

## CABINET ITEM COVERING SHEET PROFORMA

**AGENDA ITEM**

**REPORT TO CABINET**

**19 MAY 2016**

**REPORT OF ADULT  
SERVICES AND HEALTH  
SELECT COMMITTEE**

### **CABINET DECISION**

**Cabinet Member for Adult Services and Health – Councillor Jim Beall**

#### **SCRUTINY REVIEW OF ACCESS TO SERVICES FOR PEOPLE WITH LEARNING DISABILITIES AND / OR AUTISM**

1. Summary

The attached report presents the outcomes of the Adult Services and Health Select Committee's review of access to services for people with learning disabilities and / or Autism. The aim of the review was to examine two main issues: the uptake of GP-led annual health checks for people with learning disabilities, and the general accessibility of universal, community services for people with learning disabilities and/or autism.

The Council has a statutory obligation to meet identified need for those clients assessed as being eligible for social care, and this includes adults with learning disabilities and/or autism. This review did not focus on the provision of adult social care services, but in the type of services that may be accessed by any member of the community.

2. Recommendations

1. a) Practices performing well on GP-led health checks for people with learning disabilities should share good practice with others in the Borough, and;  
b) information on the role of Health Facilitators and other sources of support be circulated to all practices and health providers
2. a) Health check uptake should be included in the performance monitoring processes of the Committee, and the Health and Wellbeing Board system;  
b) the CCG should take steps to address the gap in performance management activity, and  
c) Practices should be publically identified in relation to their health check performance
3. The new Hartlepool and Stockton-on-Tees GP Federation should work in partnership with its shareholders to make the uptake of the GP-led health checks an early focus of its performance improvement activity
4. Each Practice should have a named clinical lead for Learning Disabilities

5. Further work to improve communication of learning disability status between primary and secondary care should take place
6. Council commissioners of relevant universal services (for example, but not limited to, Public Health) should engage with providers and establish a position on what is expected for services to people with Learning Disabilities / Autism, including reasonable adjustments.
7. All relevant/frontline Council community based services should undertake autism and learning disability customer awareness training
8.
  - a) The Council should use its engagement with Public Transport Providers to highlight the needs of those with learning disabilities and/or autism, and this work should include further improvements to accessibility (for example, building on the Fast Pass scheme operated in Yorkshire, and familiarisation visits);
  - b) Committee supports the planned client engagement work by Adult Services to better understand the barriers to independent use of public transport
9. The support provided by DWP to people with learning disabilities and/or autism in receipt of benefits, including Universal Credit, should be specifically monitored by People Committee as part of its ongoing Welfare Reform Monitoring work
10.
  - a) Committee supports and encourages the work to further develop and raise awareness of the Safe Place Scheme, and
  - b) Committee supports work to promote the benefits of having an 'alert card' to indicate to services any particular individual needs that people may have
11. The Committee supports and encourages the work undertaken by Community Safety and Police to tackle hate crime.
12. Awareness should be raised within the Council of the need for appropriate personal care and changing facilities for people with complex needs in order to improve access to more community based activities. This could be through inclusion in specifications for new developments or changes to existing buildings where appropriate and subject to funding availability.

### 3. Reasons for the Recommendation(s)/Decision(s)

The report presents the findings of the scrutiny review that took place as part of the agreed work programme for 2015-16.

### 4. Members' Interests

Members (including co-opted Members) should consider whether they have a personal interest in any item, as defined in **paragraphs 9 and 11** of the Council's code of conduct and, if so, declare the existence and nature of that interest in accordance with and/or taking account of **paragraphs 12 - 17** of the code.

Where a Member regards him/herself as having a personal interest, as described in **paragraph 16** of the code, in any business of the Council he/she must then, **in accordance with paragraph 18** of the code, consider whether that interest is one which a member of the public, with knowledge of the relevant facts, would reasonably regard as so significant that it is likely to prejudice the Member's judgement of the public interest and the business:-

- affects the members financial position or the financial position of a person or body described in **paragraph 17** of the code, or
- relates to the determining of any approval, consent, licence, permission or registration in relation to the member or any person or body described in **paragraph 17** of the code.

A Member with a personal interest, as described in **paragraph 18** of the code, may attend the meeting but must not take part in the consideration and voting upon the relevant item of business. However, a member with such an interest may make representations, answer questions or give evidence relating to that business before the business is considered or voted on, provided the public are also allowed to attend the meeting for the same purpose whether under a statutory right or otherwise (**paragraph 19** of the code)

Members may participate in any discussion and vote on a matter in which they have an interest, as described in **paragraph 18** of the code, where that interest relates to functions of the Council detailed in **paragraph 20** of the code.

### **Disclosable Pecuniary Interests**

It is a criminal offence for a member to participate in any discussion or vote on a matter in which he/she has a disclosable pecuniary interest (and where an appropriate dispensation has not been granted) **paragraph 21** of the code.

Members are required to comply with any procedural rule adopted by the Council which requires a member to leave the meeting room whilst the meeting is discussing a matter in which that member has a disclosable pecuniary interest (**paragraph 22** of the code)

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HEALTH SELECT COMMITTEE**

**CABINET DECISION**

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DISABILITIES AND / OR AUTISM**

**SUMMARY**

The attached report presents the outcomes of the Adult Services and Health Select Committee's review of access to services for people with learning disabilities and / or Autism. The aim of the review was to examine two main issues: the uptake of GP-led annual health checks for people with learning disabilities, and the general accessibility of universal, community services for people with learning disabilities and/or autism.

**RECOMMENDATIONS**

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  - a) Committee supports and encourages the work to further develop and raise awareness of the Safe Place Scheme, and
  - b) Committee supports work to promote the benefits of having an 'alert card' to indicate to services any particular individual needs that people may have
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## **DETAIL**

1. The attached report outlines the findings of the review of access to services for people with learning disabilities and / or Autism. The review was undertaken by Adult Services and Health Select Committee.
2. Following consideration by Cabinet an action plan will be submitted to the Select Committee setting out how approved recommendations will be implemented detailing officers responsible for action and timescales.

## **COMMUNITY IMPACT IMPLICATIONS**

3. The review does not propose new policies or services, but further improvements to existing local public services. There is a particular focus on how services are delivered to those with a learning disability and/or autism (ie. protected characteristics under the Equality Act). In Stockton, the number of people aged 18 and over registered with a GP Practice as having a learning disability in 2013-14 was 674. In 2015 it was projected that 1175 people aged 18-64 had autism spectrum disorders in the Borough.
4. Public bodies when exercising functions must (alongside other duties) have due regard to the need to eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation, and advance equality of opportunity between people who share a protected characteristic and those who do not.
5. Advancing equality involves:
  - removing or minimising disadvantages suffered by people due to their protected characteristics
  - taking steps to meet the needs of people from protected groups where these are different from the needs of other people

- encouraging people from protected groups to participate in public life or in other activities where their participation is disproportionately low.

6. The review was undertaken to specifically consider how to improve access to GP-led health checks (a reasonable adjustment introduced to help address recognised health inequalities), and to test the performance of a range of local public services with regard to accessibility, taking an overview approach. With regard to health checks, data considered by the review (outlined in the attached report) clearly outlines the variation in uptake across the Borough and region: Stockton's overall uptake was low at 39.6% in 2013-14.
7. The main focus of the review was to consult with organisations responsible for delivery and seek views on their provision of services. Existing research and consultation was reviewed where appropriate, and specific consultation was undertaken in relation to understand usage of public transport, and the Safe Place scheme. Further detail is outlined below. Engagement found a range of good practice examples, but also identified a need for improvements, including leadership and monitoring of relevant health services, further training across Council services, and a refresh of the Safe Place scheme.
8. All recommendations are designed to address the requirements outlined at paragraphs 4 and 5, and therefore achieve a **positive Community Impact**. Outcomes should include: improved uptake of health checks leading to better management and identification of health needs, and increased support to access universal, community services.

## **FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

9. There are no financial implications at this stage.

## **LEGAL IMPLICATIONS**

10. There are no legal implications at this stage.

## **RISK ASSESSMENT**

11. This report on access to services for people with learning disabilities and/or autism is categorised as low to medium risk. Existing management systems and daily routine activities are sufficient to control and reduce risk.

## **COUNCIL PLAN POLICY PRINCIPLES AND PRIORITIES**

12. The review impacts on the following principles:

- Protecting the vulnerable through targeted intervention

The review considers the role and effectiveness of the Safe Place scheme, the role of Community Safety, housing and Police service provision, how to improve awareness of learning disability status in healthcare, and the key issues to consider when providing any services to people with learning disabilities and/or autism.

- Promoting equality of opportunity through targeted intervention

The recommendations are aimed at reducing health inequalities by ensuring that there is greater uptake of the targeted health check programme, and improved co-ordination of care for people with learning disabilities.

The review also considered how people are supported into work and provided with welfare support.

- Developing strong and healthy communities

A major focus of the review was to test the accessibility of local public services. This included consideration of public transport, and the training needs of Council services.

## **CORPORATE PARENTING IMPLICATIONS**

13. There are no direct implications in the report. Creating accessible communities would potentially benefit all including children and young people.

## **CONSULTATION INCLUDING WARD/COUNCILLORS**

14. The Committee has met with a wide range of in-house and external services including:  
  
Clinical Commissioning Group, North Tees and Hartlepool NHS Foundation Trust, Tees Esk and Wear Valleys NHS Foundation Trust, Cleveland Police, Police and Crime Commissioner, NHS England, Customer Services, Engagement, Leisure and Sports Development, Libraries and Heritage, Stagecoach, Arriva, Northern Rail, Tees Active, Housing, Community Safety, DWP, Welfare Rights, Economic Growth and Development, Human Resources. The Taxi Trade meeting was also briefed on the review
15. The review has been supported by Adult Services, including Commissioning, STEPS, Care Management, and by Public Health.
16. The STEPS service undertook engagement work with clients to understand their experience of using Public Transport. In addition clients were supported to undertake 'mystery shopping' of a number of community based services, focussing on Safe Places.
17. The Stockton United for Change carer group was informed of the review, and other existing feedback (including from Tees Autism Partnership events) has been reviewed.
18. Site visits have taken place to STEPS, Sporting STEPS, and Daisy Chain, where Members discussed issues with an Adult Employability Group.
19. The Director of Adults and Health, and Cabinet Member for Adult Services and Health, were consulted on the findings and recommendations.

**Name of Contact Officer:** Peter Mennear

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Education related? No

Background Papers None

Ward(s) and Ward Councillors: N/a

Property None