

ADULTS AND COMMUNITY SERVICES POLICY DEVELOPMENT GROUP

MEETING, 10TH MARCH, 2010

Present – Councillors L. Byrne (Vice-Chairman), Greenhalgh, Hall, Kay, Morgan, R. Ronson and Sherrington.

Also in Attendance

Mr. J. Rutherford	-	Director of Adult and Community Services
Ms. S. Crossley	-	Assistant Director (Adult and Community Services)
Mr. A. Kilpatrick	-	Chief Officer for Health and Social Care
Ms. E. Miller	-	Assistant Director, Strategy and Commissioning
Ms. J. Robinson	-	Adult Protection Officer
Mr. J. Gorton	-	Sports and Recreation Asset Manager
Mr. A. Scott	-	Policy Accountant
Mrs E. Tatman	-	Bolton Arts Forum
Mrs. S. Bailey	-	Principal Democratic Services Officer

An apology for absence was received on behalf of Councillor Clare.

Councillor L. Byrne in the Chair.

31. MINUTES

The minutes of the proceedings of the meeting of the Policy Development Group held on 19th January, 2010 were submitted and signed as a correct record.

32. SAFEGUARDING ADULTS FRAMEWORK

The Director of Adult and Community Services submitted a report which put forward the draft Safeguarding Adults Framework for the consideration and comment of members.

The Safeguarding Adults Framework had been developed by the Safeguarding Adults Board and aimed to explain the context of vulnerable adults within the vision of Safe Bolton.

The Department of Health document, No Secrets, had charged local authorities with the responsibility of developing a coherent, consistent, multi-agency framework in order to respond to concerns around the abuse or neglect of

vulnerable adults. Vulnerable adults were those adults who, because of disability, age or illness, may not be able to guard themselves against harm or exploitation.

The work undertaken in Bolton had revealed that there were many interpretations and definitions of vulnerability within the different agencies. The draft framework aimed to set out an approach to vulnerability and response to risk.

It was agreed that the draft Safeguarding Adults Framework be noted.

33. ADULT AND COMMUNITY SERVICES STRATEGIC PLAN 2010 – 2013

A report of the Director of Adult and Community Services was submitted which put forward the Adult and Community Services Strategic Plan for 2010 – 2013.

The report stated that the Adults and Community Services Department had a wide range of legal and policy obligations, with much of its work involving projects, partnerships and delivery strategies that varied in their scope and complexity. The Department also had a critical role in a proportion of the main performance measures for the Council.

The Plan would be used at a management level to structure a programme of work, how the management team would prioritise and chase progress, and as a tool to communicate what was delivered to staff, partners, members and the public.

The draft Strategic Plan provided a clear framework of what the Adult and Community Services Department needed to deliver. It drew together a wide range of legal and policy commitments into a simple, high level document that identified priorities over the next three years.

A copy of the Draft Strategic Plan was appended to the report.

It was agreed that the Executive Member for Adult and Community Services be recommended to approve the Strategic Plan, as now submitted.

34. PRICING POLICY FOR GROUP BOOKINGS AT LEISURE CENTRE

Councillor Kay declared a personal interest in the following item of business.

Further to Minute 35 of the meeting of the Executive Member for Adult Services held on 20th January, 2010, the Director of Adult and Community Services submitted a report which provided details of a review undertaken into the policy of discounts for group bookings, following a request from the Campaign for Affordable Provision Group (CAP) regarding five a side bookings.

By way of background information, members were advised that the Council and Serco had been approached by CAP regarding the cost of indoor five-a-side bookings at some of the centres. A price comparison with similar activities at other facilities in the region was submitted which highlighted differentials in policy/pricing structure in neighbouring authorities.

In the short term, Serco had been offering some discounted access at off peak times whilst the Council gave a commitment to review the policy in respect of discounts for group bookings.

In this regard, the report went on to outline proposals to extend the Smartcard scheme to all group activities in order to provide discounts.

The report suggested that the Smartcard scheme could be extended so that one smartcard holder in a group of ten would receive a 5% discount, two would receive a 10% discount and so on up to a maximum of 50% if all ten were in possession of smartcards.

The anticipated annual cost of this variation to the contract would be £26,036, with this figure being based on the proportion of current customers who were smartcard holders.

The extension of the scheme to group bookings would also be a natural progression in supporting the Council's aim to reduce health inequalities and encourage more people, particularly from vulnerable groups, to adopt more active and healthy lifestyles by addressing the barrier of affordability.

At its meeting on the 19th February 2010, Bolton Community Leisure Trust had considered a request from the Council for a contribution to the cost of the variation. The Trustees had recognised the merits of the proposal in terms of encouraging participation amongst vulnerable groups and had agreed to fund up to a maximum of 50% (£13,018) for a period of 12 months to allow a full assessment of any actual financial impact. In addition, they approved a proposal that all activity prices, with the exception of a small increase for fitness suites, be frozen for that period to support a further focus on increasing participation levels.

In respect of the financial contribution that would be required from the Council, Adult Services currently held a surplus from the Government Free Swimming grant that was more than sufficient to cover the costs for an initial twelve month period.

It was agreed that the Executive Member for Adult Services be recommended to approve the discounts for group activities, as detailed in this report now submitted.

(The meeting started at 9.30am and finished at 10.45am)