

NORTH YORKSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

CARE AND INDEPENDENCE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Minutes of the meeting held on 3 September 2009 at County Hall, Northallerton.

PRESENT:-

County Councillor Tony Hall in the Chair.

County Councillors: John Fox, Dave Peart, Peter Popple, Pat Marsburg, Brian Marshall, Melva Steckles, Helen Swiers, and Herbert Tindall.

Present by Invitation: Jill Quinn, Gill Allatt, and Susan Broster (Alzheimer's Society).

Officers: Seamus Breen (Assistant Director – Commissioning & Partnerships, Adult & Community Services), Joss Harbron (Adult & Community Services), Norma Sutton (Adult & Community Services), Ray Busby (Scrutiny and Corporate Performance) and Mary Davies (Legal and Democratic Services).

COPIES OF ALL DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED ARE IN THE MINUTE BOOK

Opening the meeting the Chairman welcomed County Councillor Herbert Tindall to the Care and Independence Overview and Scrutiny Committee. The Chairman also announced that County Councillor Polly English had been invited to attend the meeting due to her interest in the Valuing Employment Now Strategy in Craven but had been unable to attend. The Chairman extended an open invitation to County Councillor Polly English to attend future meetings of the Committee.

10. MINUTES

RESOLVED –

That the Minutes of the meeting held on 14 July 2009, having been printed and circulated, be taken as read and be confirmed and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

11. 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.

12. VALUING EMPLOYMENT NOW

CONSIDERED –

The report of the Head of Scrutiny and Corporate Performance to introduce the presentation from the Adult and Community Services Directorate on the new strategy 'Valuing Employment Now' and to invite the Committee to decide how it would approach this as an in-depth review over the coming year.

The Committee received a power point presentation from Seamus Breen (Assistant Director – Commissioning & Partnerships, ACS) and Joss Harbron (Operations Manager, ACS) explaining the new strategy 'Valuing Employment Now': real jobs for people with learning disabilities. (A copy of the slides used during the presentation is included in the Minute Book). Seamus Breen said that he would send a copy of the presentation to all Members after the meeting.

Seamus Breen set out the vision of the new strategy: "Employment is a fundamental part of life and it is only when people with learning disabilities have the same opportunities as all other citizens that we will really be valuing people. The belief is that people with learning disabilities can work, and this message needs to be given from when people are born".

Key points within the presentation were as follows:-

How the Adult and Community Services Directorate would deliver the strategy which would require a change in approach throughout the current system, raising internal disability awareness so that colleagues can see the inclusion of disabled people as an opportunity and not a problem; setting out a vision to increase the number of real jobs and provide the appropriate support; clearing up confusion about the benefits system and addressing barriers; raising staff expectations of working alongside people with learning disabilities; transport issues; giving a clear individual path to employment for all people leaving school or college and making sure employment and self-employment advice is accessible.

Members made the following comments:

- County Councillor Herbert Tindall urged Members to visit local projects which helped people with learning disabilities. He highlighted Camp Hill Village Trust in Danby which he said provided an excellent service to people with learning disabilities.
- Work needed to be carried out to prepare employees working with people with learning disabilities.
- The importance of people with learning disabilities to feel valued at the beginning of their employment; fore-planning at an early stage should not be underestimated. Seamus Breen invited Members to attend team meetings in Adult and Community Services to see the preparations being made for the employment of people with learning disabilities. Joss Harbron asked Members to contact her if they required any further information.
- Noted that the 'Valuing People Now' Strategy had been written 3 years ago and with the present economic situation it may be difficult to find employment for people with learning disabilities. Joss Harbron agreed that there were challenges but she highlighted business cases presented to employers which helped alleviate some of the perceived barriers and focussed on the person's abilities.

The Chairman asked the Committee to determine an approach to an in-depth review of 'Valuing Employment Now', he acknowledged that the team would need to consider how to change the public's perception and focus on the needs of vulnerable people. Seamus Breen suggested a project group of 3 or 4 Members for the initial work; to organise a workshop and advise the Committee on a work plan. The Chairman suggested an end date of the 1 April 2010.

The Committee discussed the powerpoint slide highlighting questions for the project group to consider:

- What are the numbers of people with learning disability in employment in North Yorkshire now?
- What worked/did not work in getting these individuals into employment in North Yorkshire?
- What are the success stories from elsewhere in the country and what lessons might be brought back to North Yorkshire?

- How do the Committee assist the Corporate County Council understand this agenda?
- What awareness is there among other critical partners?
- What should be the role of ACS?
- For families and carers secure in seeing sons or daughters in traditional day care how do we best help them understand a different future?
- Where do we stand as individual community leaders /council members?

Members made the following comments:

- The project group needed to look at failures in the work place as well as successes to build up an accurate picture.
- Data recording needed to be kept as up to date as possible.

Joss Harbron advised that 65% of people with learning disabilities wanted to work and not remain in day centres and she noted that many employers wanted to work with the County Council to employ people with learning disabilities.

County Councillors Melva Steckles, Brian Marshall, Herbert Tindall and Dave Peart agreed to be members of the project group for an in-depth review of 'Valuing Employment Now' with County Councillor Melva Steckles to lead the project group. The Chairman suggested that all Members of the Committee could input with the project group at different stages using their local knowledge. Seamus Breen advised the Committee that the Corporate Director Adult and Community Services and the Portfolio holder, County Councillor Chris Metcalfe, had indicated their support to work in partnership with the project group.

RESOLVED –

- (a) That the report and Members comments be noted.
- (b) That County Councillors Melva Steckles, Brian Marshall, Herbert Tindall and Dave Peart be the nominated Members on the Project Group for the 'Valuing Employment Now' Scrutiny Task Group.

13. DEMENTIA COMMISSIONING FRAMEWORK – NATIONAL GUIDELINES

CONSIDERED –

The report of the Corporate Director, Adult and Community Services updating the Committee on further developments to their report on Dementia; the new National Implementation Plan on the National Strategy for people with Dementia and the timescales within that National Strategy. The report also highlighted the first draft outline of the Action Plan proposed to support North Yorkshire's Joint Commissioning Strategy for people with Dementia.

A copy of the report on the Dementia Commissioning Framework was circulated at the meeting. (A copy of the report is included in the Minute Book).

Seamus Breen highlighted the Department of Health's implementation plan in support of its National Strategy. He added that an extract from the implementation plan was at Appendix 1 to the report which noted the expected timescale around the implementation of the Strategy. Seamus Breen acknowledged that at present it was unclear what allocation of resources would be made available by the PCT as Dementia was not high on its list of

priorities. He suggested that a business plan may need to be made for each proposal on a case by case basis.

Members made the following comments:

- Concerned that the PCT had not acknowledged Dementia as a priority for funding especially given the rise in the older people population in North Yorkshire.
- Agreement that the appointment of a Project Officer to support the Network was a key commitment. Seamus Breen acknowledged the need for a Project Officer but indicated that in the absence of finance the work would need to be done by Officers in the Adult and Community Services Directorate.
- Acknowledged that the Dementia Network could influence the importance of Care Pathways. It was suggested that the setting up of a Service Users Steering Group could be a useful way forward and Seamus Breen agreed to look into the matter.
- Suggested a change to the name of the Collaborative may be beneficial. It was felt to change the name of the Project Officer and Network might emphasise that this was the driving influence in North Yorkshire and might therefore influence the PCT to commit resources to the initiative.
- Highlighted the BGOP (North Yorkshire Forum for over 50s) meeting on the 1st October 2009 which could approach the PCT and suggest moving Dementia to a higher priority for funding.
- That more preventative work should be undertaken by the PCT.

RESOLVED –

- (a) That the development of a local timetable around the implementation of a National Strategy for Dementia be noted.
- (b) That the proposed Action Plan for Dementia Services in North Yorkshire be noted.
- (c) That the Chairman consults with the PCT in regard to the prioritisation of the Dementia Strategy.

14. BUILDING A SOCIETY FOR ALL AGES: PREPARING FOR LONGER LIVES

CONSIDERED –

The report of the Corporate Director, Adult and Community Services to invite the Committee to comment on the release of the consultation document 'Building Society for All Ages: Preparing for Longer Lives'.

Members were advised on the initiative to focus on preparing early for later life and for capturing the transition from work to retirement. The initiatives proposed were aimed at promoting everyone's well being, to help keep people healthy, create a stronger and richer sense of community and boost the economy. Ray Busby highlighted paragraph 5 of the report detailing a mixture of incentives which he said could be inspected by the Care Quality Commission (CQC). Ray Busby also briefly went through paragraph 7 of the report which highlighted specific proposals within the consultation document. Norma Sutton advised that the consultation document would be presented to the Older Peoples' Partnership Board on the 28 August 2009 and to the Older Peoples' Champions Group on the 2 October 2009. Members were advised to respond individually to Norma Sutton before the 22 September 2009 or to Ray Busby before the 3 October 2009 for their views to be included in a tripartite response on behalf of North Yorkshire to Government by the 12 October 2009. The three main partners were Care and Independence Overview and

Scrutiny Committee, Older Peoples' Partnership Board and Adult and Community Services Directorate. The collated responses would be seen by the Chair of the Care and Independence Overview and Scrutiny Committee and the group spokespersons for any views to be added. All responses would be retained locally to inform the forthcoming refresh of the North Yorkshire Policy for Older People – Our Future Lives, and the multi agency 'Planning for Older Age'. Seamus Breen said that responses from Committees and Forums on the proposals would result in a complete view from across North Yorkshire on this issue. The Chairman asked Members to contact Ray Busby with their comments.

Members agreed that any help to make old age more enjoyable should be supported.

RESOLVED –

- (a) That the report be noted.
- (b) That Members respond individually to Norma Sutton before 22 September 2009 or to Ray Busby before 3 October 2009 for their views to be included in a tripartite response on behalf of North Yorkshire to Government by the 12 October.

15. WORK PROGRAMME

CONSIDERED –

The report of the Head of Scrutiny and Corporate Performance to agree the work programme at Appendix 1 to the report and update the work programme items and review the shape of the work ahead.

Ray Busby suggested that the next mid-cycle briefing on the 15 October 2009 be converted to a full committee meeting to consider the Green Paper detailing the funding of social care in England. It was agreed that, due to many Members being unable to attend the next mid-cycle briefing, that a workshop be arranged where Members could feed their views into the consultation process.

Ray Busby updated Members on the extended Task Group for the Older People's Strategy and also a broadening of the range of its representation to develop an independent assessment by including representatives from the Older Peoples' Partnership Board from the North Yorkshire Strategy Partnership (NYSP). Ray Busby added that he would bring a report to the next meeting.

The Chairman advised on future joint scrutiny work with the Scrutiny of Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee on the following topics:

- Dementia in Acute Hospitals.
- A Stroke Strategy for North Yorkshire.

RESOLVED –

- (a) That the content of the report be noted.
- (b) That a workshop be scheduled after the next mid-cycle briefing to consider the Green Paper detailing the funding of social care in England.
- (c) That County Councillors Peter Pople, Brian Marshall and John Fox form the Care and Independent Overview and Scrutiny membership of the joint task group with Members from the Scrutiny of Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee on a Stroke Strategy in North Yorkshire.

- (d) That an update report on the Older Peoples' Strategy be brought to the next Committee meeting.
- (e) That the Committee's Work Programme is updated and the suggestions made on future joint scrutiny work with the Scrutiny of Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee incorporated.

MD