

NORTH YORKSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

CARE AND INDEPENDENCE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Minutes of the meeting held on 8 April 2010 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.

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

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

One member of the public attended the meeting.

COPIES OF ALL DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED ARE IN THE MINUTE BOOK

30. MINUTES

RESOLVED –

That the Minutes of the meeting held on 11 February 2010, having been printed and circulated, be taken as read and be confirmed and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

31. PUBLIC QUESTIONS OR STATEMENTS

The Committee was advised that Ian Fulton from the North Yorkshire LINK and Chair of the Mental Health Strategic Task Group in Craven had given notice of a statement to be made at the meeting.

Ian Fulton read out the statement to the Committee. (A copy of the statement is included in the Minute Book).

The Chairman noted the statement and gave his assurances that he would liaise with the Chairman of the Scrutiny of Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee on the matter; the Chairman added that during the election period it may be difficult to progress. Ian Fulton replied that he did not feel that the issue was time sensitive. Seamus Breen advised that if there was evidence of dereliction of care then it was important to send this evidence to the Adult and Community Services Directorate as the Social Services Authority.

Members agreed that due to the serious nature of the accusations the information should be sent to the Director, Adult and Community Services and subsequently brought back to the Care and Independence Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

Ian Fulton agreed to send the report when it had been completed, he gave his assurances that the matter he raised related solely to Mental Health Services in the Craven District.

RESOLVED –

That the statement and Members comments be noted.

32. PERSONALISATION AGENDA

CONSIDERED –

The report of the Corporate Director – Adult and Community Services updating the Committee on developments in relation to the implementation of self-directed support.

Seamus Breen said that the report gave assurances to Members that the County Council were committed to moving the agenda forward, making sure that processes and systems were in place. Personalisation and self-directed support was a major shift in thinking on how community services were delivered, in future an individual would have a greater say on their own assessment and the outcomes they wanted to achieve and more control on delivery of care. Seamus Breen advised of direct payments to purchase care and acknowledged that there were many people who did not want to manage their money but wanted to have a say on how the money was being spent. He advised that the County Council were making good progress on the timetable to deliver the agenda by 2011 and that there were now over 1,000 members of the public who were receiving self-directed support budgets. Seamus Breen highlighted implications the agenda brought to the market and to the County Council's budget. In regard to choice and control, Seamus Breen said that research showed that people were still choosing services that were familiar to them with the exception of day care centres; more people were choosing services such as leisure services and access to employment.

Members made the following comments:

- The report focussed in the main on self directed payments for people with a learning disability; what were the take-up percentages in relation to older people and other user groups. Seamus Breen said that he would send this information to Members after the meeting.
- Concern that some people would spend their budgets before the end of the financial year. Members felt that the Committee needed more information on how the policy would work. Seamus Breen acknowledged these concerns and advised that there were processes in place to make sure budgets were being spent to deliver the outcomes agreed.
- Concern about the possibility of financial abuse. Seamus Breen advised of training programmes underway regarding safeguarding and support needs and he also advised of advocacy services. A Member asked if there was an information leaflet available dealing with adult/financial abuse. Seamus Breen said that there were a variety of leaflets available which he would send out to Members.
- Leaflets needed to be in a language/format that was easily understandable and any system in place needed to be as flexible as possible. Seamus Breen advised of 'building blocks' in place to make the agenda more robust which included:
 - Recipe – What was available to buy in the market.
 - A Brokerage Scheme – Looking at the best deals in the market place. Members were advised of plans to create a Brokerage Agency independent of the local authority to give guidance and advice to the public.

- A robust Advocacy Service.
- Acknowledged that there were business opportunities for the private sector to deliver more services.
- That the sentence in paragraph 5.5 of the report was incomplete. Seamus Breen said that the sentence referred to a reshaping in the directorate's thinking on leaflets and how best to communicate information to the public.

Ian Fulton, as a member of the LINK, suggested that one of the drivers for reducing the need for long term care and learning to self manage was adult education; he felt that this would contribute significantly to allow people the capacity to live independently. Seamus Breen recognised that adults were choosing to attend college rather than traditional day care centres.

Ray Busby suggested future reports to Committee should include; the experience of other local authorities, a Brokerage Agency and information on developing a robust Advocacy service. The Chairman agreed that the Committee receive periodic updates and that this should be placed on the work programme for the 2 September 2010 meeting.

RESOLVED –

That the report and Members comments be noted.

33. SHAPING THE FUTURE – CONSULTATION AND UPDATE

County Councillor Brian Marshall declared a personal interest as a Member of Age Concern in Selby.

CONSIDERED –

A powerpoint presentation by the Assistant Director, Commissioning & Partnerships, in regard to Shaping the Market and dialogue with the Independent Sector and Third Sector. (A copy of the presentation is included in the Minute Book).

The presentation included: advising that Adult and Community Service Directorates across England were being tasked with transforming how care was being delivered. North Yorkshire's over reliance on extra care homes and residential homes, questioning whether there were other ways to progress. The economic downturn was raising the demand for service and the cost of care, and that the County Council had to rethink how to deliver and procure services. Discussions with the independent sector and third sector representatives in the form of workshops had been held to secure the future and shape the market to be robust enough to take advantage of new business opportunities as they emerged and to cope with the realities of the economic downturn. During the next 6 to 8 years North Yorkshire would need 1800 additional accommodation with care places and that there was now a shift in how people expect their care to be delivered. Recognising that future care was becoming a major issue in the Country and that North Yorkshire County Council had a duty to make sure its funds were being spent correctly including the independent sector and third sector making best use of funding. That the County Councils strategic direction was now focussing on offering intense support for the first couple of weeks and then approaching the independent sector and third sector to provide long term care. That the County Council were investing in early intervention and prevention. In some areas of North Yorkshire it was difficult to get some services and recognising that providers were being selective in the services they were providing. In future the Council would be looking to change its contracts to include outcomes of care. Proposals to zone areas of the County; each zone would include preferred providers. Ongoing work to reduce the variations in price for services across the County. Further discussions with the third sector to ascertain

which critical services were needed in the community, to reduce duplications and work in partnership to be more efficient.

Members made the following comments:

- Questioned whether European Union regulations would allow zoning for tendering.
- The need for early dialogue with the third sector. Seamus Breen acknowledged the work of the third sector and advised that a feedback report considering how to move forward to secure a strong and viable care market in the County would be sent to all third sector partners.
- Concern with timescales and short term funding for the third sector.
- That procurement rules prevented a large proportion of the third sector from tendering. Seamus Breen recognised the problem and advised of ongoing work to resolve the problem.
- Highlighted the problem of people already in the system that had been using residential care homes for many years and how they would be able to use their personal budgets. Seamus Breen advised of a workshop taking place on the 4/5 May 2010 bringing bankers and organisations offering extra care to discuss the possibility of developing 30 care facilities in North Yorkshire. He added this was an issue which may go to Executive and to the Care and Independence Overview and Scrutiny Committee in future to discuss the possibility of using County Council buildings.
- That more affordable housing may alleviate the problem of additional care facilities. There needed to be more creative thinking incorporated into plans for building future housing for people with physical needs, planners needed to be mindful of equalities and issues for all in the community.
- Concern for the relationship in future of care providers with the County Council if areas of the county are zoned. Seamus Breen acknowledged the need to keep competition in place to make sure users had enough choice. He said it was not intended to have one provider in each zone and that research was now underway on the issue.
- With the changing emphasis on training for long term care provision, what would happen if more intense support was needed after the initial first couple of weeks. Seamus Breen advised of the flexibility built into the system. He advised of the Department of Health guidelines for interim care during the first 6 weeks and where the benchmark came in.
- Concern with the varying cost of care across the County.
- Concern with the lack of housing for young disabled people.
- Concern that some voluntary sector organisations could lose skilled members of staff because of funding issues. Seamus Breen recognised the concerns of Members and agreed to write to the third sector and address the issue to limit any damage.

The Chairman highlighted the Committee's concerns that there needed to be greater communication with the Third Sector and asked that the Committee be briefed on the

current situation and kept up to date in future. The Chairman also suggested housing was something the Committee needed to be involved with in regard to vulnerable people and asked that this item be put on the work programme.

RESOLVED –

That the report and Members comments be noted.

34. DEMENTIA REPORT OF YORKSHIRE AND HUMBER IMPROVEMENT PARTNERSHIP (YHIP) PEER MONITORING REVIEW

CONSIDERED –

The report of the Head of Scrutiny and Corporate Performance updating on local activity on the National Dementia Strategy and the conclusions of the Committee's review, particularly noting the progress of the Dementia Network; and, to introduce the results of the Yorkshire and Humber Improvement Programme Peer Review.

Ray Busby introduced the report and highlighted that the North Yorkshire Dementia Network had made a strong start.

The Chairman suggested using the September meeting to discuss progress after the last 18 months and future work with participation from individuals and agencies that had helped shape the Committee's work.

Members made the following comments:

- The importance of memory clinics; whether some people were being missed during early stages of the disease.

RESOLVED –

(a) That the report be noted.

(b) That a progress report be brought to the September meeting.

35. VALUING EMPLOYMENT NOW UPDATE ON TASK GROUP AND PLANNED ACTIVITY

CONSIDERED –

The report of the Head of Scrutiny and Corporate Performance on the work undertaken by the Task Group examining the implications of the National Strategy – Valuing Employment Now; and, to seek the Committee's support for the work undertaken and guidance about remaining future work.

Ray Busby updated on work that had been undertaken by the Task Group and he highlighted paragraph 2.3 of the report and the proposed work for the Task Group to consider.

Seamus Breen encouraged as many Members as possible to attend the workshop on the 30 April 2010 at County Hall.

Members made the following comments:

- Concern with the information being given to organisations on the process for procurement and the pathways to employment. Ray Busby discussed areas where the Task Group needed more information, the need for Members as

Community Leaders and for organisations to fully understand the Valuing Employment Now agenda.

RESOLVED –

That the report and Members comments be noted.

36. 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 presented the report. He highlighted a workshop seminar on the 27 April 2010 for Members on Safeguarding.

Ray Busby advised that the Drugs Action Team would be invited to attend the next Committee meeting. Future items to be considered by the Committee included:

- Telecare report which would include an update on the Equipment Store.
- Safeguarding.
- Further information on Valuing Employment Now.

Ray Busby asked Members to note that the Mid Cycle briefing scheduled for the 6 May 2010 had been cancelled and moved to the 1st June 2010 briefing meeting. Members accepted this recommendation.

RESOLVED –

- (a) That the content of the report be noted.
- (b) That the suggestions made by Members for inclusion in the work programme be noted.
- (c) That the Mid Cycle Briefing scheduled for the 6 May 2010 be moved to the 1st June 2010 briefing meeting.

MD/ALJ