

Adult Social Care and Health Select Committee

A meeting of Adult Social Care and Health Select Committee was held on Tuesday, 6th November, 2018.

Present: Cllr Lisa Grainge(Chairman), Cllr Lauriane Povey(Vice-Chairman), Cllr Evaline Cunningham, Cllr Kevin Faulks, Cllr John Gardner, Cllr Lynn Hall, Cllr Mohammed Javed, Cllr Mrs Sylvia Walmsley, Cllr Barry Woodhouse

Officers: Ann Workman (AH), Jane Edmonds, Bev Bearne (HS), Peter Mennear, Marianne Sleeman (DCE)

Also in attendance:

Apologies:

ASH 53/18 Evacuation Procedure

Evacuation and housekeeping procedures were noted.

ASH 54/18 Declarations of Interest

There were no interests declared.

ASH 55/18 Scrutiny Review of Temporary Accommodation of Homeless Households

Members received information regarding Temporary Accommodation of Homeless Households from the Housing Department which included:

Information on Rough Sleeping

- Stockton Borough offered an estimate of 3 for the Annual rough sleepers count. The information was accumulated through information gathered by the Community and Voluntary sector and Police. This figure was higher than previous years but numbers are relatively comparable across the Tees Valley.

- A cohort of individuals were repeat clients to the service. Intelligence collected highlighted since July 2017, 97 people have accounted for 168 referrals received; 5x people referred 4 times, 14 x people 3 times and 77 people referred twice. Reasons highlighted were; violence, drug use, weapons and non-engagement with support.

The age ranges were:

19-29 = 35

30-39 = 39

40-49 = 17

50-74 = 5

Housing First Model

Members were provided with information on alternative approaches to accommodation, particularly for those 'hardest to house'.

- Housing First model is an approach to housing solutions created in Scandinavia.

- It was based on the principle that a flexible approach would be adopted with no conditions forced on client, and housing provided for the long term if needed. The only condition of long term support was that clients would need to continual engagement with their dedicated Housing First support worker.
- Manchester, Liverpool and Birmingham took part in pilot schemes
- Members highlighted the need for support for residents with people who have neighbours who display disruptive behaviour. It was agreed that location would be key but the availability of Housing First link officers with small caseloads was a key difference in this type of scheme compared to some existing schemes.
- A CentrePoint project had focussed on young people using a similar model. There had been ten young people supported by two support workers who were highly skilled in support and therapy. The clients were able to engage as and when on their own terms.
 - Greater Manchester had been identified to take forward a significant project with 650-700 clients over a year, across ten Boroughs, with Government funding. The criteria for this scheme was for those who were consistently not engaging with services; have chaotic lifestyles; and at risk of homelessness.
 - There was currently no other funding available and any local scheme would need to be subject to a business case. However the Council would be able to monitor the performance of these pilot schemes and be well placed to bid should future opportunities become available. The model could be adapted to suit a particular area's needs, and any local scheme in Stockton-on-Tees would be on a smaller scale.

Current Bids and Projects

There were currently three other funding opportunities being examined by the Council:

Move on fund

Would offer a level of supported accommodation for up to 2 years. The Local Authority could not bid for this directly therefore North Star Housing Group would complete the process. Funds ended in 2021 but schemes were needed to be in place by March 2020.

Private Sector Access Fund

Aimed at developing the private sector housing options and working with all Local Authority partners identifying a standardised approach to prevent eviction. The deadline for the bid was 21st November 2018.

Rough Sleepers Rapid Access Fund

The rough sleeper's strategy was aiming towards the Housing First Model but the Authority must demonstrate there were sufficient numbers who sleep rough. The Authority had confirmed an expression of interest. This bid also had a very tight deadline.

Members noted that an LGA Advisor had been working with Stockton, Hartlepool and Redcar to advise on alternatives to bed and breakfast following a successful bid, and could be invited to provide evidence to the Committee. There had been a national increase in demand for temporary accommodation.

It was noted that the site visits to some of the commissioned providers of temporary accommodation would be re arranged.

AGREED:

The information be noted and the site visits and invitations be arranged as outlined.

ASH 56/18 Minutes of the Health and Wellbeing Board

Consideration was given to the minutes of the Health and Wellbeing Board for information.

AGREED:

That the minutes of the Health and Wellbeing Board were noted.

ASH 57/18 Work Programme

Members were informed the next meeting would take place in December.

AGREED:

That the Work Programme be noted.

ASH 58/18 Chair's Update

Members were made aware of the public engagement process being held by Skerne GP Practice. The Practice was based in the Sedgfield and Trimdon area and had a number of patients on its register from Stockton Borough. The Practice was facing a significant reduction in GP availability from February 2019 and was asking for views on their efforts to remain sustainable.

Durham County Council's Health Scrutiny Committee was due to discuss this issue and Members from the Committee would be invited to attend.

