

Crime and Disorder Select Committee

A meeting of Crime and Disorder Select Committee was held on Wednesday, 16th October, 2019.

Present: Cllr Pauline Beall(Chair), Cllr Paul Weston(Vice-Chair), Cllr Kevin Faulks, Cllr Clare Gamble, Cllr Barbara Inman, Cllr Tony Riordan

Officers: Marc Stephenson (CP), Gary Woods, Marianne Sleeman (MD)

Also in attendance: Steve Rose, Karen Grundy (Catalyst) Louise Wheatley (Ager UK)

Apologies: Cllr Stephen Richardson, Cllr Andrew Sherris

CD 13/19 **Evacuation Procedure**

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting and the evacuation procedure was noted.

CD 14/19 **Declarations of Interest**

There were no interests declared.

CD 15/19 **Scrutiny Review of Protection of Vulnerable Older Residents Living at Home**

Members received information regarding the Scrutiny Review of Protection of Vulnerable Older Residents Living at Home from the Chief Executive and Community Programme Manager for Catalyst and the Operations Manager for Age UK Teesside which included:

Catalyst

- Members were informed that Catalyst support over 800 organisations within the VCSE (Voluntary, Community and Social Enterprise sector with:
 - Governance.
 - Funding advice.
 - Training and development.
 - Bid writing support.
 - Representation on policy-making bodies (e.g. Safer Stockton Partnership)

Catalyst do not deliver services, but instead look after those VCSE organisations that do service-delivery. It was noted that they are the secretariat for the Stockton-on-Tees Over 50's Forum (who were also contributing to the meeting).

- In a survey recently carried out, over 50% of VCSE stated their focus was on 'older people' or 'community'.
- Services which are commissioned by the Local Authority and delivered by VCSE are:
 - Dementia Friends – Alzheimer's Society.
 - Home Care – Five Lamps.
 - ARC – support through singing and the better health programme.

- Other commissioned services (paid for by Health and other funders) are:
 - Heart Support.
 - Dementia Allotments Project.
 - Peer Support Groups.
 - Sporting Chance.

- Some of the community-based activities run by volunteers are:
 - Faith organisation lunch clubs.
 - Walking groups.
 - Bridge, chess and flower arranging clubs.
 - University of the third age.
 - Sports clubs.

However, there was a question to be asked as to whether these groups help the most vulnerable, or if they only help people motivated and able to socialise rather than those 'stuck at home'.

- Community development work regarding neighbourliness and befriending services that encourage people to help those living nearby was noted, including the RSVP Project (Volunteering Matters), Age UK Befriending, and Billingham Environmental Link Programme (BELP).

Main issues discussed were as follows:

- Catalyst would continue to hold their quarterly Safeguarding Forums and review training needs to ensure voluntary organisations were fully informed.
- Discussion took place regarding people taking responsibility in their local communities.
- Members discussed how Care Homes want to use volunteers as some people do not have family therefore social isolation becomes an issue.
- Members acknowledged networks and forums worked well within Catalyst which ensured lack of duplication of activities. Organisations are also signposted to others that are similar, and Catalyst's e-bulletin helps to promote what is going on across the Borough.
- Discussion took place around what impact the removal of some schemes has had on the community.

Age UK Teesside

- 'Better Health Better Wealth' (BHBW) project outlined which provides targeted and sustained interventions for people over 65, and engages with those who are less likely to access primary care services.
- Health assessments were carried out on elderly people who requested home adaptations or wanted social activity to match the correct volunteer with the client within the befriending service.

- Referrals mainly come through Adult Social Services and Cleveland Fire Brigade whilst carrying out fire safety home checks.
- A monthly newsletter is produced to inform residents of upcoming events – this is included in Catalyst’s e-bulletin.
- Some parts of the Borough have less coverage in terms of support groups, and there is a desire to level this up. Looking at introducing chair-based exercise groups in the Borough.

Main issues discussed were as follows:

- The possibility of the befriending service being rolled out in areas across Stockton that do not have access to activities.
- Discussion took place regarding transport barriers for older people to access groups; would a bus be useful for the Borough to ferry people around. Is current community transport being fully utilised outside school hours.
- A discussion took place around Catalyst looking into any VCSE organisations that may have transport that could be utilised to support wider access to activities for older people.
- Manual Handling and Safeguarding training for all volunteers was discussed.

Stockton-on-Tees Over 50’s Forum

Information was presented to the Committee which gave a brief history of the Forum, details of previously invited speakers from a range of organisations, and links with Catalyst and other partners.

When advertising available services, recognition that older people often do not have access to the internet is crucial. Leaflets are more appropriate, and could be provided when services access older people in the community who need help. The provision of simple security measures such as adequate locks on doors, safety chains and better lighting around properties would all help too.

It was noted that the Forum met a few days before this meeting and discussed this review. Feedback would be provided to the Committee following this session.

CCG and TSAB (Written Submissions)

Since the last Committee meeting in September 2019, a request was made to both Hartlepool and Stockton-on-Tees Clinical Commission Group (HaST CCG) and Teeswide Safeguarding Adults Board (TSAB) for input into this review via a written submission.

TSAB provided details of their role in collating safeguarding data (relating to concerns and enquiries rather than crimes) from the four Tees Local Authorities and other key partners, the prioritisation of prevention, and the Board’s

Communication and Engagement Strategy. Recent older person-specific work was also noted with Age UK, domestic abuse of older people research presentations, and the consideration of the HMIC Crimes against Older People report.

HaST CCG summarised their safeguarding role which supports how older people are protected at home, highlighting their statutory duties and the need to be assured that organisations from which it commissions have effective safeguarding arrangements in place. The CCG works with the Local Authority and Police as key stakeholders to ensure access to community resources that can reduce social and physical isolation for adults.

Reflecting on the HaST CCG submission, Members requested that further information is sought around views from Pharmacies/GPs on this scrutiny topic, the impact of 'Health Initiative' funding (and effect of this coming to an end), and hospital admissions / discharges back home (NHS Trusts).

AGREED that:

1. The information to be noted.
2. Further information from HaST CCG be requested as identified.

**CD
16/19** **Work Programme 2019-2020**

Consideration was given to the Crime & Disorder Select Committee Work Programme for 2019–2020.

AGREED that the Crime & Disorder Select Committee Work Programme be noted.

**CD
17/19** **Chair's Update**

The Chair had nothing further to update.