

## EXECUTIVE MEMBER REPORT TO COUNCIL 16 September 2015

### ADULT SOCIAL CARE

#### Community Inclusion Service

1. Members of the Community Inclusion Service drama group have been involved in producing another Hate Crime DVD for Cleveland Police to be used in their work with children and the local primary schools. This is the second successful DVD that the group have produced for Cleveland Police, the first being in relation to Hate Crime and Vulnerable Adults. Both DVDs are being used by the police as part of their training and development with police officers to help them understand some of the hate crime difficulties faced by people with a disability.
2. Within the Community Bridge team we have two service users with autism actively involved with the social media developments which will see the next edition of the service's newsletter being produced by them. The opportunity has been a tremendous success, both their families have acknowledged the benefits in confidence, enthusiasm and growth that their sons have shown since getting involved.

#### The Orchard

3. The Orchard was recently successful in the Middlesbrough Council Team awards; this is the second award that the unit has received for the quality of its services which is a credit to all those associated with the unit and in particular recognises the effectiveness of the partnership work with TEWV NHS Foundation Trust. Added to this, a recent survey undertaken with service users revealed that 92 % would recommend the Orchard's services to friends and families.

#### North Ormesby Resource Centre

4. Public Health money has helped maintain a very effective 'Healthy Exercise' programme within the older people's day care resource. There are up to 50 people each week participating in a daily exercise class helping maintain their health and fitness.

#### Aspire

5. Aspire continues to provide both education and training for individuals with a disability around horticultural work, catering and specific product production in the form of kindling for fire-lighting. The team's Bradhope site at Berwick Hills is now fully operational, delivering new horticultural opportunities through its "gardening gang" and contract work. The luncheon club at Newport Community Hub has proved to be an excellent success with the local community supporting it each week; it now operates 2 days a week at Newport.

## **Living Life**

6. The variety of services operated by Living Life are producing some very productive rehabilitative outcomes for individuals suffering with mental health issues with an increase in demand for Community Bridge, Gateway and Connect support. All three aspects are engaging with many outreach projects both locally and regionally. Promotional marketing, including social media developments, are seeing the services opening up to lots of new referrals.

## **Better Care Fund/Single Point of Access**

7. Work on the Better Care Fund has continued. The new Project Manager, has now taken up post and has begun to undertake mapping work on the multi-agency services that will be supported and accessed through the SPA. The SPA is increasingly being recognised as a fundamental building block for the future development of more integrated services across health and social care in South Tees.

## **Care Act 2014**

8. The Government has responded to a letter from the Local Government Association calling for a delay in the implementation of the element of the Care Act concerned with the £72,000 “cap on care” costs for individuals.
9. The changes were due to come into force in April next year but in the light of concerns expressed by the LGA and many other stakeholders about the timetable for implementation, the Government has decided to delay implementation of the “cap on care” costs system, including changes to the means test, until 2020. The Government say this delay will allow time to be taken to ensure that everyone is ready to introduce the new system and to look at what more can be done to support people with the costs of care. The Government maintains that they remained committed to the implementation of this component of the Act. We are currently working to fully understand what this delay will mean for Middlesbrough Council.
10. Local planning for the implementation of phase two of the Act continues.

## **Transforming Care**

11. In June 2015 NHS England made clear and strong demands upon health care leaders to redesign the care of patients across the NHS so that it is sustainable for the future and better able to meet the needs of patients. Five ‘fast track’ sites were identified, and these will receive extra support to transform services for people with learning disability and/or autism, challenging behaviour or a mental health condition.
  - Arden, Herefordshire and Worcestershire;
  - Nottinghamshire;
  - Cumbria and the North East
  - Hertfordshire.
  - Greater Manchester

12. Middlesbrough is included as part of the North East and Cumbria Fast Track site. The transformation will be about improving lives by closing in-patient beds and strengthening services in the community. The five areas will receive extra technical support from NHS England to draw up transformation plans over the summer, and will be able to bid against a £10million non-recurring transformation fund to kick-start implementation from autumn 2015. A regional Transformation Board has been established to support the process and is chaired jointly by the CCG Forum and Association of Directors of Adult Services (ADASS) lead.
13. Further work is ongoing with Tees Local Authorities and CCG partners to establish the requirements of those patients who are currently within the secure service provision commissioned by NHS England, and may be stepping down to local non secure services. The forecasting of the commissioning requirements for these people is a significant challenge as their needs can be more complex and challenging to existing service provision. Meetings have now commenced, titled “Specialist Commissioning and CCG Liaison Meetings”, to share this information with Local Authorities and CCG’s, and to generate the “Step Down” plan.
14. Although the scale of the task for Middlesbrough Council is likely to be smaller than for many Local Authorities, as we have fewer individuals in placements who fall into the target groups than many LAs, the timescales for the work are nonetheless still exceedingly tight and we will be part of a regional plan rather than acting as a solo authority.

## **ADULT HEALTH**

### **Changes to Housing Law**

15. In October there are some significant changes to the Housing Acts, brought in to protect tenants from ‘retaliatory eviction’ – when a landlord evicts a tenant because they complain to their local authority about disrepair. When the new rules come into force they will prohibit landlords from taking eviction action after a legal notice has been serviced on them by their local authority to remedy disrepair at the premises. The move follows concerns that some landlords were using the threat of eviction to dissuade tenants from complaining to their local council, or actually evicting them after they had done so because it was cheaper than carrying out the repairs. A second change prohibits the start of eviction proceedings within four months of the start of a tenancy. Other changes are programmed to come into force including better fire detection, gas safety and the provision of an energy performance certificate covering thermal insulation standards.

### **Dog Health Check Event**

16. A community event was recently held with Dogs Trust at Thorntree Pavilion, where dog owners were offered free veterinary health checks, micro-chipping and neutering, vaccinations, poop scoops and responsible dog ownership advice materials. More than 60 dogs were treated to a health check that identified a range of health problems including mammary and testicular tumours, mange, fleas, ear infections, rotten teeth and infected anal glands.

17. The event led to 35 dogs being micro-chipped and the registered details of 17 dog owners were updated, 42 neutering vouchers were handed out and 33 dogs were vaccinated. Our animal welfare team provided the venue and publicity for the event, and carried out the micro-chipping, and Dogs Trust brought along the veterinary staff to carry out the health checks and vaccinations. More than 14,000 dogs have now been micro-chipped since the Council's partnership with Dogs Trust began in 1999 and in that time no healthy strays have been put to sleep.

### **Illegal Landing Suspect**

18. Animal welfare staff recently became involved in a case involving the suspected illegal landing of a dog into the UK after a stray dog was found with a micro-chip issued in Spain. When the micro-chipping database was checked, it was found that the dog was not registered to an address in the UK, suggesting that it may have entered the UK illegally, and may not have had the necessary rabies vaccinations or held a pet passport. Arrangements were therefore made with kennels to keep the dog in isolation and for an extended period to see if the dog showed any signs of rabies. However the case was quickly resolved when the dog owner rang the Council to report the dog as lost. The owner was able to go to the kennels the following day with all the necessary paperwork to show that the dog was brought into the UK legally and was free from rabies. It emerged that the dog had entered the UK many years ago, and was originally from Poland but carried a pet passport issued in Spain. The owner has now completed the necessary UK registration.

### **Odour Complaints**

19. Creating energy from waste contributes significantly to climate change objectives – particularly the reduction in greenhouse gases. In response to complaints about unpleasant odours arising at a new industrial plant that generates power from materials including animal waste, in the North of the town, Environmental Protection staff have been working with the Environment Agency to help improve odour emissions from the site. An improvement plan has been developed and implemented to minimise smells, including improvements to the odour filters at the site, better cleaning arrangements, improved stock rotation, and more effective closure of doors at the buildings. No recent complaints have been made and we hope this is now resolved.

### **Regulatory Action**

20. In recent years, the Trading Standards team has seen a considerable change in its day to day work with an increasing amount of time devoted to stamping out illegal, black-market sales which take place secretly, often from private houses. Naturally, detection and investigation of such matters is considerably more difficult and time consuming than "traditional" consumer protection work involving traders with conventional business methods. A number of such investigations have reached their conclusion in the past few weeks.
21. A Linthorpe Road convenience store was ordered to pay nearly £15,000 after the court heard how Trading Standards staff, with the aid of a specially trained sniffer dog located thousands of illegal counterfeit and foreign cigarettes and other tobacco products hidden in the shop. Given the concerns that the case raised regarding the honesty and general conduct of those running the business, an application was

subsequently made to the Licensing Committee to strip the store of its alcohol licence. After hearing evidence provided both Trading Standards and the police as well as those running the shop, the licence was revoked.

22. A woman from Thorntree has been sentenced to serve a six month 9.00 pm to 6.00 am curfew, monitored by an electronic tag and ordered to pay £510 costs for selling fake designer goods and cigarettes from her home. The court heard how, on entering the woman's house, Trading Standards personnel discovered it to be set up like a shop with quantities of illicit cigarettes and hand-rolling tobacco and designer brands such as Gucci, Ralph Lauren, Nike, Adidas and Michael Kors stored in the hallway.
23. A man spotted loading bottles of vodka into a car outside of his house was found guilty of trademark, food and licensing offences after officers seized a total of 20 cases of counterfeit "vodka" from him. On analysis, the bottled, labelled as Glen's Vodka, were found to contain industrial alcohol. The defendant claimed to have bought the drink from an un-named individual on the internet with the view to him and his friends consuming it. The court sentenced him to a four-week community order with a tagged curfew between 7.00 am and 7.00 pm plus £479 costs.
24. The sale of counterfeit goods is often portrayed as a victimless crime, however the trade in these illegal goods causes considerable damage on a number of levels. Firstly, it threatens the livelihood of anybody involved in the manufacture, distribution and sale of genuine goods. Secondly, there is considerable evidence that the trade finances organised crime and finally, as the practice is unregulated, the quality and safety of the items concerned cannot be guaranteed.

**Councillor Julia Rostron**  
**Executive Member for Adult Health & Social Care**