

ADULT AND PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICES PORTFOLIO DECISION RECORD

12th February 2007

The meeting commenced at 9 a.m. in Committee Room C

Present:

Councillor Ray Waller (Adult and Public Health Services Portfolio Holder)

Officers: Ewen Weir, Assistant Director (Commissioning)
Ralph Harrison, Head of Public Protection
Janet Murphy, Skills for Life Manager
Jo Wilson, Democratic Services Officer

22. Day Service Improvement Plan *(Director of Adult and Community Services)*

Type of decision

Non-Key

Purpose of report

To further inform and update on the progress of the Learning Disability Improvement Plan for Day services, as highlighted in the Commission for Social Care and Inspection (CSCI) report on services for People with Learning Disabilities in Hartlepool.

Issue(s) for consideration by Portfolio Holder

The CSCI report on services for People with Learning Disabilities recommended that Hartlepool Council should complete an improvement plan for day services in conjunction both with current users, carers and those people who may need day services in the future. In response to these recommendations a Departmental Action Plan had been drawn up. This was appended to the report for the Portfolio Holder's attention.

Decision

That the action plan, targets, measures and outcomes within the action plan be agreed.

24. Revision of 2007/08 fees and charges *(Head of Public Protection)*

Type of decision

Non-Key

Purpose of report

To consider the annual review of fees and charges in respect of services, licences and registrations undertaken by the Public Protection and Housing Division.

Issue(s) for consideration by Portfolio Holder

The level of fees and charges in respect of various licences, registrations and services were reviewed on an annual basis. Details of the suggested changes for 2007/08 were outlined in Appendix 1 of the report, with details of proposed charges for the Cemeteries and Crematorium Services outlined in Appendix 2.

Suggested changes in charges were based on either an average rise of 3%, a more accurate reflection of staff resources being utilised or bringing charges in line with other authorities. Regarding Burial and Crematorium Services charges had generally been increased by 6.5% overall with cremation fees increased by 6.5% also. These increases had been necessary to fund additional drainage works.

Decision

That the fees and charges for 2007/2008 be agreed.

25. Food Hygiene Award Scheme *(Head of Public Protection)*

Type of decision

Non-Key

Purpose of report

To seek Portfolio Holder approval for the Food Hygiene Award Scheme

Issue(s) for consideration by Portfolio Holder

The Head of Public Protection advised that the Food Standards Agency were proposing a national scheme to publish food hygiene information. There were currently three pilots underway across the country but the national scheme was not due to be launched until 2008 at the earliest. Therefore several local authorities had decided to develop their own schemes ahead of the national scheme and officers had recommended that

the most common scheme be adopted for use in Hartlepool.

The scheme would utilise a star rating for display on the business premises. These ratings would be calculated from the risk rating information obtained by Environmental Health Officers as part of their inspection. The lower the food hygiene risk, the higher the star rating. The business would be advised of the rating by letter and awarded a certificate for voluntary display at the entrance to their premises. In addition the star rating would be published through the Council's website with a link to the national website "Scores in the Doors.org.uk". It was anticipated that the scheme would commence on 1st April 2007.

Details of rights of appeal and other issues relating to the scheme were outlined. Examples from the website were appended to the report for the Portfolio Holder's attention.

Decision

That the Food Hygiene Award Scheme be approved

26. Adult and Community Services Departmental Plan 2006/07 – 3rd Quarter Monitoring Report *(Director of Adult and Community Services)*

Type of decision

Non-Key

Purpose of report

To inform the Portfolio Holder of the progress made against the Adult and Community Services Departmental Plan 2006/07 in the first 3 quarters of the year.

Issue(s) for consideration by Portfolio Holder

The Departmental Plan Update set out the department's aims and objectives and included performance to the end of December against a range of key national and local indicators. A copy of the Departmental Plan indicator report was appended to the report.

Attention was drawn to four actions and 3 PIs which would not be completed on time. The Assistant Director (Commissioning) advised that this was due in large part of overly ambitious target setting, coupled with time delays.

Decision

That the achievement on actions and indicators be noted

27. Centre for Independent Living *(Director of Adult and Community Services)*

Type of decision

Non-Key

Purpose of report

To inform and update the Portfolio Holder and to further progress the work on developing a centre for independent living in Hartlepool, previously reported by the Prime Minister's Strategy Unit "Improving the life chances of Disabled People" January 2005.

Issue(s) for consideration by Portfolio Holder

Hartlepool Partners in association with a number of other voluntary sector partners had been looking into the formation of a Community Interest Company and looking at the development of a centre for independent living in Hartlepool. An appraisal prepare by Independent Consultant Paul Hyde had identified as a preferred option the redevelopment of Havelock Day Centre as the Centre for independent living in Hartlepool. The proposed feasibility study would provide the Adult and Community Services department with a range of options to consider which would explore the potential to extend opening times, increase income and revenue, and offer additional services to the wider community.

The development of a centre for independent living would give greater choice and control to the wider community and ensure people with disabilities were at the heart of decision making.

The Portfolio Holder asked if consideration had been given to not marketing the existing Council-owned site on Lynn Street until the feasibility study on the Havelock had been completed. The Assistant Director (Commissioning) said he would ensure this was taken into consideration.

Decision

1. That the preferred option be noted
2. That a feasibility study be pursued
3. That service users and staff be consulted on the potential for utilising Havelock as a Centre for independent living

28. Delivery of the Challenge Hartlepool Project *(Director of Adult and Community Services)*

Type of decision

Non-Key

Purpose of report

To update the Portfolio Holder on the proposed delivery of the Challenge Hartlepool project

Issue(s) for consideration by Portfolio Holder

In December 2006 the Learning and Skills Council allocated the Adult Education Service £8,200 to deliver a Skills for Life project within Hartlepool. This project is contracted to deliver two main objectives, to produce a directory of Skills for Life learning opportunities, available to all adults across the town, and to deliver a range of activities which engage adults in Skills for Life activities. It is envisaged that the project will engage at least 150 learners and that 60% of these learners would progress onto further study, with the opportunity to gain a qualification in literacy and/or numeracy.

Decision

That the report be noted

29. Supporting People Briefing *(Director of Adult and Community Services)*

Type of decision

Non-Key

Purpose of report

To provide an initial briefing on Supporting People, following its transfer to the Portfolio.

Issue(s) for consideration by Portfolio Holder

Supporting People is a partnership programme between the Council, Teesside Probation and the PCT, aimed at making sure that vulnerable adults get the housing related support they need to live more independently. The responsibility for Supporting People transferred formally to the Portfolio Holder on 1st December 2006.

The Supporting People Programme Grant currently amounts to £3.98million and provides support to 4288 “units”. It helps deliver a range of objectives in several areas of the Community Strategy, including community safety, homelessness, drug and alcohol action and teenage pregnancy. Service

users include people with a disability or mental health issue and older people.

Decision

That the report be noted and further briefings received in due course.

30. Neighbourhood Services Departmental Plan 2006/07 – 3rd Quarter Monitoring Report *(Director of Neighbourhood Services)*

Type of decision

Non-Key

Purpose of report

To inform the Portfolio Holder of the progress made against the Neighbourhood Services Departmental Plan 2006/07 up to the end of December 2006.

Issue(s) for consideration by Portfolio Holder

The Departmental Plan Update set out the department's aims and objectives and included performance to the end of December against a range of key national and local indicators. A copy of the Departmental Plan indicator report was appended for the Portfolio Holder's attention.

The Portfolio Holder asked the Head of Public Protection when the process of publicising the forthcoming smoking ban would be starting. The ban was due to come into effect on 1st July 2007 and several issues would need to be looked at, including the provision of smoking shelters outside public houses. The Head of Public Protection advised that he was meeting with planning officers that day regarding smoking shelters and a brief would be going to Cabinet within the next four weeks. The Assistant Director (Commissioning) referred to a recently conducted MORI poll which showed a smoking ban did actively reduce the number of smokers.

Decision

That the achievement on actions and indicators be noted.

J A BROWN

CHIEF SOLICITOR

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