

ADULT AND COMMUNITY BASED SERVICES COMMITTEE

MINUTES AND DECISION RECORD

23 OCTOBER 2020

The meeting commenced at 10.00 am and was an online remote meeting in compliance with the Council Procedure Rules Relating to the holding of Remote Meetings and the Local Authorities and Police and Crime Panels (Coronavirus) (Flexibility of Local Authority Police and Crime Panel Meetings) (England and Wales) Regulations 2020.

Present:

Councillor: Sue Little (In the Chair)

Councillors: Amy Prince, Carl Richardson, Stephen Thomas and Barbara Ward.

Also present: Councillor Tom Cassidy as substitute for Councillor Mike Young in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 4.2
Councillor Tony Richardson.

Officers: Jill Harrison, Director of Adult and Community Based Services
Gemma Ptak, Assistant Director, Preventative and Community Based Services
Danielle Swainston, Assistant Director, Joint Commissioning
Neil Harrison, Head of Safeguarding and Specialist Services
Trevor Smith, Head of Strategic Commissioning (Adults)
Leigh Keeble, Head of Community Hubs and Wellbeing
Ian Gardiner, Head of Leisure Recreation Participation
Sarah Scarr, Coast Countryside and Heritage Manager
Hayley Martin, Chief Solicitor
David Cosgrove and Denise Wimpenny, Democratic Services Team

1. Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor James Brewer and Mike Young.

2. Declarations of Interest

During the consideration of Minute No. 4 the following declarations were made:

Councillor C Richardson declared a personal interest in Min. No. 4.

Councillor Thomas declared a personal interest as an employee of Hartlepool Healthwatch.
Councillor Ward declared a personal interest as a Director of Bringing Communities Together.

3. Minutes of the meeting held on 27 February and 19 March 2020

Received.

4. Adult Social Update (*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 on developments in Adult Services in response to the COVID19 pandemic.

Issue(s) for consideration

The Director of Adult and Community Based Services updated the Committee on the activities of the department following the announcement of the UK lockdown on 23 March 2020. Adult Services had been maintained throughout the pandemic although there have been significant differences in how services were delivered. Many staff were required to work from home and many others undertook a wide range of alternative duties as the department responded to the huge impact of the pandemic on the population of the town.

The update covered the following key areas (which were set out in detail in the Director's comprehensive report): -

- Hospital discharge and intermediate care
- Day services for working age adults
- Safeguarding
- Care Homes
- Day services for older people
- Mental health services
- Other commissioned services
- Recovery planning
- Risk and financial considerations (including funding provided by central government)

Concerns were expressed by Members around the discharge procedures from hospital in the early days of the pandemic when elderly people were being discharged to residential settings without being tested and on

occasions with Covid-19. Members sought details of the numbers of cases among care home staff and residents which the Director undertook to share with Members after the meeting. There was discussion around the new discharge procedures for elderly people from hospital to residential settings when they had a positive Covid-19 test result and the requirement that all local authorities have an identified 'designated setting' for such people. Officers were still in discussions on this with the Clinical Commissioning Group, the Foundation Trust and care homes in the town. There was currently a high occupancy rate at Hartlepool care homes and identifying an appropriate setting may prove difficult.

There was also concern at the distance some people had had to travel for testing though the Director assured members that there was sufficient testing capacity locally, including at weekends. Care home staff were being tested weekly.

There was concern expressed by Members as the country and the region appeared to be moving into the second wave of the pandemic and issues around the sufficiency of government funding, the support for people who access 'working age' day services, respite care, social isolation, increased demand for mental health services and the effects of long-covid were discussed. The Director assured Members that officers were discussing issues around Covid-19 on a regular basis with the CCG, the NHS Foundation Trust and care providers, including daily meetings of the Health Protection Board. It was noted that an update on mental health provision and demand for services would be provided at the next meeting of the Health and Wellbeing Board, which Members may wish to attend. Members considered that a further meeting of the Committee before the scheduled date in February was needed and suggested a further meeting in December. Members requested that the Director seek updates from the CCG and the Foundation Trusts on their response to the pandemic and their plans for dealing with the second wave. The Chair supported the proposal for an additional meeting and stated that a date for a meeting in December would be circulated to Members at the earliest opportunity.

Throughout the debate the Chair and all Members expressed their great gratitude for the phenomenal amount of work undertaken by Council staff in responding to the pandemic. Members highlighted that the work of senior staff in developing and bringing the Support Hub online in a matter of days had been a significant success that had proved to be a life-line for many vulnerable residents. The distribution of PPE to care homes by the Council in the early days of the pandemic had been a very significant undertaking that undoubtedly protected many staff and residents in the early stages of the lockdown. Staff had taken on new roles and duties and had shown great flexibility and adaptability at a time of great uncertainty and risk and all deserved the greatest gratitude from Elected Members and the public. The Director thanked Members for their comments and stated that she would share them with staff. The Director also wished to publically record her thanks to staff for their response to the pandemic. This had been a period of extreme pressure on services and staff and

there were concerns around 'covid fatigue' but the Director assured Members that staff were being supported. The response from care providers and the voluntary sector had also been very significant in the response to the pandemic within Hartlepool and the Director recorded her thanks to them.

The Chair closed the debate by indicating to Members that a further meeting would be arranged in December to discuss further some of the issues raised by Members. The Chair had deliberately kept the numbers of scheduled meetings low as officers first priority must be responding to the pandemic and supporting the most vulnerable in the town. The Chair specifically highlighted her thanks for the response to the shortages of PPE in care homes, Project 65 which had assisted elderly people access IT to be able to 'face time' their families and the Brain in Hand app, which the Chair wished to see further details on at a future meeting.

Decision

That the report be noted and that the Committee's comments be shared with staff.

5. Shared Lives Provision (*Director of Adult and Community Based Services*)

Type of decision

Non key decision.

Purpose of report

To seek approval from the Adult and Community Based Services Committee for a partnership to be established with Durham County Council to develop Hartlepool Shared Lives provision.

Issue(s) for consideration

The Assistant Director, Joint Commissioning reported that the Committee considered a report at its meeting on 11 October 2018 on the Shared Lives scheme when it was agreed that a spot purchase scheme be entered into with Durham County Council. This scheme had worked well with a small number of individuals accessing the provision. Some examples of the provision and feedback from users was included in the report.

Officers were now keen to explore this as an option to support a much greater number of people and had reviewed options to further develop Shared Lives provision in Hartlepool; these included: -

- Continue with spot purchasing as needed,
- Develop an in-house Shared Lives provision,
- Develop a long term partnership agreement with Durham County Council for them to deliver a Shared Lives scheme on behalf of Hartlepool.

The lack of upfront investment meant that the scheme had not been developed as far as possible which it was considered counted against the continuation of spot purchasing. An in-house scheme could cost in excess of £200,000 just to provide the staffing infrastructure to support a scheme on top of the carers' costs. It was therefore proposed that developing the long-term relationship with Durham County Council was the most viable option allowing the economies of scale and certainty for both authorities.

There is an agreement in place currently allowing spot purchase of placements. The total annual cost has been £17,058 over the period covered by this arrangement, based on the four placements that have been made. The proposed new partnership agreement would have an annual value of £76,200 which will cover all infrastructure costs.

The Assistant Director highlighted that this was an 'invest to save' proposal. Current placements for adults with learning disabilities range from £68,000 to £230,000 per year. It was hoped that a number of future residential placements would not be needed as the individual would be able to be supported by families through Shared Lives. It was, therefore, proposed that the Council enter into an agreement with Durham County Council for 3 years initially with the option to extend for a further 2 years if the scheme develops as intended.

Members expressed their support for the scheme and the proposal now reported. Members suggested that the involvement of the local voluntary sector should also be considered in extending the scheme. The Director stated that the Council would engage with voluntary sector and Hartlepool Carers in promoting the scheme and identifying people who may benefit from this approach. The Director indicated that there was a regional commitment to promote the Shared Lives model, which may lead to some regional publicity linked to the recruitment of Shared Lives carers.

Decision

That the development of a partnership agreement with Durham County Council to establish Hartlepool Shared Lives provision be approved with the involvement of the local voluntary sector where appropriate to support the scheme.

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

Type of decision

For information.

Purpose of report

To provide members of the Adult and Community Based Services Committee with an update on developments within Preventative and Community Based Services in response to the COVID19 pandemic.

Issue(s) for consideration

The Assistant Director, Preventative and Community Based Services gave a presentation to the Committee providing an update on:

- how services have been impacted by the COVID19 pandemic and the associated lockdown;
- how services are currently operating and plans for the future; and
- progress with some key developments within Preventative and Community Based Services.

Members thanked the Assistant Director for the support they had received from her team during the lockdown period with a Member commenting that the amount of work undertaken with the community and the simple decency of staff to those in need was humbling.

Members noted that there were still some significant issues highlighted and amplified by the lockdown and other restrictions, one of those being digital exclusion for large parts of the community, particularly low income families and the elderly. It was sad to hear that some were saying that they had received more communication, even virtually, during the lockdown that they would normally. It was important to maintain some of these contacts to prevent social isolation.

The Director thanked Members for the comments and indicated that there was a desire to maintain the Support Hub as so much had been learned about the simple ways people could be supported in the community and there would be consideration of how the Community Pot could support some of the successful initiatives through collaborative working with the voluntary and community sector. This would be the subject of a future report to Finance and Policy Committee.

Decision

That the report and Members comments be noted.

7. Support Hub Evaluation (*Director of Adult and Community Based Services*)

Type of decision

For information.

Purpose of report

To provide members of the Adult and Community Based Services Committee with information and key outcomes in relation to Hartlepool Support Hub.

Issue(s) for consideration

The Assistant Director, Preventative and Community Based Services gave a presentation to the Committee on the operation of the Hartlepool Support Hub, which: -

- Summarised some of the key findings, data and outcomes that have been achieved by the Hub throughout its operation.
- Shared feedback from the public regarding the Hub and ward specific information.
- Advised on sustainability plans for the Hub; firstly to respond to future need in relation to COVID 19 and secondly for continued support to some of the most vulnerable people in our communities.
- Identified some key developments linked to the Community Hub infrastructure.

The presentation highlighted some of the significant statistics around the pandemic in Hartlepool: -

- 4,735 Hartlepool people were on the Governments 'Shielding' List
- Support was provided to 2,325 (shielded and non-shielded) people who were identified as isolated and potentially vulnerable; 65% of the people requiring support were aged over 60, 50% were lonely, isolated and living alone, and 35% had a long term condition.
- The Hub received 11,131 calls, made 26,160 calls and coordinated the delivery of 2,269 food parcels, the delivery of 2,948 hot meals provided by Mecca Bingo, collected and delivered 2,325 prescriptions, and delivered 313 PPE requests.

The presentation also provided some detailed ward level information and some examples of feedback the Hub had received from the public.

The Assistant Director reported that the ongoing development of the Support Hub has been resourced through existing service infrastructure and builds on the Community Led Support work that was being progressed within Adult Services prior to the COVID19 pandemic. Any future mobilisation of the Support Hub would not be resourced by additional funding from central government, which would result in a need to prioritise the Council response. It was anticipated, however, that because of the person centred planning conducted as shielding paused, the expected demand on the Support Hub may be significantly lower in response to a second wave and also on an ongoing basis. The expected demand will be linked to wider emotional and mental wellbeing and this is being planned for.

The Chair and Members again voiced their great appreciation for the work of Council staff and those in the voluntary and charity sectors during the pandemic. The Director recorded her thanks for the huge team effort led by the Assistant Director, Preventative and Community Based Services in developing and bringing the Support Hub on line in such a short space of time and the support it had given to the community as shown in the presentation. Members also commented positively on the Community Support Hub and the community led support initiative led by the Head of Community Hubs and Wellbeing and requested an update report at a future meeting.

The Chair stated that she was extremely proud of the response to the pandemic provided by Council staff across all departments. This reflected the excellent leadership provided by the senior management team at a time of great difficulty for everyone. The leaflet circulations had made a significant difference in keeping the community informed and the telephone contacts initiated by the Support Hub had proved a lifeline for many residents during a time of great worry.

Decision

That the report and Members comments be noted.

8. Any Other Items which the Chairman Considers are Urgent

None.

The Committee noted that the next diaried meeting was to be held on Tuesday 23 February 2021 at 10.00 am. There would, however, be an earlier meeting of the Committee to be scheduled in December as discussed by the Committee during the debate on Minute No. 4.

The meeting concluded at 12.35 pm

H MARTIN

CHIEF SOLICITOR

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