

Arts Leisure & Culture Select Committee

A meeting of Arts Leisure & Culture Select Committee was held on Wednesday, 15th July, 2009.

Present: Cllr Mrs Jean O'Donnell(Chairman), Cllr Andrew Sherris(Vice Chairman), Cllr Dick Cains, Cllr Suzanne Fletcher (Vice Cllr Alan Lewis) Cllr Mrs Sylvia Walmsley, Cllr Mick Womphrey

Officers: Neil Russell, Hazel Grant, Sean McEneaney(CESC), Michelle Graham(RES), Peter Mennear, Sarah Whaley(LD)

Also in attendance:

Apologies: Cllr Hilary Aggio, Cllr Ken Dixon, Cllr Alan Lewis, Cllr Kath Nelson

1 Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

2 Minutes from the meeting held on 20th March 2009

CONCLUDED that the minutes of the meeting held on the 20th March 2009 were signed as a correct record

3 Minutes of the meeting held on 3rd June 2009

Consideration was given to the minutes of the meeting held on 3rd June 2009.

CONCLUDED that the minutes of the meeting held on the 3rd June 2009 be agreed as a true record.

4 Monitoring of Previously Agreed Recommendations

Members were asked to consider the Action Plan for the review of Tees Active setting out how the agreed recommendations would be implemented and target dates for completion. Members were also asked to agree a suitable date to receive a progress report on the actions contained within the action plan.

The Leisure and Sports Development Manager invited the committee to ask questions in relation to the recommendations. Members raised a query in relation to 3e of the action plan and asked if Tees Active were able to reach more voluntary Sector organisations such as local community groups. It was agreed that due to the amount of smaller voluntary organisations within the borough it would be beneficial for communication between Tees Active and smaller groups to be directed through SCRGA.

CONCLUDED that:

1) Members agreed to the proposed actions and target dates for completion of the Tees Active Action Plan.

2) The initial Progress Report on the planned actions be reported back to the Committee in April 2010.

5 Efficiency, Improvement and Transformation Gateway Review

Members were asked to consider, comment and challenge the baseline information that was provided by the officer project team which were undertaking the review of Adult Operations.

The Head of Adult Operations presented the Committee with an overview of the baseline report and highlighted the areas which had been identified for review as follows:

- 1) Day Care Services
- 2) Residential Care Home Services
- 3) In-House Home Care Services
- 4) Intermediate Care Services
- 5) Independent Provision of Home Care Services

Members were advised that the Health Select Committee were undertaking a review called 'Fair Access to Care Services'(FACS) which was linked to the review being undertaken on Adult Operations and the findings from the Fair Access to Care Services would have an impact on the Adults Operations review. It was agreed that Members and Officers must keep the lines of communication open in respect to both reviews to ensure the best results were achieved from each.

The Committee heard in detail how Stockton's adult social care services currently accessed via first contact or hospital / GP referral, followed up by an assessment of the individual which would be carried out by a number of professionals resulting in revealing the level of care (if any) was required. A care plan would be prepared for the individual, should they be eligible for support.

Members heard that Stockton offered adult care services to those with needs falling in the 'moderate', 'substantial' and 'critical' FACS bands, and provided equipment for those with needs in these bands and also in the 'low' band. However it was noted that Stockton was in the minority as many local authorities were only offering services across the top 1 or 2 bands. Members were informed that these issues were being examined by the Health Select Committee.

The Committee then heard that day care services were offered at day centres of which Stockton currently had four across the borough. Some of the day care centres offered specific services such as STEPS however there was a

perception that these had lost their original focus. There was an opportunity to review such services and decide on whether they should re-focus on their original aim, or fully integrate into the remaining day care service provision.

Members were reminded of the need to decide on the future of the Alma Day centre, as the site was to be used for an integrated health centre.

The possibilities of what the future of day care services could be was also discussed, as the Personalisation agenda would have an impact on this area, for example individuals may opt to choose activity based services which could mean going to the local sports facility or library rather than a specific day centre.

The Committee was then introduced to Care Home Services, the Head of Adult Operations gave a brief overview of Stockton's care homes and the type of care they offer. Officers highlighted to Members that Rosedale was viewed as efficient operation and the building was fit for purpose. Officers believed that the focus should be put on Blenheim due to its facilities not always proving suitable for its residents. Blenheim was used by those with physical disabilities, across a variety of age ranges and circumstances. Officers believed that there was an opportunity to work with residents in order to explore more appropriate care within a community setting. Neighbouring authorities would be contacted about their future proposals for the care of adults with profound physical disabilities. The Committee noted that many of the residents at Blenheim were from Middlesbrough, and income could drop if Middlesbrough Council was to change its policy on placements.

With regard to independent care home provision, the Head of Adult Operations informed the committee that Stockton had in excess of 100 available beds on a monthly basis, and officers believed that the Council was receiving value for money for its placements.

Members were given an introduction to In-House Home Care Services and were informed that a review of this service was carried out in 2000. The last inspection results had rated the service as 'adequate', however there have since been signs of improvement. Members learned of a change of approach to the way in which staff carried out their duties which gave a more flexible approach and offered client care to be addressed at all times of the day, 7 days a week whilst also enabling the service to take future referrals if and when required. Officers suggested that they would like to maximise staff expertise and offer special services.

Officers believed that room for efficiencies could be found through potentially combining elements of the service with the Intermediate Care Service and this could result in a saving and therefore asked members for their agreement to focus on In House Home Care review in addition to Day Care and Care Home Services.

CONCLUDED that:

the Committee endorsed the proposed focus of the review of Adult Operations,

and that officers would concentrate on Day Services, Care Homes and In-House Home Care, and that the proposed options for change would be presented to the committee on 17th February 2010.

6 Work Programme

The Scrutiny Officer informed the Committee of future meeting dates for the next set of reviews and the topics which would be covered.

CONCLUDED that the information be noted.