

NORTH YORKSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

CARE AND INDEPENDENCE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Minutes of the meeting held on 14 July 2009 at County Hall, Northallerton.

PRESENT:-

County Councillor Tony Hall in the Chair.

County Councillors: Dave Peart, Melva Steckles, Helen Swiers, Peter Pople, Pat Marsburg, Brian Marshall and Herbert Tindall (substitute for Margaret Hulme).

Representatives of the Voluntary Sector: Bridget Hardy and Peter Blackburn (substitute for Alex Bird).

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

Officers: Derek Law (Corporate Director Adult & Community Services), Seamus Breen (Assistant Director – Commissioning & Partnerships, Adult & Community Services), Sarah Wileman (Carers Project Officer, Adult & Community Services), Julie Blaisdale (Assistant Director - Library and Community Services, Adult & Community Services), Ray Busby (Scrutiny and Corporate Performance) and Mary Davies (Legal and Democratic Services).

Apologies: County Councillor John Fox.

COPIES OF ALL DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED ARE IN THE MINUTE BOOK

1. MINUTES

RESOLVED –

That the Minutes of the meeting held on 16 April 2009, having been printed and circulated, be taken as read and be confirmed and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

2. 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.

3. CHAIRMAN'S STATEMENT

The Chairman ran through the Mission Statement to Members and the role of the Committee to scrutinise Executive and to ensure the experiences of community groups, service providers and service users were used to develop County Council services. He added that any subject matters brought to Committee would be looked at both inwardly and outwardly to ensure that the County Council fulfil its community leadership role concerning the issues affecting the wider community.

4. SOCIAL CARE AND INDEPENDENCE OVERVIEW

CONSIDERED –

Derek Law, the Corporate Director, Adult and Community Services highlighted two pieces of exceptional work which the Committee had completed in Dementia and Telecare, he said the work had led to improvements in performance and services to the community. Derek Law advised Members that the Adult and Community Services Directorate were in the process of producing an overview of the Directorate which would contain key facts and figures for use by Members of the County Council. Derek Law briefly spoke of the Directorates priorities over the coming year and key challenges; he said the most significant would be the demographic challenge. He highlighted that there were now more elderly people than children and young people in North Yorkshire, this was mainly due to advances in medicine, people being more health conscious and a reduction in smoking; people were living longer. He highlighted emerging pressures on the Service with people with learning disabilities and children with severe disabilities also living longer. The Adult and Community Services Directorate were in the process of working out the demand on services and solutions on wider well being and giving people choice and control. Derek Law said that traditionally the service had been centred on providing services for people and delivering support but now the public expected to live in their own homes for as long as possible with the right kind of support in place. Derek Law advised of the continued challenges to the Service with the inclusion of the Personalisation Agenda giving people more choice, control and independence. He also noted the increase demand to the Service due to the economic downturn, ongoing challenges for people with learning disabilities, mental health problems and the challenges ahead in dementia services.

Seamus Breen advised of the level of people living with dementia and the high number of over 80 years olds. He spoke of the challenges ahead, financial pressures and the need for a robust third sector across North Yorkshire to support the Personalisation Agenda. He added that the Service was reliant on partners and getting the right care from service providers by challenging them to provide good quality services. He also highlighted closer working with District Councils supporting the local community in areas such as extra care and sheltered accommodation. Seamus Breen advised Members of new policy drivers from central government.

The Chairman thanked Derek Law and Seamus Breen for attending the meeting.

RESOLVED –

That the report be noted.

5. DISCUSSION PRESENTATION OF PREVIOUS TOPICS AND PARTNERSHIP PERSPECTIVE – DEMENTIA STUDY

CONSIDERED –

The Chairman and members of the Alzheimer's Society updated Members on the Dementia Strategy.

The Chairman said that the dementia report responded to the national dementia strategy and was presented to the Executive to be formally adopted as a basis of further consultations with partners for the North Yorkshire Joint Commissioning Strategy. The Chairman highlighted that the Committee had worked strongly in partnership with the third sector not just demonstrating commitment but also understanding. The report had given the third sector an opportunity to directly influence policy development and local response to the national strategy.

A paper highlighting the population aged 65 and over in North Yorkshire who were predicted to have dementia in the next 16 years was circulated during the meeting. (A copy is included in the Minute Book).

Gill Allatt (Alzheimer's Society) said that the Society had appreciated being involved at an early stage in the strategy and were committed to moving the proposals forward. She highlighted that the Society had been involved for a long time in helping people live independently in the community and was encouraged to hear that the County Council were looking to give a quality service in partnership with the third sector.

Jill Quinn (Alzheimer's Society) felt that it had been good just to be listened to and said that the final document would not have been different from what the Society would have written and she had been relieved to see the priorities slip into place. She said that she hoped that work could begin to remove stigma and begin awareness training to prepare communities. She suggested priorities should be to work on the stigma, prepare communities and then be ready with information and advice and a good sign posting system.

Susan Broster (Alzheimer's Society) agreed that the main priorities were around stigma. She highlighted a recent workshop in York which had recognised the huge problems around stigma in the community. She felt that if the problems associated with stigma were not removed then there would not be early intervention and she highlighted how Carers and clients did not want to declare their illness because they felt it would hurt their lifestyle. Susan Broster suggested that there was a lot of work that needed to be done on end of life care.

Jill Quinn (Alzheimer's Society) had concerns with pathways and equity and she highlighted the differences of care available in North Yorkshire.

Members made the following comments:

- The local Member for the Scarborough area had concerns with the proposed increase in dementia in Scarborough over the next 16 years. Seamus Breen commented on how cancer research had progress over the last 10 years and the inroads that had been made into the illness.
- More education was needed in primary and secondary schools across the County providing advice and education on dementia.

RESOLVED –

That the report be noted.

6. JOINT COMMISSION STRATEGY - DEMENTIA

CONSIDERED –

The report of the Head of Scrutiny and Corporate Performance giving an update and the way forward on proposals for a Dementia Strategy in North Yorkshire.

Ray Busby updated Members on the final version of the strategy report which Executive had agreed should be adopted as the basis for further consultation with partners and as the framework of a joint commissioning strategy.

The Chairman advised that the joint commissioning strategy was still a draft document and an outline report was expected to come back to the next Committee meeting. He said there were still areas which had not been looked into such as nursing training for dementia in acute hospitals and how dementia was treated in hospitals.

Seamus Breen said that the Department of Health had produced a document based on the national commissioning framework which would move the dementia agenda forward.

Seamus Breen advised that the PCT had been doing some mapping exercises using the national framework tool to evaluate the way forward and to gauge priorities. Seamus Breen handed Members a copy of the First Draft of the Dementia Commissioning Framework and he would be interested in any comments from Members. (A copy is included in the Minute Book). He said that the Directorate was in the process of producing an action plan on the Dementia Commissioning Framework and wanted Member and Partner involvement to look at issues such as the dementia network, finances and the way forward. Seamus Breen highlighted a meeting with the PCT to consider issues around signposting and care pathways; making sure care pathways were clear and understandable. He said this would lead to a more robust action plan and then an investment plan to go onto the agenda. Members agreed to contact Ray Busby if they wanted to be involved in producing an action plan.

RESOLVED –

- (a) That the report be noted.
- (b) That the draft Commissioning Framework be submitted to the next meeting.

7. NEW LOOK NO SHUSH

CONSIDERED –

The report of the Corporate Director – Adult and Community Services updating on the final version of the Library Strategy and to ask Members to consider how libraries can assist the Committee in achieving its aims.

The report was introduced by Julie Blaisdale (Assistant Director – Library and Community Services), she highlighted the vision and four strategic aims of the Strategy, together with some of the facilities provided from Libraries, including reading events; using Libraries as venues to access information; and as a community hub for partner organisations such as the York and North Yorkshire Credit Union, CAB, Over 50's Roadshows and the Police. Julie Blaisdale said that the library service had consulted widely on the strategy attending four overview and scrutiny committees, the seven area committees, partnership boards, town and parish councils and the voluntary sector. Julie Blaisdale said that she welcomed working with Members to develop the service further.

Members were impressed with the range of services available in libraries and the service supplied to rural areas using the mobile library service and liked the direction in which the service was going.

The Chairman thanked Julie Blaisdale for attending.

RESOLVED –

That the report be noted.

8. NEW CARERS STRATEGY – CONSULTATION PRESENTATION

CONSIDERED –

The report of the Head of Scrutiny and Corporate Performance to introduce the consultation document on the North Yorkshire Carers Strategy and invite the Committee to comment upon the consultation document and take a view as to whether this issue has significance for the work programme.

The report was introduced by Sarah Wileman (Carers Project Officer), she highlighted the North Yorkshire Joint Carers Strategy which aims to discover health and wellbeing needs and, through a process of consultation, identify any gaps in provision where needs are not being met. Sarah Wileman highlighted that the strategy looked predominantly at unpaid carers; family members, friends and neighbours who provide care and support. Sarah Wileman advised that the consultation period started on the 8 June 2009 until the 31 August 2009 and Members could send her any comments during this time period. When the consultation period was completed the strategy would be taken to the working group where any further information will be incorporated into the document. Sarah Wileman handed Members a copy of the letter sent out to partner organisations with the draft strategy and the feedback sheet. (A copy is included in the Minute Book).

Members made the following comments:

- There was agreement that the strategy was an excellent piece of work.
- That carers over the age of 65 should be highlighted earlier on in the strategy, it was felt that the group deserved extra consideration.
- Suggested that the carer emergency card should have more input from service user groups.
- How did carers receive information? Seamus Breen said this was one of the areas being looked at in the strategy was the hidden carers. Information would be highlighted through the libraries and GP practices. It was recognised that carers were reluctant to go to Social Services but will go to other agencies. The strategy looked at how to encourage carers to identify themselves and raise their profile.
- Highlighted the amount of paperwork to complete and the possibility of streamlining. Seamus Breen said that there was a review planned and acknowledged the complexities.

The Chairman thanked Sarah Wileman for attending the meeting. He suggested that Members contact Sarah Wileman with any further comments.

RESOLVED –

That the report and Members comments be noted.

9. 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 highlighted the new format for the work programme which included the 7 social care outcomes highlighted at Appendix 2 to the report.

Seamus Breen advised Members on Social Care Outcomes, which originated from the document 'Independence, Wellbeing and Choice' and looked at how funding was being spent and the returns achieved. The document also looked at whether funding had made a

difference, improving the quality of life and contributing to society and also areas of discrimination, treating people fairly. Seamus Breen highlighted the Dignity and Respect agenda and the process of how the way the County Council engaged with people should leave them feeling good about themselves.

Seamus Breen highlighted work the Committee could do in future on demographic growth which he said could include dementia.

County Councillor Melva Steckles encouraged Members to get involved with the Older People's Strategy and asked Members to contact Ray Busby if they wanted to be involved in the Task Group. Ray Busby said there was now better access for Members to information in each Directorate to shape how services were run. The Chairman suggested a report be brought to the next mid cycle briefing and then be put on the work programme for a future Committee meeting.

Bridget Hardy asked that the Task Group extend its work to include disabled people.

The Chairman asked Members to note the date of the next mid cycle briefing and invited all Members of the Committee to attend.

The Committee considered the feasibility of an in depth review in respect of Employment of People with Learning Disabilities. Seamus Breen highlighted the relevance in this context of the recent publication of 'Valuing Employment Now'.

RESOLVED –

- (a) That the report and Members comments be noted.
- (b) That information on the Government's expectations outlined in 'Valuing Employment Now be brought to the next meeting so that the Committee could determine how that might relate to the proposed review of Employment of People with Learning Disabilities.
- (c) That Members contact the Scrutiny Officer to serve on the Older People's Strategy Task group.

MD/ALJ