

ADULT AND PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICES PORTFOLIO DECISION RECORD

17th April 2007

The meeting commenced at 9.00 a.m. in the Civic Centre, Hartlepool

Present:

The Mayor (Stuart Drummond)

Officers: Ewen Weir, Assistant Director (Commissioning)
Jo Wilson, Democratic Services Officer

32. Adult and Community Services Departmental Plan 2007/8-2009/10 *(Director of Adult and Community Services)*

Type of decision

Non-Key

Purpose of report

To submit the Departmental Plan for Adult and Community Services Department for Portfolio Holder consideration.

Issue(s) for consideration by Portfolio Holder

The report outlined the key content of the Departmental Plan detailing the vision for the department, key objectives and performance indicators. This was the first annual update for the department, building on the 2006/7 plan and outlined progress on the previous year's work. Quarterly progress reports would be submitted to the Portfolio Holder.

Decision

That the proposed Departmental Plan be endorsed.

33. Restructure of Support Services *(Director of Adult and Community Services, Chief Financial Officer and Chief Personnel Services Officer)*

Type of decision

Non-Key

Purpose of report

To seek approval to a restructure within the Support Services Division of Adult and Community Services Department, including the funding arrangements.

Issue(s) for consideration by Portfolio Holder

The Support Services Division was formed in 2005 following the corporate restructure, bringing together elements from the former Social Services Department and Community Services Department. It was always expected that the posts and structure would be reconsidered once the support requirements of the new Adult and Community Services Department were established.

Details were given of the proposed changes and related benefits. Adult Services would be a major beneficiary, particularly in the areas of Commissioning and Adult Protection, and a transfer of funding from savings in the older persons purchasing budget was proposed. This would mean that the overall proposals would be fully funded. Staffing implications had been discussed with employees and their trade union representatives. No employees would be subject to voluntary redundancy or early retirement.

Decision

That the proposed changes of structure, including the funding arrangements, be approved.

34. The Personal Social Services User Experience Survey 2006 *(Director of Adult and Community Services)*

Type of decision

Non-Key

Purpose of report

To note the results of the Personal Social Services User Experience Survey 2006.

Issue(s) for consideration by Portfolio Holder

The Department of Health (DH) introduced the national PSS user experience survey in 2000/2001. Each year the DH outlined the actions authorities should take to survey a prescribed sample of service users to provide information for two best value PAF performance indicators. In 2006 these questions related to satisfaction in home care. Results showed a 93% satisfaction rate among users. Any necessary improvement issues would be picked up with providers

Decision

That the Survey Report be noted.

35. Fair Access to Care Services (FACS) *(Director of Adult and Community Services)*

Type of decision

Non-Key

Purpose of report

To report on the implementation plan for the change in eligibility criteria for social care services.

Issue(s) for consideration by Portfolio Holder

Access to statutory care services is given to an individual following an assessment of need. This assessment identifies their levels of need in terms of a PACS banding and each authority decides which of the four nationally specified bands it will provide services to. At its meeting on 5th February 2007 Cabinet agreed to the raising of the threshold from 'moderate' to 'substantial' with the recommendation that an implementation plan be brought to the Portfolio Holder.

Details were given of a number of measures which would be put in place to manage the impact of the change. The Portfolio Holder was given assurances that nobody would have a service removed if doing so would significantly increase the risk to their well-being and independence. The resulting savings would be reinvested into services for those with higher levels of need and to improve access to low level services for those not eligible for statutory services.

Decision

That the implementation plan be noted.

J A BROWN

CHIEF SOLICITOR

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