

# **ADULT AND COMMUNITY BASED SERVICES COMMITTEE**

## **MINUTES AND DECISION RECORD**

24 NOVEMBER 2022

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

### **Present:**

Councillor: Bob Buchan (In the Chair)

Councillors: Gary Allen, Ben Clayton, Tim Fleming, Ged Hall and Sue Little,.

Also present: Councillor Shane Moore as substitute for Councillor Mike Young in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 4.2.

Stephen Thomas, Hartlepool HealthWatch

Bernard Quinn, Hi-Vis UK

Kath Keogan, BSL Interpreter

Frank Harrison and Evelyn Leck.

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

Neil Harrison, Head of Safeguarding and Specialist Services

Leigh Keeble, Head of Community Hubs and Wellbeing

Julian Heward, Communications and Marketing Team

David Cosgrove, Democratic Services Team

### **27. Apologies for Absence**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Mike Young.

### **28. Declarations of Interest**

None.

### **29. Statement Regarding Outdoor Bowls Provision**

The Chair indicated that Mr Rob Brown, Secretary of Hartlepool and District Bowling Association was in attendance at the meeting and had asked to address Members following his letter to all Councillors regarding outdoor bowls provision.

Mr Brown confirmed that he and other members of the Hartlepool and District Bowling Association had met with officers of the Council on 23 November 2022, and that the meeting had been positive and productive. As a result of this meeting, Mr Brown was assured that the Council was committed to sustaining outdoor bowls provision and to working collaboratively with the Bowling Association.

The comments were welcomed by the Chair and Members.

### **30. Minutes of the meeting held on 20 October 2022**

Received.

### **31. Joint Sensory Support Plan 2022** (*Director of Adult and Community Based Services*)

#### **Type of decision**

Non key decision.

#### **Purpose of report**

To seek approval from Adult and Community Based Services Committee for the Hartlepool Joint Sensory Support Plan 2022.

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

The Head of Safeguarding and Specialist Services reported that in the spring of 2019 the Council commissioned Hearing Impairment and Visual Impairment Support UK (Hi-Vis UK) a Charitable Incorporated Organisation to support the development of a sensory loss plan for Hartlepool. Over the last 18 months Hi-Vis UK had engaged and consulted with key stakeholders, people with lived experience, carers groups and local organisations; holding workshops, conducting surveys and consulting with local commissioners. A planning group supported by local providers of interest and HealthWatch Hartlepool contributed and provided valuable insight to the work.

The proposed plan submitted for approval had been developed and co-produced by local people with the ambition to make Hartlepool a Sensory and Deaf Friendly town. The Head of Safeguarding and Specialist Services presented an overview of the plan to the Committee.

A Member commented that the benefits of the work behind the plan could be spread through the Community Hubs. Officers stated that this was ongoing with training and awareness work taking place with staff in the hubs. A Member expressed concern that some groups were being dissuaded from using sports facilities due to noise issues and also expressed some concern at the problems caused by people parking on the footpath which caused issues for the visually impaired and other people walking.

In response to a question regarding access to white sticks, the Head of Safeguarding and Specialist Services indicated that some additional funding had been gained to help develop a local support service for those with sensory loss.

The representative from Hi-Vis UK commented that the group who were based in the Centre for Independent Living were grateful to the Council for starting and supporting this work and engaging with people with sensory loss to develop the plan now presented to the Committee. Sensory loss, and often dual sensory loss, could create social isolation problems particularly among older people. The aim of the plan was to give all people with a sensory loss a clear route map to services. It was hoped it would also help develop services for the future. Hi-Vis would be looking to support the planning group in the future and also develop some pilot activities in the New Year. The Hi-Vis representative also highlighted that this plan was one of very few such plans across the country.

The Director of Adult and Community Based Services thanked Hi-Vis and the planning group for their work in developing the Hartlepool Joint Sensory Support Plan which put the Authority in a good position moving forward for the provision of services to those with a sensory loss.

The Chair added his thanks to all those involved in the development of the plan.

**Decision**

That the Hartlepool Joint Sensory Support Plan be approved and that support be provided to an appropriate launch event.

**32. Community Led Support** (*Director of Adult and Community Based Services*)

**Type of decision**

Non key decision.

**Purpose of report**

To provide the Adult and Community Based Services Committee with an update on how Community Led Support has developed and to seek the Committee's continued support for this way of working.

**Issue(s) for consideration**

The Director of Adult and Community Based Services reported that in March 2019 the Committee had supported a proposal for the Council to engage in work with the National Development Team for Inclusion (NDTi) through their Community Led Support Programme.

Community Led Support (CLS) is based on a set of principles for how social care support should be delivered. These were implemented in ways

that were determined by people directly delivering services along with local partners and members of the community they are serving. The approach built on what was already working, joining up good practice and strengthening common sense, empowerment and trust.

The initial evaluation of CLS (based on the nine Local Authorities that originally worked with NDTi) identified a number of areas where CLS had a positive impact including:

- better experiences and outcomes for local people;
- easier access and greater efficiency;
- engaged staff and improved morale; and
- potential for savings.

Over 30 Local Authorities are now engaged in the Community Led Support programme and interest continues to grow. For Hartlepool this approach provided an opportunity to build on the work that began when Adult Social Care and Preventative and Community Based Services were brought together, enabling a strength based model to be developed that maximises co-production, community resources and engagement.

The report went on to highlight the progress and key achievements made over the past three years. The Director indicated that Community Led Support was now well established within Adult and Community Based Services as the approach to meeting the needs of people who need support. The front door to adult social care was now provided through the Hubs alongside welfare and benefits advice, carers' support, mental health support, the Fab Lab that enables people to try out new technologies and develop skills and a library offer that has evolved to meet the changing needs of the community. The Bread and Butter Thing provided access to affordable food, complementing the community kitchen and chatty café and a wide range of activities are provided free of charge to engage local people of all ages. The Hubs also provided support to people with long term conditions and had recently become home to the Learning and Skills Service which supports adults to access education, training and employment.

A presentation was given by the Director which outlined some case studies of people that had been supported through the services provided at the Community Hubs together with a video produced by the department involving the staff at the hubs and service users.

The Director highlighted that the use of Community Led Support, combined with maximising NHS support for people who had identified health needs had supported the Department to better manage demand and resulted in an overall reduction in spend on formal support, predominantly for working age adults. This was reflected in the projected outturn for 2021/22 and was expected to create a budget saving of £400,000 in 2022/23.

The Chair welcomed the report and commented that it was encouraging to see people receiving better focussed support and the services they needed in a welcoming environment that was also providing financial savings to the Council. Members also applauded the wide range of services being provided through the hubs and how they were helping more people to receive earlier interventions that were allowing them to live at home with the support they needed.

A Member commented that much of the focus was, however, on the Central and South hubs with little reference to the North Hub. The Assistant Director, Preventative and Community Based Services commented that in terms of a defined identity, things were a little more challenging in the North though there were a wide range of services provided in a range of locations in that area. It was acknowledged that communication of the offer with the community and with Members could be improved. The Director indicated that there had been a focus on services at the Central Hub due to its high levels of accessibility and also advise that, as well as building based services there was also a huge range of services available online meaning that there was essentially an offer for everyone.

Members and the public commented on their experiences with accessing services through the hubs and the welcome development of those services. The HealthWatch representative added that that supporting people in their own homes was critical in preventing feelings of isolation and mental illness. There were still lots of people that couldn't access building based services so support in their home was essential.

The Hi-Vis representative commented that it would be valuable for all Council video's to include captions and British Sign Language translations to make them more inclusive. The Director took the comment on board.

### **Decision**

That the Committee notes the report and supports the continued development of Community Led Support within Hartlepool.

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

The Director of Adult and Community Based Services informed Members that this week was National Safeguarding Adults week with each day carrying a different theme. Further information was available on the Teeswide Safeguarding Adults Board website.

The meeting concluded at 11.30 am

**H MARTIN**  
**CHIEF SOLICITOR**  
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