

# **ADULT AND COMMUNITY BASED SERVICES COMMITTEE**

## **MINUTES AND DECISION RECORD**

24 JUNE 2021

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

### **Present:**

Councillor: Tim Fleming (In the Chair)

Councillors: Gordon Cranney, Angela Falconer, Sue Little, Darren Price and Amy Prince.

Also present: Christopher Akers-Belcher (Hartlepool Healthwatch), Frank Harrison and Evelyn Leck

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

### **1. Apologies for Absence**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Carl Richardson

### **2. Declarations of Interest**

None.

### **3. Minutes of the meeting held on 12 March 2021**

Received.

Reference was made to Minute 24 'Allotment Review Update' and the past issues highlighted by allotment holders. The Director of Adult and Community Based Services restated that the review would involve full consultation with all allotment holders and to this extent the Focus Group had been disbanded as it was considered it did not represent the views of all allotment holders. The previously proposed rules changes had been suspended to allow a full review of the service. The Assistant Director, Preventative and Community Based Services stated that the consultation plan would be submitted to this Committee and would allow all allotment holders the opportunity to engage with the process. Members supported

the comments and looked forward to a more positive and inclusive approach to allotments in the town.

#### **4. The Role and Remit of the Adult and Community Based Services Committee** (*Director of Adult and Community Based Services*)

##### **Type of decision**

For information.

##### **Purpose of report**

To provide background on the Committee's role and remit to Committee Members.

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

The Director of Adult and Community Based Services, together with the Assistant Director, Preventative and Community Based Services gave a presentation to the Committee outlining the role and remit of the Adult and Community Based Services Committee as set out in the Council Constitution and the service areas that fell under its management. The presentation also included a brief overview of the Council's current budget position.

The presentation outlined Members' role and the specific service issues for Adult Social Care, Preventative and Community Based Services, Commissioned Services and the challenges and priorities the services faced in the immediate future.

Members welcomed some of the new developments highlighted in the presentation and highlighted the development of cycleways in particular.

Members questioned the roll-out of Covid-19 vaccinations to care home staff. The Director stated she would share detailed figures with Members after the meeting but stated there had been a very good uptake of the vaccine so far. There had been no cases of positive Covid-19 tests in care homes in the past two months.

Members acknowledged the concerns around the future budget and referred to the campaign to seek 'levelling-up' funding for Hartlepool.

The Healthwatch representative questioned the hospital discharge process for Hartlepool residents and asked if there was any benchmarking against the national model as there was some concerns being raised with Healthwatch that this was not always being followed and there was particular concern that there were still being some late night hospital discharges. The Healthwatch representative also asked if the roll-out to Community Hubs becoming a first point of contact for social care was still to happen this month. The Assistant Director stated that there had been a

slight delay in the roll-out of the first point of contact due to some staffing issues during the pandemic and an update would be provided to the Committee. In relation to the discharge processes, the Director stated that this was a long-standing challenge and she would ask the Assistant Director, Adult Social Care to contact Healthwatch direct to discuss the issues being reported to them.

A Member highlighted the investment into the Borough Hall and questioned if a similar scheme was proposed for the Civic Centre. The Assistant Director stated that the Civic Centre building fell under the management of the Finance and Policy Committee but that there was an asset management review underway and any issues would be most appropriately raised with the Assistant Director, Development and Growth. A member of the public also highlighted the roof leaks in the contact centre.

### **Decision**

That the presentation and discussions be noted.

## **5. Any Other Items which the Chairman Considers are Urgent**

A Member noted that there were no Covid-19 checks on those entering the building, such as temperature tests and asked if these should be implemented. The Director of Adult and Community Based Services indicated that she would pass the comment onto the Director of Public Health but highlighted that a temperature test was not a particularly accurate means of checking for Covid-19. Anyone could, however, collect free lateral flow testing kits from the Middleton Grange Shopping Centre.

The meeting concluded at 11.35 am.

**H MARTIN**

**CHIEF SOLICITOR**

**PUBLICATION DATE: 6 JULY 2021**