

North Tyneside Council Report to Cabinet Date: 14 November 2016

Item 5(a)

Title:
Bereavement Services
Sub-group Report

Portfolio(s): Environment

Cabinet Member(s): Cllr J Stirling

Report from: Overview, Scrutiny and Policy Development Committee

Wards affected: All

PART 1

1.1 Executive Summary:

The purpose of this report is to present the Overview, Scrutiny & Policy Development Committee review of Bereavement Services.

In accordance with Section 122 of the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007, Cabinet is required to provide a response to the recommendations of the Overview, Scrutiny and Policy Development Committee within two months. In providing this response Cabinet is asked to state whether or not it accepts each of the recommendations and the reasons for this decision. Cabinet must also indicate what action, if any, it proposes to take.

1.2 Recommendation(s):

It is recommended that Cabinet consider and formulate a response to the recommendations presented to them as a result of the overview, scrutiny and policy development review of bereavement services.

1.3 Forward plan:

The report was included in the Forward Plan published on 10 October 2016 under the heading 'Matters arising from Overview, Scrutiny and Policy Development Committee and its sub committees'.

1.4 Council plan and policy framework

The report relates to the following priorities in the 2014/18 Our North Tyneside Plan:

Our places will:

- Provide a clean, green, healthy, attractive and safe environment

Our people will:

- Be listened to, and involved by responsive, enabling services

1.5 Information:

Background information

The Bereavement Services Sub-group was established by Overview, Scrutiny and Policy Development Committee following concerns that had been raised in relation to the level of information and guidance available to the bereaved at an emotional and stressful time.

The sub-group met on 2 occasions and also carried out a visit to Preston Cemetery and Crematorium to see first hand the facilities available including the customer front door services and back office accommodation/working environment.

The sub-group has made a total of 12 recommendations for Cabinet's consideration. The Bereavement Services report was submitted to Overview, Scrutiny and Policy Development Committee for approval at its meeting on 7 November 2016.

1.5 Decision options:

The following decision options are available for consideration by Cabinet:

Option 1

Cabinet may accept the recommendation set out in paragraph 1.2 above.

Option 2

Cabinet may not accept the recommendation set out in paragraph 1.2 above.

Option 3

Cabinet may accept part of the recommendation as set out in paragraph 1.2 above and reject the rest.

Option 1 is the recommended option.

1.6 Reasons for recommended option:

Cabinet has a statutory duty to respond to the Overview, Scrutiny and Policy Development Committee's recommendations within 2 months of receiving them. Option 1 is recommended as this option allows Cabinet time to consider and formulate a response to the recommendations.

1.7 Appendices:

Appendix 1 – Report of the Bereavement Services Sub-group.

1.8 Contact officers:

Paul Wheeler, Democratic Services Officer (0191) 643 5318
Julie Evans, Bereavement Services Manager (0191) 643 6076

1.9 Background information:

- 1) Bereavement Services Sub-group report

PART 2 – COMPLIANCE WITH PRINCIPLES OF DECISION MAKING

2.1 Finance and other resources

The financial implications associated with each recommendation will be included in Cabinet's response to this report.

2.2 Legal

There are no legal implications at this stage.

2.3 Consultation/community engagement

The Sub-group held discussions with relevant officers and recommend further consultation with service users.

2.4 Human rights

There are no direct issues relating to human rights arising from this report.

2.5 Equalities and diversity

There are no direct issues relating to Equalities and Diversity

2.6 Risk management

There are no direct issues relating to risk arising from this report.

2.7 Crime and disorder

There are no direct issues relating to crime and disorder arising from this report.

2.8 Environment and sustainability

There are no direct issues relating to environment and sustainability arising from this report.

PART 3 - SIGN OFF

- Deputy Chief Executive
- Head of Service
- Mayor/Cabinet Member(s)
- Chief Finance Officer

- Monitoring Officer
- Head of Corporate Strategy