

Corporate, Adult Services & Social Inclusion Select Committee

A meeting of Corporate, Adult Services & Social Inclusion Select Committee was held on Thursday, 30th October, 2008.

Present: Cllr Mick Stoker (Chairman), Cllr Mrs Lynne Apedaile, Cllr Mrs Ann Cains, Cllr Mrs Suzanne Fletcher, Cllr Andrew Larkin, Cllr Roy Rix, Cllr Mick Womphrey

Officers: Elizabeth Shassere (CESC), Nigel Hart, Sarah Whaley (LD)

Also in attendance: No other persons in attendance

Apologies: Cllr Mrs Jean O'Donnell, Cllr Aidan Cockerill, Mrs C.Clark, Mrs T.Fraser (Parent Governor Representatives).

1 Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

2 Minutes to be signed by the chair - 21st May, 3rd June and 15th July 2008

The Minutes of the meeting held on the 21st May, 3rd June and 15th July 2008 were signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

3 Draft Minutes of the meetings held on 16th September and 7th October 2008

CONCLUDED

that the draft minutes of the meetings held on the 16th September and 7th of October 2008 be agreed as a correct record and be forwarded to Council for consideration.

4 Scrutiny Review of Older People's Strategy

Members were provided with a presentation from Elizabeth Shassere Director of Public Health in relation to the Scrutiny Review of Older People's Strategy.

The Committee were provided with an insight into Stockton on Tees Teaching PCT Health Improvement Team's contribution to the Older Peoples Strategy, including its initiatives and the impact it had had so far in the following areas:

-BME Community

-Supporting Long Term Conditions

-Local Falls and Stroke Services

-Addressing Health Inequalities

Members were informed that there was a Health Improvement Specialist who leads on BME health issues as well as two trainers dedicated to the BME Community. For the first time access to mosques had been granted which had allowed cardiovascular disease (CVD) assessments to be carried out for the older community. Successful Luncheon clubs were also up and running which

were geared around healthy eating and the introduction of diabetes and cancer awareness campaigns were under way.

The Committee was advised that as part of the work to support long term health conditions, specific hard to reach groups had been targeted such as older men to be encouraged to take part in various physical activities via the green gym initiative; which covered activities such as helping on allotments/gardening, tidying up parks etc. It was explained that not only was this to encourage a healthier life style but to encourage social inclusion improving their overall wellbeing and lifestyle.

The Director of Public Health explained to members that one of the initiatives incorporated into the Local Falls and Stroke services was for GP's to identify where there could be a risk of a potential fall when examining a patient for what may seem like an unrelated problem, for example should an elderly person visit their GP for a chest infection they could be suffering with hearing difficulty which could also in turn effect balance putting the individual at greater risk of a fall. The GP would be in a position to signpost the individual to the Falls Service for advice.

Members were pleased to hear that Stockton, Middlesbrough, Darlington and Hartlepool were the first in the country to launch the CVD programme targeting 40-74 year olds. It was stated that efforts would be focused on the elements in people's lives that could be changed such as diet, exercise, drink related issues and stopping smoking to improve lifestyle. Members also learned that exercise programmes were delivered to the elderly such as Tai Chi and chair based exercises.

Reference was made to the Success of the 12 Health Trainers employed to assist in addressing health inequalities and the fact that the service was targeted towards the most deprived areas within Stockton. Concern was expressed by Members that these measures would not include people with health inequalities from areas that were not classed as deprived. It was noted that the Health Trainers had knowledge of many other services available within the Borough, enabling them to signpost the individuals they were working with to improve their lifestyle, for example a local tea dance which would improve fitness and also lead to social inclusion. Members requested that statistics regarding the availability and take up of the Health Improvement Team services be provided to Members to inform their understanding of the availability and success of the services.

Discussion was held by Members on the Smoking Cessation statistics and it was requested that figures be available for a longer period than that of 4 weeks which were referenced to in the presentation. It was noted that a 6 month and 12 month timescale had just been implemented to collect data to enable a future review of successes.

CONCLUDED that

1. The information received be noted.
2. The Director of Public Health provide the Committee with the following information:

Statistics supporting the number of Tai Chi and Chair based exercises delivered within the Borough. Statistics regarding the availability and take up of the Health Improvement Team Services provided be provided to Members to inform their understanding of the availability and success of those services. Also when available information regarding the success of the smoking cessation after 6 and 12 months timescales as outlined in the above minutes.

5 Action Plan - Voluntary and Community Sector Review

Members were presented with the final Action Plan in relation to the Voluntary and Community Sector Review undertaken by the Task and Finish Group established by this Committee.

The Community Development Manager provided clarification on a number of the intended actions, and progress achieved to date.

Reference was made to recommendation 6 of the Action Plan regarding the ability of some of the voluntary organisations to complete some of the official documentation required such as self assessment forms, Trustee Indemnity Insurance etc. The Community Development Manager informed the Committee that there was a number of training sessions which had been offered to organisations to aid them in governance, insurance and how best to conduct business. These sessions would also be conducted by professionals who had experience in Human Resources, accountancy etc. In addition to this there would also be 5 day volunteer sessions available for those organisations who needed it.

Members referred to recommendation 12 suggesting that organisations should where possible obtain charitable status as this would reduce potential costs to the Council and also result in other reduced costs to themselves i.e. energy costs. It was suggested that this should be strongly emphasised and included within their SLA if possible.

Requests were also made that a list be provided to Members as to what each organisation received in funding and why?

CONCLUDED that the Action Plan be agreed and further updates and progress reports be presented to the Committee in 6 months time.

6 Work Programme

The next meeting of this Select Committee would be held on Tuesday 18th November and would be attended by Help the Aged and Age Concern.

CONCLUDED that

1. The work programme be noted.
2. Members be provided with details of the amount of funding given to each organisation and why, and that it be strongly emphasised that where an organisation can qualify for charitable status that is included in their SLA.

