

## EXECUTIVE MEMBER REPORT TO COUNCIL

7 SEPTEMBER 2016

### Adult Social Care

#### Ongoing Reviews

1. Within Adult Social Carer a range of reviews are taking place which will both improve the consistency and quality of services and contribute to the 2016/17 and 2017/18 savings targets. These include:
  - Review of 1:1 Support in Day Care Services
  - Review of double handed cases in Domiciliary Care
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2. In each of these examples the reviewing activity relates to whether the service in its current form remains necessary and asks the question as to whether there is a simpler, more cost effective method of meeting the identified need. This may for instance be the provision of a piece of assistive technology in the place of a second care worker where currently there are two.

#### Health and Social Care integration

3. Work continues under the auspices of the Better Care Fund to develop services within South Tees that bring health and social care closer together in order to deliver better outcomes for our community. A range of projects have been implemented or are in the process of being implemented that will contribute to these plans. These include the development of the South Tees Single Point of Access (SPA) for health and social care that will be operational by the end of this calendar year and which will significantly streamline access for social care services; health services such as community nursing and which will contribute to ensuring that collectively we use the right resource at the right time to support vulnerable individuals. It is anticipated that the SPA will also be a key link in developing our relationship with the VCS around preventative services.

### Adult Health

#### Food and Hygiene Sampling Programme

4. The Environmental Health Team ensure food business operate in a clean and hygienic manner. During a food hygiene inspection an Environmental Health Officer has a number of different tools which can be used to show how well a business is operating:
5. The swabbing of food preparation surfaces and equipment, as well as hand-contact surfaces. These swabs are tested for the presence of potentially harmful bacteria. They give a measure

of the standards of cleanliness in premises and the health risks which may exist. So far this year, swabbing results have showed that improvements in cleaning practices were required in some food premises, but no enforcement action has been necessary.

6. Officers also use 'ATP' swab kits – these give an instant indication of cleanliness, which business owners and staff are able to see. These are particularly successful when working with businesses to highlight potential hygiene concerns, and for educating managers and staff in food businesses.
7. Food sampling is carried out to identify food safety concerns and a range of different survey are carried out eg a survey of fresh fruit and vegetable smoothies which are increasingly popular drinks being produced by more outlets. All results of the smoothie samples have been satisfactory. Other food sampling surveys are planned: listeria in shellfish, hidden food allergens that can cause serious adverse reactions in people who suffer with food allergies and ice served in drinks which can be contaminated with bacteria. Middlesbrough also takes part in the Food Standards Agency regional sampling programme which focuses on foods which are imported into this country. The survey is used to help identify emerging and future health risks linked to food.
8. Most recently in Middlesbrough a survey of alcohol in pubs has started in response to the national and local increase in adulterated and counterfeit products on sale

### **Food facts or food fiction**

9. Environmental Health and Trading Standards Officers have been checking the accuracy of the information which is used to describe food. Looking at food businesses in Middlesbrough, the survey found that the majority of foods are being described correctly but that there are some common "food frauds" which the public should be aware of.
10. Mis-describing food leads consumers into thinking they are being sold certain foods when they are being sold something else. Most of the examples of food fraud given below do not affect the safety of the food, they are mainly cheaper food alternatives used by food businesses to save money. But they do highlight how easy it is for foods to be swapped; turkey meat used instead of ham, seafood sticks being sold as crab, lamb kebabs which contain more beef and chicken than lamb, fried cabbage being described as crispy seaweed, reformed meat sold as burgers and foods described as "home-made" or "local" when in fact they are made in factories and not sourced locally.
11. Food businesses are being reminded of their obligation to ensure the food they serve is correctly named or described. And customers are being encouraged to check the food they are buying.

12. The Fairtrade Foundation has renewed Middlesbrough's status as a Fairtrade Town. Middlesbrough first became a Fairtrade Town in March 2007 and the current status will run until March 2018. Fairtrade is an international campaign that ensures that producers in developing countries receive a fair price for their produce and also supports health and educational projects in developers' communities, making them more competitive on the international market.
13. Middlesbrough Council has made an on-going commitment to Fairtrade by supplying Fairtrade refreshments at meetings and outlets, including the use of Fairtrade tea, coffee and sugar. Over one hundred shops, cafes, community partners and businesses now provide Fairtrade products and there is an active promotional campaign annually, centred around Fairtrade Fortnight each year. Fairtrade in Middlesbrough is managed by the Fairtrade Group and coordinated by Middlesbrough Environment City.
14. The announcement of the renewal was made at a regional event during Fairtrade Fortnight held at Teesside University Students' Union, one of the biggest supporters of the campaign in Middlesbrough. The event featured a coffee producer from Colombia and was attended by the Elected Mayor of Middlesbrough, Police and Crime Commissioner for Cleveland and Andy MacDonald MP, as well as ceremonial mayors from across the North East. The Fairtrade Foundation commented on the excellent commitment shown by Middlesbrough and the rest of the region to the event and to the Fairtrade campaign.
15. The accolade of being a Fairtrade Town demonstrates our commitment to sustainable living on an international scale, as well as at a local level.

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