided a presentation which highlighted that AccessAble, originally called DisabledGo, had been commissioned by Hartlepool Borough Council to undertake access reviews for 200 venues across the Town. In total, 75 access guides had been completed in Hartlepool and the guides were being uploaded to the new AccessAble website. In addition, 125 Hybrid access guides had been completed and will also be uploaded to the website. The final progress report was attached at Appendix 1 and described the detail of the types of reviews conducted.

During the discussion that ensued, clarification was sought on the involvement of service users in identifying access issues and potential solutions. The Head of Service indicated that this organisation was very much led by people with a disability and prides itself on engaging with people with live experience. The Director of Adult and Community Based Services added that the website had the option for people to provide feedback on facilities visited and this was very much welcomed. The Head of Service gave a demonstration of the AccessAble website highlighting that the interface of the site can be tailored to suit an individual's specific needs.

In response to a question from a Member, the Director of Adult and Community Based Services confirmed that all organisations were required by the Equality Act to make reasonable adjustments to enable access for people with disabilities. This would be done in conjunction with the local Council's Building Control and Planning Officers. The Chair suggested that further information on how this would be dealt with in the case of listed buildings be provided by the relevant Officers and circulated to all Members of the Committee.

It had been reported recently that there had been an issue with disability access at a particular railway station. The representative from the National Pensioners Convention indicated that there was an organisation called Rail Assist who could arrange assistance within railway stations if contacted with at least 24 hours notice. The Chair suggested that this

information be added to the Hartlepool Now website to raise awareness of this service.

In response to a question from the Chair, the Head of Service confirmed that work was ongoing to improve the support for specific groups of people including people with autism, sensory loss and dementia. In addition, where a particular priority was identified for Hartlepool, this will also be included.

The very informative presentation was noted and Members were asked to note and attend if possible, the launch of the AccessAble website for Hartlepool which was originally planned for 4 February 2019 but will now be rescheduled. Further details were available from the Head of Service and all Members will be provided with details of the launch event once confirmed.

Decision

- 1) The presentation and progress to date was noted.
- 2) It was noted that details regarding the launch event for the AccessAble website will follow.
- 3) That a response on the approach to disability access arrangements in listed buildings be circulated to all Members of the Committee.
- 4) That the Hartlepool Now website be updated to include reference to the assistance for people with disabilities in railway stations as provided by Rail Assist.

51. Preventative and Community Based Services *(Director of Adult and Community Based Services)*

Type of decision

For information.

Purpose of report

To provide the Adult and Community Based Services Committee with information regarding Preventative and Community Based Services, and work that is underway to strengthen links with Adult Social Care.

Issue(s) for consideration

The key service delivery areas within Preventative and Community Based Services are:

- Community Hubs incorporating a library offer; information and advice; and access to a range of health and employment support;
- Leisure Centres (Mill House Leisure Centre, Brierton Sports Centre, Headland Sports Hall and Grayfields Recreation Ground);
- Learn to Swim Programme;
- Carlton Outdoor Education Centre;
- Summerhill Outdoor Activity Centre;

- Sport and Physical Activity Team;
- Exercise on Referral Programme (HELP); and
- Strategy Development and Implementation (Playing Pitch Strategy, Indoor Facilities Strategy etc).

The key priorities within Preventative and Community Based Services were included within the report along with a number of areas highlighted as performing well and delivering positive outcomes for local people. It was noted that a number of successful and productive links had been developed between Adult Social Care and Preventative and Community Based Services including a joined up approach to the development of the falls service and the home library service as an initiative to tackle social isolation. The following were areas being explored for the future:

- Centre for Independent Living;
- Carers;
- Drug and Alcohol Services; and
- Mental Health Services.

The financial pressures across the Preventative and Community Based Services were outlined in the report and it was noted that work was ongoing to identify options to manage those pressures within existing budgets but scope to do so was limited.

In response to a number of questions by Members of the Committee, the Director of Adult and Community Based Services confirmed that further detailed reports will be submitted to future meetings of the Committee around the financial pressures in specific service areas. It was highlighted that the Council was committed to maintaining front line services, however, the current financial position as a whole posed a really significant challenge across all service areas.

A discussion ensued on the potential health benefits of sports and activities for all ages to promote a healthy lifestyle. In addition, it was noted that there was an abundance of retired people in the town who would enjoy the opportunity to pass on their lifeskills such as cooking and budget effectively on a voluntary basis. The Assistant Director, Preventative and Community Based Services reassured Members that a holistic approach was being looked at across all demographics in partnership with Public Health and Schools including the provision of workshops within the Community Hubs. A Member referred to a programme that worked with children with disabilities to teach them cooking and life skills which led to a qualification.

It was noted in the report that work was ongoing on the commercialisation of Carlton Adventure (previously Carlton Outdoor Centre) and a Member asked if he could be involved in that. A Member referred to the value and success of the Desmond course that was run from the Community Hubs and suggested that this could be utilised in a wider setting. The Director of Adult and Community Based Services confirmed that the further

development of the services provided within the Community Hubs will be reported to a future meeting of this Committee.

The Chair concluded that whilst there were concerns around the sustainability of Council services in view of ongoing budgetary reductions from Central Government, this was an opportunity to explore how functions can be further integrated into core activities of adult social care. In addition to this, the importance of improving the offer to young carers experiencing social isolation was reiterated. The Director of Adult and Community Based Services confirmed that a Joint meeting of the Children's and Adult and Community Based Services Committee was being held on Tuesday 5 February to look at an Carers' Strategy covering all age groups.

Decision

- 1) That the progress made to date be noted.
- 2) That Councillor Mike Young be invited to attend the Chair's planned visit to Carlton Adventure.

52. Capital Investment in Care Homes for Older People (*Director of Adult and Community Based Services*)

Type of decision

For information.

Purpose of report

To provide the Adult and Community Based Services Committee with an update in relation to the use of Improved Better Care Fund capital funding to improve care home provision for older people.

Issue(s) for consideration

It was noted that proposals had been submitted by care homes with many focussing on creating dementia friendly environments and all plans aiming to improve the experience of residents including:

- Sensory gardens;
- Conservatory;
- Dementia friendly designed furniture;
- Improved dining experience;
- Replacement of lighting for brighter environments;
- Replica village through wall decoration; and
- Interactive sensory equipment.

A more detailed summary of the work completed to date was attached as Appendix 1 and a number of photographs of works already completed were attached at Appendix 2. All homes had been able to demonstrate how this was significant capital investment had positively impacted on the home and residents and care home managers had been very appreciative of the continued support from the Local Authority. Officers continue to

monitor progress in the homes where works were not yet completed and to review the impact of improvements through regular quality monitoring processes.

The Chair proposed that a visit to one or two of the care homes be arranged before or after the next meeting of the Committee on Thursday 7 February 2019.

Members congratulated all involved in this project on the positive work undertaken, utilising the funding provided through the Improved Better Care Fund, to improve the offer within the care homes in Hartlepool. The Head of Strategic Commissioning commented that care homes managers had really welcomed the additional funding and the commitment to care homes demonstrated by the Council. A discussion ensued on the difficulties facing Adult Social Care in view of the ongoing budgetary reductions being imposed by the Government.

In response to a question from a Member, the Head of Strategic Commissioning indicated that a lot of the improvements had been made specifically with a view to supporting individual residents and information on whether homes allowed residents to keep their pets would be circulated to Members of the Committee. It was noted that some care homes had initiatives in place where people took animals to visit residents but the needs of residents were always paramount.

The Chair concluded that the improvements made through this element of the Improved Better Care Fund were fantastic and had achieved positive outcomes.

Decision

- 1) That the report was noted.
- 2) That a visit be arranged immediately prior to or following the next meeting of the Committee on 7 February 2019 to two homes.

53. Any Other Items which the Chairman Considers are Urgent

The Chairman ruled that the following items 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.

Minute 54 – National Convention Annual Dignity Day

54. Any Other Business – National Pensioners Convention Annual Dignity Day

The representative from the National Pensioners Convention informed Members of the Committee that the Annual Dignity Day would be held on

Saturday 2 February 2019 between 11.00am and 2.00pm. Everyone was welcome to attend but if anyone wished to run a stall at the event, to let Frank Harrison know at their earliest convenience.

The meeting concluded at 11.30am

H MARTIN

CHIEF SOLICITOR

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