

**NORTH YORKSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL**

**CARE AND INDEPENDENCE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**

Minutes of the meeting held on 16 April 2009 at County Hall, Northallerton.

**PRESENT:-**

County Councillor Tony Hall in the Chair.

County Councillors: Gordon Charlton, Gillian Ivey, David Jeffels, Brian Marshall, J W Marshall, Paul Richardson and John Wren.

Representatives of the Voluntary Sector: Alex Bird and Bridget Hardy.

Officers: Seamus Breen (Assistant Director – Commissioning & Partnerships, ACS), Anne Marie Lubanski (Head of Self Directed Care and Transformation, ACS), Ray Busby Scrutiny and Corporate Performance), and Mary Davies (Democratic Services).

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**COPIES OF ALL DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED ARE IN THE MINUTE BOOK**

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**165. MINUTES**

**RESOLVED –**

That the Minutes of the meeting held on 29 January 2009, having been printed and circulated, be taken as read and be confirmed and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

**166. PUBLIC QUESTIONS OR STATEMENTS**

The Committee was advised that no notice had been received of any public questions or statements to be made at the meeting.

**167. UPDATE ON SAFEGUARDING ISSUES**

**CONSIDERED –**

Report of the Corporate Director – Adult and Community Services updating on developments and potential changes within the safeguarding arena.

Anne Marie Lubanski (Head of Self Directed Care and Transformation, ACS) highlighted key items within the report:

- The dissolved joint Safeguarding Board between North Yorkshire County Council and City of York Council. The new ACS Safeguarding Board had developed a business plan and identified key areas of work on safeguarding.
- Anne Marie Lubanski highlighted that the personalisation agenda had strong links to safeguarding and explained a number of concerns raised by groups regarding the personalisation agenda and the risk of financial abuse on personal budgets. She added a new risk management tool was being introduced to ensure the service was managed effectively. She highlighted proposed inspections by the Care Quality Commission (CQC) which would focus on engaging with partners and Members and making sure communities were safe. She informed Members that

County Councillor Chris Metcalfe, in his capacity as Executive Member, sat on the North Yorkshire Safeguarding Adults Board.

- Showed Members the 'Keeping People Safe' leaflet which promoted safeguarding to members of the public (A copy is included in the Minute Book). Anne Marie Lubanski said that the leaflet would be available in GP Surgeries, Libraries and with partners across North Yorkshire.
- Explained the implementation of new policies and procedures for staff showing how the Authority promotes safety values and protection; this tied into multi agency policies which all partners had signed up to.
- Highlighted the consultation on "No Secrets" guidance which closed on the 31 January 2009. Anne Marie Lubanski noted North Yorkshire's response along with other local Authorities. The response from the Department of Health is expected with an action plan attached for the implementation of any new guidance or legislation.
- Anne Marie Lubanski explained how the Authority worked with partners both internally and externally to demonstrate to Regulators that they are training to the required standard. She advised Members on a document highlighting partners responsibilities within safeguarding and how they "fit" into the multi agency policy and advised that the document had been well received.
- Highlighted an item which was not in the report on the introduction of Deprivation Liberty Safeguards which was part of the Mental Capacity Act 2007. This affected people in residential nursing homes and hospitals where the main impact would be within services, dementia and learning disabilities. Anne Marie Lubanski explained that this was an unknown quantity nationally regarding numbers and budget implications and would be something the Authority would be monitoring closely.

Members made the following comments:

- In reply to a question on safeguarding triggers, Anne Marie Lubanski replied that the PCT and Adult and Community Services request an assessment. She explained that legislation was very specific on who would be able to carry out assessments.
- The Chairman noted that Members needed to be kept up to date on Safeguarding issues and that the Care and Independence Overview and Scrutiny Committee should have regular updates. He added that the Corporate Director Adult and Community Services presentation to new Members after the local Elections should include Safeguarding.
- In reply to a question on how often the "No Secrets" consultation takes place and if it is fully secure, Anne Marie Lubanski explained that the consultation is based on policy guidance published in April 2000. The expectation was for all Local Authorities to have a local No Secrets multi agency policy. It was unlikely that there will be a similar consultation for a considerable time, therefore this response from the Department of Health will be crucial for the Local Authority implementation of safeguarding.
- A Member asked where the four area safeguarding coordinators were based. Anne Marie Lubanski replied that the manager would be based county wide and the four safeguarding officers would be geographically based in Harrogate/Craven, Hambleton/Richmondshire, Scarborough/Ryedale and Selby.

- A Member asked if there were any volunteers in place that were able to advocate on behalf of people suffering from illnesses such as dementia who might be unable to speak for themselves. Anne Marie Lubanski highlighted work taking place looking at user involvement in the safeguarding process and guidance for staff. She added that one of the areas currently being looked into for user groups was to befriend people; but it was acknowledged that this was an area that needed attention. Seamus Breen highlighted Advocacy Services being commissioned for a range of agencies, as an example of this, he advised of the recruitment over the next 2 to 3 years of lay assessors who would go into residential homes and talk to people.
- A Member referred to paragraph 3.6 of the report on public awareness and how the voluntary sector could help. Anne Marie Lubanski advised that she had spoken to Helen Black (North Yorkshire Forum for Voluntary Organisations) to focus this year on prevention and promotion through the third sector.
- Members agreed that the leaflet “Keeping People Safe” was excellent and easy to read but advised that some of the literature on Safeguarding was difficult to understand. Anne Marie Lubanski acknowledged Members comments.

#### **RESOLVED –**

- (a) That the decisions taken by the Directorate and the intended direction of travel be noted.
- (b) That the Committee receive on-going reports on progress.
- (c) That the Committee together with officers of the Directorate remain aware and mindful of national developments and best practice.

#### **168. DEMENTIA UPDATE AND NEXT STEPS**

##### CONSIDERED –

Report of the Head of Scrutiny and Corporate Performance highlighting the completion of the first stage of the study on Dementia.

Ray Busby gave Members an update on the Dementia Strategy which he said had received a positive response from the Executive. As a result of the report and the Chairman’s presentation, the Executive had agreed to further involvement by the Care and Independence Overview and Scrutiny Committee to actively participate in or respond to the National Dementia Strategy.

The Chairman advised Members that he had taken all of the 19 proposals by the Committee to the Executive for consideration and that they had been well received. He had however emphasised 3 areas in particular: the Collaborative, Care Pathways and Carers. There were concerns in regard to funding and the Chairman advised that this would be for Officers to take forward at the recommendation stage.

Ray Busby reported on the meeting between the Chairman, Alzheimer’s Society and the Care Service Improvement Partnership, which had in part discussed what support might be offered by the Dementia Services Collaborative Regional Project Co-ordinator, currently employed by CSIP.

Seamus Breen answered a question from the Chairman on the Care Services Improvement Partnership (CSIP) which he said had now disbanded. He added in terms of the Dementia Strategy there was now a Yorkshire and Humber Forum supported by Government Office to drive and support the Dementia Strategy in the region with the Department of Health. The Forum would make sure learning and networking in the region

were working together to move the agenda forward. The Chairman highlighted how frustrating it was for Members to know who was operating in the region, where they “fit” and who they should contact.

Seamus Breen highlighted the different levels of work needed within the Strategy to bring Partners together so that front line workers can deliver a good service and he added that this would include the Third Sector and members of the community. He highlighted the similarity of the 19 proposals by the Committee to the National Dementia Strategy document and the effects this would have on the Commissioning Strategy agenda. He advised that agreeing priorities and making things happen was the next key step in the process. He updated Members on the first meeting of what might constitute a Network Collaborative and said he was in discussions with Government Office to support the network in North Yorkshire and would report back to Committee with more information as part of the Commissioning Strategy.

Seamus Breen highlighted some of the work currently being carried out with the Alzheimer’s Society including training leaflets delivered across North Yorkshire. He advised on discussions with the Chief Finance Officer at the PCT to develop extra care facilities and a project in the Skipton area for a “Centre of Excellence” offering support for people with dementia. He said that the Directorate was committed to taking forward the 19 proposals by the Committee in a practical way over the next 6 to 12 months.

The Chairman asked why the National Strategy was not led by the Department of Health and Seamus Breen replied that the Department of Health will raise the profile to a variety of strategies and be the lead which was why it was important to link up to the regional representatives in the Department of Health.

A Member referred to “localisation of awareness” issues in areas of North Yorkshire. She highlighted her area as an example where there were no GP surgeries or libraries. 80% of residents go outside of North Yorkshire for their healthcare provision and it was harder to get in touch with hard to reach groups and people living in rural areas. She discussed putting leaflets in Post Offices, Churches and places where older people regularly attend so that local people know the services available to them in their areas. A Member from the Voluntary Sector highlighted initiatives which had taken a pragmatic approach to the delivery of messages to older people on topics such as crime prevention in the form of a play. She also advised on “Engage Roadshows” which promoted awareness information to the public.

A Member suggested the Committee’s next review should be on “Awareness in North Yorkshire”.

A Member highlighted paragraph 8 (vii) in the report referring to world Alzheimer’s day and an awareness week in July. He asked how this would be promoted in North Yorkshire. Seamus Breen replied referring to the theme “You Are Not Alone” and picking up raising awareness in North Yorkshire with newspapers and the NY Times.

Ray Busby highlighted a network meeting on the 31 March 2009 picking up best practice and individual networks communicating together, avoiding duplication and harnessing resources.

The Chairman thanked Members and Officers for their work on the Dementia Strategy which he believed would make a difference for the people of North Yorkshire.

## **RESOLVED –**

- (a) That the report and Members comments be noted.

- (b) That the Commissioning Strategy be submitted to the Care and Independence Overview and Scrutiny Committee at its 9 July meeting.

**169. ANNUAL PERFORMANCE ASSESSMENT**

CONSIDERED –

Report of the Corporate Director – Adult and Community Services to report on the positive outcome of the Adult Social Care Services Annual Performance Assessment carried out by the Commission for Social Care Inspection (CSCI).

Seamus Breen gave the Committee an overview of the Annual Performance Assessment report. He said that the 3 Star Rating was a good endorsement of the Council but that there was no complacency as there was room for improvement.

That Chairman asked in regard to the table on page 22 of the report whether after the elections the new Committee would be involved in part of the process to take 'delivering outcomes' forward. Seamus Breen agreed that there would be areas of work for the new Committee to consider.

Members agreed that the report was excellent news for the County Council. They discussed financial implications during the present economic downturn with additional payments to the Citizens Advice Bureau, an increase in domestic violence and financial care implications where individuals were now not able to sell their homes to provide finance towards their care.

**RESOLVED –**

That the report and its implications for the work programme be noted.

**170. WORK PROGRAMME**

CONSIDERED –

Report of the Head of Scrutiny and Corporate Performance asking Members to agree the attached work programme at Appendix 1 to the report. The report also updates Members on work programme items and reviews the shape of the work ahead.

Ray Busby suggested that the first meeting of the new Committee should concentrate on informing new Members of previous work undertaken by the Committee which would include any good/bad working practises. Members agreed that for both new and existing Members there was a lot of information to "take in" all at once and that this information should be explained in as simple a way possible with not too much detail. A Member asked that the Task Group work on the Older Peoples Strategy should be included and Integrated Community Equipment.

Members agreed to the cancellation of the Committee's next Mid Cycle Briefing.

The Chairman thanked the two members of the Voluntary Sector for their work on the Committee over the last 4 years. He highlighted the Voluntary Sector elections taking place after the County Council elections and said that the outcome of these elections would be known before the Committee meeting in July.

**RESOLVED –**

- (a) That the report be noted.

- (b) That the Committee note the suggestions made by Members for inclusion in the Care and Independence Overview and Scrutiny Committee Meeting in July.
- (c) That the next Care and Independence Overview and Scrutiny Committee Mid Cycle Briefing be cancelled.

MD/ALJ