

ADULT AND COMMUNITY BASED SERVICES COMMITTEE AGENDA



Thursday 20 October 2022

at 10.00 am

**Council Chamber,
Civic Centre, Hartlepool**

MEMBERS: ADULT AND COMMUNITY BASED SERVICES COMMITTEE

Councillors Allen, Buchan, Clayton, Falconer, Hall, Little and Young.

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

2. TO RECEIVE ANY DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST BY MEMBERS

3. MINUTES

- 3.1 To receive the Minutes and Decision Record in respect of the meeting held on 29 September 2022

4. BUDGET AND POLICY FRAMEWORK ITEMS

None.

5. KEY DECISIONS

None.

6. OTHER ITEMS REQUIRING DECISION

- 6.1 Levelling Up Parks Fund - *Director of Adult and Community Based Services*

CIVIC CENTRE EVACUATION AND ASSEMBLY PROCEDURE

In the event of a fire alarm or a bomb alarm, please leave by the nearest emergency exit as directed by Council Officers. A Fire Alarm is a continuous ringing. A Bomb Alarm is a continuous tone.

The Assembly Point for everyone is Victory Square by the Cenotaph. If the meeting has to be evacuated, please proceed to the Assembly Point so that you can be safely accounted for.

7. ITEMS FOR INFORMATION

- 7.1 Update on Care Home Provision for Older People – *Director of Adult and Community Based Services*
- 7.2 Update on Commissioned Services - *Director of Adult and Community Based Services*

8. ANY OTHER BUSINESS WHICH THE CHAIR CONSIDERS URGENT

FOR INFORMATION

Forthcoming meeting dates are set out below. All meetings will be held in the Civic Centre, Hartlepool.

Thursday 24 November, 2022 at 10.00 am
Thursday 19 January, 2023 at 10.00 am
Thursday 16 February, 2023 at 10.00 am
Thursday 16 March, 2023 at 10.00 am



ADULT AND COMMUNITY BASED SERVICES COMMITTEE

MINUTES AND DECISION RECORD

29 SEPTEMBER 2022

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

Present:

Councillor: Bob Buchan (In the Chair)

Councillors: Gary Allen, Angela Falconer, Ged Hall, Sue Little, and Mike Young.

Also present: Councillor Pamela Hargreaves as substitute for Councillor Ben Clayton in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 4.2.
Frank Harrison and Evelyn Leck.

Karen Daglish, Seascapes Delivery Manager

Officers: Jill Harrison, Director of Adult and Community Based Services
Gemma Ptak, Assistant Director, Preventative and Community Based Services
Sarah Scarr, Head of Service - Heritage and Open Spaces
David Cosgrove, Democratic Services Team

13. Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Ben Clayton.

14 Declarations of Interest

None.

15 Minutes of the meeting held on 28 July 2022

Received.

16. National Lottery Heritage Fund Seascapes Project *(Assistant Director (Preventative and Community Based Services))*

Type of decision

For information.

Purpose of report

To update the Adult and Community Based Services Committee on the National Lottery Heritage Fund project known as Seascapes which is currently ongoing. The project boundary reaches from the Tyne to the Tees with a number of activities and projects being delivered within Hartlepool.

Issue(s) for consideration

Durham Heritage Coast formed a partnership in 2017 comprising a group of local, regional and national partners to submit a National Lottery Heritage Fund bid to establish a model for the management of the coast and inshore water between the Tyne and Tees rivers. The bid was successful and after a period of development the project was launched in 2020.

Seascapes covers the Magnesian Limestone Coast from South of the River Tyne to the River Tees. The boundary runs from the England Coast Path out to 6 nautical miles and is united by unique geology, the natural environment and a shared cultural heritage. The project aims to better protect and celebrate this heritage-rich and distinctive coastline.

The Seascapes Delivery Manager gave a presentation to the Committee outlining the background to the scheme, its achievements to date and some of the projects that had taken place along the Hartlepool coastline.

Members welcomed the Seascapes scheme and discussed some of the projects that were taking place around Hartlepool. Members welcomed the involvement of local school children and questioned how best to access information on the scheme. The Seascapes representative indicated that their website had up-to-date information on the various projects and how to get involved. Members particularly welcomed the scheme organisers reaching out to some of the harder to reach social groups.

Decision

That the report be noted and that the Seascapes representative be thanked for their very informative presentation.

17. Events Update (*Assistant Director (Preventative and Community Based Services)*)**Type of decision**

For information.

Purpose of report

To provide the Committee with an update on events that have been delivered or supported by the Council's Active and Creative Hartlepool

Team and to celebrate the outcomes that have been achieved, and to share an update on celebrations held across Hartlepool for the Queen's Platinum Jubilee.

Issue(s) for consideration

The Assistant Director, Preventative and Community Based Services reported on some the events that had taken place over the past year highlighting some of the numbers of people involved. The Assistant Director also showed a short promotional video that showcased some the past events. Members welcomed the report and the video and congratulated all those involved in the events reported. Members stated that they had attended many of the events and the Waterfront Festival was particularly highlighted as being very successful and clearly enjoyed by all those that had attended. The Assistant Director thanked Members for their comments and commented that all the events had been funded through one-off or external grant funding.

Decision

That the report be noted.

18. Adult Social Care Performance and Benchmarking Update *(Director of Adult and Community Based Services)*

Type of decision

For information.

Purpose of report

The report provides an update on adult social care performance and a summary of how this compares to other local authorities nationally.

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 to measure how well social care services deliver outcomes for people, with a focus on the issues that people have identified as being important for themselves and their friends and relatives such as:

- treating people with dignity and respect;
- supporting people to stay well and independent; and
- supporting people to play an active part in their local communities.

LG Futures also undertakes analysis nationally to benchmark performance and value for money using actual expenditure data from the Adult Social Care Finance Returns (ASC-FR) and client data from the Short and Long Term Return (SALT) collection, combined with Adult Social Care Outcomes Framework (ASCOF) performance data. This involves comparing local authorities to those identified as having similar demographics and levels of deprivation (referred to as a 'nearest neighbours group') and across all 151 authorities nationally.

The Director reported that the most up to date LG Futures report which draws information from the ASCOF for 2020/21, looks at performance and value for money for adults aged 18-64 and then for adults aged 65 and over. The key findings for Hartlepool are as follows:

- Performance relating to 18-64 year olds – 7th highest in the country.
- Performance relating to over 65s – 11th highest in the country.
- Value for money for 18-64 year olds – 2nd highest in country.
- Value for money for over 65s – 6th highest in country.

All of these results are based on a ranking of all 151 authorities. This information will be updated using 2021/22 performance data which has not yet been made publically available.

The Director reported that there are two performance measures identified in the benchmarking report and through internal analysis which had been identified as requiring further investigation as performance was below average in the reporting year.

The first of these relates to the proportion of older people receiving self-directed support, where the national average was 93.1% and the figure for Hartlepool was 90.4%. Although this still represented very good performance, an audit of this indicator would be undertaken to ensure that data was being collected and reported correctly, and to provide assurance that older people were directing their own support as far as they are able to.

The second measure subject to further analysis and audit was the number of people aged 18-64, per 100,000 population, who were admitted to residential or nursing care. The national average for this indicator in 2020/21 was 13.7 while the figure for Hartlepool was 21.7 (the LGA Futures report contains a figure of 32.5 which was inaccurate and was corrected following the data submission closing). Despite this correction officers remained concerned that this was not an accurate representation of the position in Hartlepool, where staff and managers were committed to supporting people to remain as independent as possible in their own home for as long as possible, utilising a range of community support options before permanent residential care is considered.

Members welcomed the report and congratulated all the staff in the department for delivering such high standards, particularly when recognising that Hartlepool was one of the smallest local authorities in the country. A Member questioned some the processes around Direct Payments to people who wished to manage their own care. The Director stated that there were a number of options available to people and the department provided advice and guidance through the process. There were no caps to personal budgets, the person's needs were fully assessed and then an indicative budget calculated around those to ensure their needs were met.

There was some discussion on the number of people subject to Deprivation of Liberty (DoLS) authorisations. The Director commented that there were no performance targets relating to the number of DoLS as activity is driven by local need. The Director also stated that DoLS ensure that people without capacity to make their own decisions are protected through the appropriate legal framework. There was also discussion around one of the services commissioned by the Council and how complaints were managed.

The Chair and Vice-Chair commented that there were many awards schemes for many other service areas but none for Adult Social Care which seemed to be a gap when there was such excellent work going on in the community.

Decision

That the report be noted.

19. Any Other Items which the Chairman Considers are Urgent

None.

The meeting concluded at 11.35 am

H MARTIN

CHIEF SOLICITOR

PUBLICATION DATE: 12 OCTOBER 2022

ADULT AND COMMUNITY BASED SERVICES COMMITTEE

20th October 2022



Report of: Director of Adult and Community Based Services

Subject: LEVELLING UP PARKS FUND

1. TYPE OF DECISION/APPLICABLE CATEGORY

1.1 Non-key decision.

2. PURPOSE OF REPORT

2.1 To provide the Adult and Community Based Services Committee with information on the Levelling Up Parks Fund and the funding allocated for Hartlepool and to seek support for the project proposal.

3. BACKGROUND

3.1 The Levelling Up Parks Fund was announced on 1 August 2022 by the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities (DLUHC) and Hartlepool Borough Council was allocated a grant of £85,000 for the creation or significant refurbishment of an urban green space.

3.2 There was no competitive bidding process for this grant. DLUHC assessed the provision of accessible, quality green space across the UK against the Index of Multiple Deprivation (IMD) to produce a list of eligible authorities.

3.3 Authorities were required to confirm acceptance of the grant by 5 September 2022 then to provide DLUHC with a project proposal by 3 October 2022. The project proposal will maintain a level of flexibility and may be amended once it has been reviewed by DLUHC. Authorities must then agree a Memorandum of Understanding for use of the grant before the end of October 2022 and are required to utilise fully the grant funding by 31 March 2023.

4. SELECTED GREEN SPACE

- 4.1 Burn Valley Gardens (BVG) has been selected as the most appropriate green space to invest the Levelling Up Parks Fund grant, to undertake significant refurbishments.
- 4.2 Although the park does not sit within a highlighted LSOA (Lower Layer Super Output Area), it is bordered by numerous highlighted LSOAs and is the closest significant green space to the communities living within those areas.
- 4.3 Due to current budget and capacity pressures within the Council to maintain additional green spaces within the town, and a lack of available space to create a new park within the highlighted LSOAs, allocating the funding to improve an area of BVG would be the most appropriate choice. Hartlepool's green spaces are typically 'asset rich' with regards to provision of play equipment, open spaces and planting, however they are 'resource poor' in terms of staff time and budgets. As a result our parks need to be adapted to benefit local communities and the environment in the most cost effective way that does not increase demand on existing maintenance budgets.
- 4.4 BVG has received little investment in recent years, and is often subjected to vandalism and antisocial behaviour, therefore is in need of refurbishment. It is the second oldest park in the town, and second most popular park after Ward Jackson Park, which holds Green Flag Status.

5. PROJECT PROPOSAL

- 5.1 The title of the project proposal is Burn Valley Nature Trail and Play. The proposal has been developed based on officer knowledge of green space and playground use, consultations with external organisations such as Play Out Hartlepool CIC, and engagement with communities who frequent Hartlepool's parks via a survey.
- 5.2 There will be three clear outcomes from the project.
- 5.2.1 Outcome 1: Improving health by developing an interactive trail and refurbishing the natural/adventure play area.

Interactive Trail: To develop a nature trail with oak post way markers throughout BVG and Family Wood, leading up to Summerhill Country Park. The posts will feature an aluminium rubbing plaque of native flora and fauna that can be used to create artwork. QR codes will be added to the posts creating an additional series of trails for mindfulness, education, or heritage, for example. The intention of the trail is to encourage children in the park to explore the green space and be more active, whilst additionally encouraging guardians of children to join in. The trail will be educational, promote creativity, and provide entertainment in an outdoor environment which will benefit mental and physical wellbeing, and will provide art features throughout the park through the aluminium displays on the posts.

Natural Play: The aim is to add more natural play equipment alongside natural-looking traditional play equipment to encourage play and exercise, whilst reducing maintenance costs and repair costs from vandalism. Natural play areas are more open and attractive to a wider age range of children, and smaller elements can be developed from ‘waste’ materials from tree maintenance programmes. Refurbishment and expansion of the popular natural play area situated in upper BVG is planned with the addition of a trim trail constructed from Robinia wood. Similar equipment has required little maintenance in other areas of the town, and crucially has survived arson attempts with only minor aesthetic damage that is easily fixed. Bonded mulch surfacing will be used as this is known to last and has a natural appearance.

5.2.2 Outcome 2: Climate mitigation and increasing biodiversity through a ‘tree uplift’ and tree planting programme, and installation of a sensory garden.

Tree planting: A number of large trees have fallen in BVG over the last few years due to rotting and over-maturity. It is likely there are other trees in a similar condition. It is proposed trees requiring attention will be highlighted by the Horticultural team and Arboricultural Officer. As part of this outcome there will be two strands:

- a) Plant new trees in the park to replace old trees requiring removal due to safety concerns.
- b) Highlight spaces to add additional trees either leading up to the park, or in the park. Trees leading up to the park can act as a green corridor from the town centre, and in the future extra trail posts could be added to extend the above mentioned trail route.

Sensory garden: The sensory garden in Seaton Park is popular for all age ranges. Raised beds with low maintenance sensory plants such as lavender and other herbs will increase biodiversity. Invertebrate hotels and bird and bat boxes can be added around the sensory garden to provide habitat for wildlife in the park.

5.2.3 Outcome 3: Community social space

An area where members of the community can congregate and socialise by developing a circular seating area for picnics or simply relaxing. Seating areas will be constructed using natural looking materials to fit with the aesthetic of the wider play areas. The intention will be to provide extra areas for families and groups to sit, which provide views across the natural play area.

5.3 To achieve the identified outcomes, the funding will be spent on:

- Refurbishment and expansion of the natural play area located in upper Burn Valley Gardens.
- Development of an interactive trail through the park and leading to Summerhill.

- Increasing biodiversity by planting native flora in a sensory garden around natural play area.
- Climate mitigation by removing hazardous trees and planting additional heavy standards in the park.
- Creating an area for socialising / picnics in upper Burn Valley Gardens.
- Repairs of potholes on paths to improve accessibility and reduce trip hazards and replacement of rotten timber in wildlife area.

6. RISK IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 The most significant risk to investment in BVG has been identified as vandalism and other anti-social behaviour. The most recent equipment installed in the park suffered from an arson attack within weeks of installation. As a result of this, considerations have been made with regards to the materials used, as well as the type of equipment, and the capacity of the Council to maintain and address any issues that may arise.

7. FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS

- 7.1 The total funding of £85,000 allocated by DLUHC is to be used as follows:
- Up to **£47,500** capital for creation or improvement of the park including hard and soft landscaping.
 - Up to **£18,500** revenue for project preparation, creation and maintenance.
 - Up to **£19,000** 'tree uplift' for tree planting and related costs.
- 7.2 Quotes are currently being sought for each element of the scheme and projected expenditure will be compliant with the criteria set out above.
- 7.3 Consideration must be made of ongoing maintenance costs for additional equipment purchased and installed through the grant funding scheme. This will include the maintenance of the refurbished play area, replacement of bark or mulch, fixing or replacing any missing / broken parts of play equipment and patching up any play surfaces. There will also be tree maintenance to consider. It is therefore proposed that an element of the grant is reserved for future maintenance.

8. LEGAL CONSIDERATIONS

- 8.1 Planning permission may be required to expand the natural play area. Details will be submitted to the Planning Services One Stop Shop for consideration and appropriate action taken.
- 8.2 For any new installations to the play area, all equipment will be in line with British Standard (BS EN 1176) safety standards.

9. CONSULTATION

- 9.1 A recent 'Your Say, Our Future' survey highlighted a number of points relating to BVG:
- BVG is the second most visited park.
 - Use of the playgrounds is one of the top reasons for visiting BVG, alongside use of sports facilities and going for a walk.
 - Most of BVG's visitors visit the park once a week or more.
 - When asked what could be improved in the park, cleanliness, security, playground facilities and maintenance of flowerbeds and trees were voted as most important.
 - Survey comments included:
 - *"Most of the trees are very old and leaning. When trees are removed there needs to be new ones planted to ensure there is still tree coverage."*
 - *"Play equipment is constantly destroyed. Fenced wildlife area is completely overgrown, looks an eyesore and is unusable."*

10. CHILD AND FAMILY POVERTY CONSIDERATIONS

- 10.1 There are no child and family poverty considerations specifically associated with this report, although the development will enhance opportunities for children and families to access play and recreation space free of charge.

11. EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY CONSIDERATIONS

- 11.1 There are no equality and diversity considerations associated with this report. Accessibility has been taken into account when developing proposals.

12. STAFF CONSIDERATIONS

- 12.1 There are no staffing considerations associated with this report – the project will be delivered within the existing staffing resource.

13. ASSET MANAGEMENT CONSIDERATIONS

- 13.1 The proposed plans to utilise the Levelling Up Parks funding will significantly improve Burn Valley Gardens.

14. RECOMMENDATION

- 14.1 It is recommended that the Adult and Community Based Services Committee note the contents of this report and support the project proposals.

15. REASON FOR RECOMMENDATION

- 15.1 The proposals will deliver significantly improved facilities at Burn Valley Gardens, which will benefit residents.

16. CONTACT OFFICERS

Gemma Ptak
Assistant Director – Preventative and Community Based Services

Sarah Scarr
Head of Service – Heritage and Open Spaces

Sign Off:

Director of Finance and Policy



Chief Solicitor

ADULT AND COMMUNITY BASED SERVICES COMMITTEE

20th October 2022



Report of: Director of Adult and Community Based Services

Subject: UPDATE ON CARE HOME PROVISION FOR OLDER PEOPLE

1. TYPE OF DECISION/APPLICABLE CATEGORY

1.1 No decision required; for information.

2. PURPOSE OF REPORT

2.1 To provide the Adult and Community Based Services Committee with an update in relation to care home provision for older people.

3. BACKGROUND

3.1 There have been regular updates to the Committee for a number of years providing details of CQC inspection ratings, occupancy levels, quality assurance, fee negotiations and support to the care home market.

4. CURRENT POSITION

4.1 Since the last report in February 2022, there have been further developments, outlined below, a number of which relate to the Covid pandemic.

4.2 Occupancy and Vacancies

4.2.1 Care home occupancy has increased to approximately 95% in older people's care homes across the town and there are currently 30 vacancies across the 16 older peoples care homes. Officers continue to monitor care home vacancies closely to understand both short and long term impact and to assess whether further support is required by the homes affected. Activity figures are shown in **Appendix 1**.

- 4.2.2 The number of out of borough placements currently stands at 113, which has increased slightly over the last two years, meaning that proportionately more people are now being supported in care homes outside Hartlepool. This is expected to reduce as a new care home in Hartlepool will gradually add extra capacity over the coming months.

4.3 Incidence of Covid

- 4.3.1 Recently, there have been a small number of Covid outbreaks in care homes across Hartlepool but in most instances new admissions were possible while risk assessments were put in place by the care home.

- 4.3.2 These outbreaks are monitored and supported (where required) by Public Health, Adults Commissioning, Environmental Health Officers, Public Health England and where required the Care Quality Commission (CQC) and Health and Safety Executive.

- 4.3.3 The number of Covid positive cases within older peoples care homes is closely monitored. There were 38 new resident cases from April to June 2022 and 61 staff cases. This has reduced significantly from the previous quarter, where there were 255 new resident cases and 299 staff cases. This reduction is in line with regional and national prevalence.

4.4 Covid Related Funding

- 4.4.1 Covid premium payments ceased in November 2020, but two further schemes of support were introduced:

- Covid Recovery support scheme to all older peoples care homes – additional payment equivalent to 2% paid between March and September 2021, which was reduced to 1% for a further period of September to December 2021, and then ceased.
- Occupancy support scheme for those homes where occupancy fell by more than 5%, with 75% of the difference was funded by the council. This ceased in January 2022.

- 4.4.2 Significant funding for care homes and other care providers via national grants was implemented during 2020 and 2021, including:

- Infection Control Grant.
- Rapid Testing Grant
- Workforce Capacity Grant (second allocation in January 2022)
- Vaccine funding.

This funding has now ceased and no further national funding is available.

4.5 Covid Testing

- 4.5.1 The government has recently announced changes to Covid adult social care testing requirements (effective from 31st August 2022). The major change is the pausing of twice weekly asymptomatic Lateral Flow Device (LFD) testing

for staff in care homes (and other care settings, e.g. extra care, supported living services, homecare organisations, day care centres). The guidance also states an LFD test is no longer required for visiting professionals entering a care setting. Despite the change in guidance, individual homes may have their own policies which still require workers to complete an LFD test before entering. We are advising all professionals to check with each service what they require for entry in advance of a visit. Requirements for entry may change if the service has a Covid outbreak.

- 4.5.2 Staff testing will only take place when a worker shows symptoms or the home is in an outbreak, as declared by Public Health England, now replaced by Office for Health Improvement and Disparities (OHID). There are currently no requirements for regular resident testing and therefore, resident testing does not now routinely take place, but will if a resident shows symptoms or an outbreak has occurred in the care home.

4.6 Visiting Arrangements

- 4.6.1 Older people's care homes across the town had been allowing visits on a limited and pre-arranged basis, except under Covid outbreaks. New guidelines introduced from the end of January 2022 state 'There will be no limit on the number of visitors a resident can have and no requirements to test or isolate after 'visits out' (providing visits are not deemed to be "high risk"). Effectively, visiting arrangements are now back to a very similar position to that prior to the pandemic, but can be more restricted if an outbreak occurs. Visitors are still asked to wear masks, particularly in public areas within the home.

4.7 Covid Vaccination

- 4.7.1 In December 2021 95% of care home residents had been vaccinated with the first and second dose of the Covid vaccine. Take up of the third and fourth doses did not meet the same high levels with 83% having received the third dose, and 21% so far having received the fourth dose (with the vaccination programme underway during Autumn 2022).
- 4.7.2 Information on the latest position for staff having had the booster vaccinations is currently being collated but is not at the same high level as for residents.
- 4.7.3 The position on booster vaccinations in care homes will be closely monitored to ensure this continues to increase, but it's positive to note that the figures in Hartlepool for the booster vaccination are higher than the national average.
- 4.7.4 The administration of the fourth dose for staff has already started in older peoples care homes and will be rolled out to the wider social care workforce in Hartlepool in October 2022, with a clinic being planned at The University Hospital of Hartlepool to aid local take up (details to be confirmed).

Quality Monitoring

- 4.7.3 Quality of provision remains high in care homes for older people with 96% of all care homes rated as 'Good' by the Care Quality Commission. This has improved significantly in recent years and has remained consistently high over the last 2 years.
- 4.7.4 Currently, there are no homes subject to the Tees Safeguarding Adults Board's Responding to and Addressing Serious Concerns process and there are no homes with suspensions in place for new admissions.
- 4.7.5 The Hartlepool Quality Standards Framework (QSF) annual process is currently underway for 2022-23 in order to monitor all care homes in Hartlepool against an agreed set of standards. This process continually revises and enhances evidence gathering tools to give more emphasis in key areas. The Commissioning Team is currently gathering evidence for assessments and will produce final reports for all care homes in March 2023.

5. RISK IMPLICATIONS

5.1 Care Home Capacity

- 5.1.1 There have been concerns in recent years about the availability of sufficient care home places for older people. This continues to be closely monitored as additional factors such as Covid outbreaks in care homes reduce the number of homes able to accept new admissions.
- 5.1.2 The closure of a nursing home in Hartlepool on 31 March 2022 (Gretton Court) had a significant impact on residents and their families, as well as the availability of new nursing placements across the town. This led to more families needing to find provision out of the area.
- 5.1.3 However, a new care home (Merlin Manor) that will have capacity to support 90 older people opened in July 2022. This will increase capacity significantly, including for nursing care placements. Currently there are 8 residents in the new home, with a maximum of 3 admissions each week planned going forward. This capacity should reduce the need for out of area placements and give people increased choice within the town.
- 5.1.4 Care home capacity continues to be monitored on a regular basis, as any reduction in capacity would increase the need for older people to access out of area placements and impact on delayed transfers of care from hospital.

5.2 Workforce Pressures

- 5.2.1 There are pressures on care home staffing levels due to wider community workforce availability and staff absence due to Covid or other sickness. Staffing levels and reliance on agency staff are monitored regularly and plans to develop a health and care academy in partnership with North Tees

and Hartlepool NHS Foundation Trust and Hartlepool College of Further Education aim to promote social care as a career choice and grow the local workforce.

- 5.2.2 The Council is currently working with North East ADASS (Association of Directors of Adult Social Services) and the other north east local authorities to support a local and regional workforce campaign to attract more people into the care sector across a range of functions.

5.3 Costs and Market Sustainability

- 5.3.1 Local authorities have duties under the Care Act 2014 in relation to market sustainability, including the requirement to fund care at an appropriate level. Add more detail.
- 5.3.2 There is a requirement on all local authorities to produce a Market Sustainability Plan (MSP) by 14th October 2022. This will outline the current market position related to Hartlepool older peoples care homes and domiciliary care, as well as a forecast of expected usage going forward.
- 5.3.3 All local authorities are required to undertake a Fair Cost of Care exercise for older people's care homes (as well as home care services) during 2022/23. This is currently underway in Hartlepool and the majority of care homes have submitted returns to inform this work. The outcome of this exercise is not yet known and the impact for the Council will need to be assessed in further detail, taking into account national guidance.
- 5.3.4 The impact on care homes of the current cost of living crisis, particularly fuel and energy costs, is being monitored. This has the potential to increase dramatically costs to care home providers which may impact on their longer term viability. The national response to this is awaited, while many care homes have agreed fixed term deals with utility companies to lessen the immediate impact of increasing fuel costs.

6. **FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS**

- 6.1 There are significant financial considerations associated with care home provision, including the fair cost of care and implementation of the National Living Wage.
- 6.2 Over the last two years, there was significant funding announced nationally to support care home provision linked to the Covid pandemic, all of which has now ceased.
- 6.3 As referenced in 5.3.3 a Fair Cost of Care exercise for older people's care homes is currently underway in Hartlepool – this is for both Older Peoples care homes and Domiciliary Care agencies. Any financial impact for the Council will need to be assessed once the results are known, taking into account national guidance.

- 6.4 New national funding for 2022/23 has been allocated to Hartlepool of approx. £330,000, with 25% of this to be used to support Council costs and the remaining 75% to be distributed directly to care providers. Options for allocation of this funding to providers are currently being considered and will be distributed in the period October 2022 to March 2023.

7. LEGAL CONSIDERATIONS

- 7.1 Care home provision for older people supports the Council to fulfil its statutory duties in relation to the provision of adult social care in line with the Care Act 2014 and other relevant legislation.
- 7.2 There are legal implications associated with the Fair Cost of Care exercise that is underway and guidance has recently been issued by the Local Government Association. This will be taken into account when determining plans for local implementation.

8. CONSULTATION

- 8.1 The Council regularly engages with providers of care homes for older people through Provider Forums. Meetings are well attended and providers feedback that they are beneficial. The next meeting is scheduled to take place in November during National Safeguarding Adults Week where best practice and lessons learned from recent reviews will be shared.

9. CHILD AND FAMILY POVERTY CONSIDERATIONS

- 9.1 There are no child and family poverty considerations associated with this report.

10. EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY CONSIDERATIONS

- 10.1 There are no equality and diversity considerations associated with this report.

11. STAFF CONSIDERATIONS

- 11.1 There are no staff considerations associated with this report.

12. ASSET MANAGEMENT CONSIDERATIONS

- 12.1 There are no asset management considerations associated with this report.

13. RECOMMENDATION

- 13.1 It is recommended that the Adult and Community Based Services Committee note the contents of this report and receive further updates as deemed necessary.

14. REASON FOR RECOMMENDATION

- 14.1 The Committee has identified care home provision for older people as a priority due to the role of care homes in supporting vulnerable older people.

15. CONTACT OFFICERS

Trevor Smith, Head of Strategic Commissioning (Adults) Civic Centre, 01429 523950 trevor.smith@hartlepool.gov.uk

Danielle Swainston, Assistant Director, Joint Commissioning, Civic Centre, 01429 523732 danielle.swainston@hartlepool.gov.uk

Care Home Update: Supporting Information**Appendix 1****A. Number of people in residential and nursing care**

Position at:	30-Jun-2020	30-Sep-2020	31-Dec-2020	31-Mar-2021	30-Jun-2021	30-Sep-2021	31-Dec-2021	31-Mar-2022	30-Jun-2022
Over 65s	581	626	569	569	592	610	583	611	598
18-64s	90	91	92	84	78	74	82	71	77
Total	671	717	661	653	670	684	665	682	675

B. Number of out of borough placements for Hartlepool residents

OOB Snapshot	30-Jun-2020	30-Sep-2020	31-Dec-2020	31-Mar-2021	30-Jun-2021	30-Sep-2021	31-Dec-2021	31-Mar-2022	30-Jun-2022
Over 65s	66	63	59	59	64	70	69	91	84
18-64s	40	41	39	35	33	31	30	28	29
Total	106	104	98	94	97	101	99	119	113

C. Vacancies in older peoples care homes in Hartlepool

	30-Jun-2020	30-Sep-2020	31-Dec-2020	31-Mar-2021	30-Jun-2021	30-Sep-2021	31-Dec-2021	31-Mar-2022	30-Jun-2022
Total vacancies	111	61	98	78	73	63	97	59	30
% occupied	85%	92%	87%	90%	90%	91%	87%	95%	95%

D. COVID positive cases in older peoples care homes by quarter

Number	30-Jun-2020	30-Sep-2020	31-Dec-2020	31-Mar-2021	30-Jun-2021	30-Sep-2021	31-Dec-2021	31-Mar-2022	30-Jun-2022
Resident Cases	156	15	151	67	3	27	31	255	38
Worker cases	N/A	26	143	67	6	56	83	299	61

E. CQC Ratings for Older peoples care homes

Care Home	Provider	Publication Date	Rating
Brierton Lodge	HC-One	31/10/17	Good
Charlotte Grange	Park Homes	15/02/22	Good
Clifton House	Independent	27/02/19	Good
De Bruce Court	Careline Lifestyles	27/07/21	Good
Dinsdale Lodge	Abbey Homes	30/12/17	Good
Elwick Grange	Care UK	07/02/18	Good
Lindisfarne	Gainford Care	11/12/20	Good
Merlin Manor	Prestige Group		Not yet inspected
Queens Meadow	Hillcare	27/08/22	Good
Rossmere Park	Independent	15/09/18	Good
Seaton Hall	Independent	09/01/21	Good
Sheraton Court	HC-One	21/04/18	Good
Stichell House	Hospital of God	02/12/20	Good
Warrior Park	Tamaris Healthcare	14/02/20	Good
West View Lodge	Marton Care	14/10/21	Good
Wynyard Woods	Anchor Homes	03/03/21	Good

ADULT AND COMMUNITY BASED SERVICES COMMITTEE

20 October 2022



Report of: Director of Adult and Community Based Services

Subject: UPDATE ON COMMISSIONED SERVICES

1. TYPE OF DECISION/APPLICABLE CATEGORY

1.1 No decision required; for information.

2. PURPOSE OF REPORT

2.1 This report provides the Adult and Community Based Services Committee with an update on quality ratings for all commissioned social care services, other than care homes for older people, which are regulated by the Care Quality Commission (CQC).

3. BACKGROUND

3.1 Care home provision for older people is discussed regularly at Adult and Community Based Services Committee with updates covering pertinent issues and the latest CQC ratings.

3.2 There are a number of additional services commissioned for adults in Hartlepool that are regulated, inspected and rated by the CQC, which are summarised in this report. These include;

- Home care for older people;
- Non-residential services for working age adults;
- Residential care for people with learning disabilities; and
- Residential care for people with mental health needs.

3.3 In addition to services commissioned by the Council, there are some services that are regulated by the CQC and provide support to people in Hartlepool, where there is no contract in place with the Council. This includes services purchased privately, services purchased using Direct Payments and services that are commissioned and funded by the NHS to meet health needs.

4. COMMISSIONED REGULATED SERVICES

4.1 All services commissioned by the Council are subject to contract monitoring and the Quality Standards Framework. Regulated services are also required to be registered by the CQC and are subject to regular inspection, which is followed by a published rating.

4.2 These services include:

4.2.1 Home Care for Older People

Homecare for older people is commissioned from two providers, one covering the south of the town and one covering the north. There is ongoing monitoring of these services through the Quality Standards Framework and, as for care homes, the services have named link officers within the Commissioned Services Team to ensure any issues or support required is dealt with effectively and in a timely manner.

Home care services are currently being re-tendered with new contracts due to commence in April 2023. The CQC ratings for home care services within this report relate to the incumbent providers.

4.2.2 Non-Residential Services for Working Age Adults

Services that support working age adults in their own homes or in the community, usually those with learning disabilities and / or mental health needs, are commissioned using a framework agreement. This means that a number of providers are accredited to provide these services and the person has a choice about which provider to use (as well as the choice to use a Direct Payment to access alternative services if they wish to do so).

4.2.3 Residential Care for People with Learning Disabilities

There are a number of providers of residential care for adults with learning disabilities within Hartlepool operating small group homes and a building based respite service. In addition to these services, a number of former residential care settings have moved to a supported living model in recent years. This means that people are supported in their own tenancies in services are not regulated by the CQC, but are still monitored by the Council.

4.2.4 Residential Care for People with Mental Health Needs

Most people with mental health needs are supported in their own homes or in supported housing settings. In addition, there are a small number of residential care settings that are regulated by CQC and support adults with mental health needs.

4.2.5 Extra Care Support

There are two purpose built Extra Care housing schemes in Hartlepool. Hartfields was developed in partnership with the Joseph Rowntree Housing Trust, who continue to operate the care services on site, while Laurel Gardens was built by the Thirteen Group with care services operated by Dale Care.

There are also a number of virtual Extra Care schemes where care is operated by Dale Care; these operate in existing Thirteen Group sheltered housing schemes at Richard Court, Albany Court and Bamburgh Court. All of these schemes have criteria for individuals with care needs to access services and allocations panels to ensure there is the correct balance of care needs in each location to ensure that safe and effective care can be delivered.

The majority of people accessing these services are over 55 but there are exceptions where people of working age with either learning or physical disabilities who meet specific criteria are having their care needs supported.

- 4.3 A summary of the current CQC ratings for all of these services is attached as **Appendix 1**.
- 4.4 It is positive to note that 17 out of the 18 services (94%) are rated as 'good'. The service rated as 'requires improvement' has worked with the Council to put plans in place to deliver the required improvements, and progress is monitored against these plans.
- 4.5 Both residential and non-residential providers have access to the training and support provided through the Commissioned Services Team and the wider Council. All providers are encouraged to attend regular forums for managers and proprietors to enable networking and the sharing of good practice.

5. RECENT DEVELOPMENTS

- 5.1 A previous update to Committee made reference to a new development at Whitethorn Gardens which is now providing supported living for adults with learning disabilities and / or mental health needs within four three-bedroom bungalows and sixteen self-contained one-bedroom apartments. The support provided is registered with CQC as domiciliary care provision, provided by Elan Care.
- 5.2 Since the last update to Committee, Home Group has re-developed Gainford House (formerly a service for young people) to provide 10 units of supported accommodation for adults with learning disabilities and / or mental health needs. As with Whitethorn Gardens, this development was undertaken at the developer's risk with no contract or guarantee that the Council would use the accommodation.
- 5.3 Along with the development of Shared Lives provision, these accommodation offers increase the range and choice of local services that can meet local need.

6. RISK IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 There are no specific risks associated with existing services at the present time.

- 6.2 As reported previously, there are significant risks associated with managing the care market. Councils have a duty within the Care Act to ensure that services are available locally to meet identified need, but the care market is constantly changing and there is a degree of fragility within some service areas.
- 6.3 If there is insufficient provision locally, there is a risk that more people access out of area placements, which can be costly and are not necessarily the best option to meet needs in the longer term. Conversely, over provision can result in people moving in to an area from other Local Authorities which can place pressure on local services and create financial risks in relation to ordinary residence.
- 6.4 Ongoing work to forecast future need and to develop Market Sustainability Plans helps to mitigate risks of under or over provision within the local market.

7. FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS

- 7.1 There are significant financial considerations associated with the sustainability of commissioned services, including calculating the fair cost of care and implementation of the National Living Wage as outlined in the update on care home provision for older people.

8. LEGAL CONSIDERATIONS

- 8.1 Commissioned care services support the Council to fulfill its statutory duties in relation to the provision of adult social care in line with the Care Act 2014 and other relevant legislation.
- 8.2 There are no legal implications specifically associated with this report.

9. CONSULTATION

- 9.1 There are no consultation considerations associated with this report.

10. CHILD AND FAMILY POVERTY CONSIDERATIONS

- 10.1 There are no child and family poverty considerations associated with this report.

11. EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY CONSIDERATIONS

- 11.1 There are no equality and diversity considerations associated with this report. The regulation and rating of services is consistent across all ages and client groups in order to ensure an equitable and consistent approach.

12. STAFF CONSIDERATIONS

12.1 There are no staff considerations associated with this report.

13. ASSET MANAGEMENT CONSIDERATIONS

13.1 There are no asset management considerations associated with this report.

14. RECOMMENDATION

14.1 It is recommended that the Adult and Community Based Services Committee note the contents of this report and receive further updates as required.

15. REASON FOR RECOMMENDATION

15.1 Commissioned services that are regulated by the CQC meet the needs of adults in Hartlepool with eligible social care needs, and the Council has a role in relation to commissioning good quality services to meet those needs.

16. CONTACT OFFICERS

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Appendix 1

QUALITY RATINGS FOR COMMISSIONED SERVICES

Domiciliary Care for Older People

Provider	Publication Date	Rating
Hartlepool Care Services (Coastal Care)	24 July 2018	Good
Dale Care	19 September 2019	Good

Non Residential Care for Working Age Adults

Provider	Publication Date	Rating
Voyage	17 March 2017	Good
Pathways to Independence	4 June 2019	Good
Positive Support in Tees	21 June 2022	Good
Real Life Options	1 May 2020	Good
Home Group (Gainford House) - Opened July 2017	1 October 2021	Good
Elan (Whitethorne) Ltd - Opened January 2018	6 August 2021	Good

Residential Care for People with Learning Disabilities

Provider	Publication Date	Rating
Creative Support Ltd	23 March 2018	Good
Voyage: Fivepenny House	4 March 2020	Good
Voyage: Greenfields Lodge	27 July 2017	Good
Voyage: South Highnam	2 April 2022	Good
The Crescent Care Home Ltd	1 March 2018	Good
My Life: Burbank Mews	16 March 2021	Requires Improvement

Residential Care for People with Mental Health Needs

Provider	Publication Date	Rating
Seymour House	16 October 2021	Good
Wordsley House	10 March 2022	Good

Extra Care Providers

Provider	Publication Date	Rating
JRF: Hartfields	31 May 2017	Good
Dale Care	13 February 2019	Good