

NORTH YORKSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

CARE AND INDEPENDENCE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Minutes of the meeting held on 4 November 2010 at County Hall, Northallerton.

PRESENT:-

County Councillor Tony Hall in the Chair.

County Councillors: John Batt, John Marshall (as substitute for John Fox), Bill Hout, Pat Marsburg, Brian Marshall, Dave Peart, Peter Popple, John Savage, Michael Heseltine (as substitute for Melva Steckles),

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

Officers: Seamus Breen (Assistant Director, Commissioning & Partnerships, (Adult and Community Services)), Beverley Maybury, Assistant Director, Adult Social Care, (Adult and Community Services), Anne Marie Lubanski (Head of Self Directed Care and Transformation, (Adult and Community Services), Debbie Hogg (Assistant Director Resouces (Adult and Community Services)), and Linda Porritt (Benefits, Assessments and Charging Co-ordinator, (Adult and Community Services)), Bryon Hunter and Ray Busby (Scrutiny & Corporate Performance), Mary Davies and Louise Barker (Legal & Democratic Services).

Apologies: County Councillors Joseph Plant, Helen Swiers and Herbert Tindall.

Four members of the public in attendance.

COPIES OF ALL DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED ARE IN THE MINUTE BOOK

The Chairman welcomed County Councillor Bill Hout to the Committee and members of the Local Involvement Network for North Yorkshire (LINK).

48. MINUTES

RESOLVED –

That the Minutes of the meeting held on 3 June 2010, having been printed and circulated, be taken as read and be confirmed and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

49. 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.

50. RE-ABLEMENT

CONSIDERED –

(a) Presentation by the Corporate Director Adult and Community Services

Beverley Maybury, Assistant Director Social Care Services, introduced a presentation on Re-ablement (A copy of the powerpoint present is included in the Minute Book). Beverley Maybury explained that re-ablement was a new service which aimed to allow people to stay in their own homes longer and maximise their

independence. She highlighted technology currently available and the process for referrals. Beverley Maybury explained that most referrals would go directly to START (Short Term Assessment and Reablement Team) or the locality teams as necessary. She advised that START as part of social care provision to meet assessed need would be available in most of the Country by 2012 and Adult and Community Services would retain its 'provider of last resort' duty. Beverley Maybury advised on the roll out plan for North Yorkshire and the planned review of the service in November 2010. She also advised on savings being made so far by the Districts in North Yorkshire.

Members made the following comments:

- In reply to a question on whether the service would be kept in-house, Beverley Maybury explained that as the service became more established it may be possible to commission private or voluntary sector providers. At the present time there were some areas where the market was not sufficiently developed to be able to use.
- In reply to a question on personal budgets, Seamus Breen acknowledged that some people did not want to deal with financial budgeting and just wanted their care handled by the local authority. Beverley Maybury advised on the balanced approach being taken by the Service.

(b) Briefing and Draft Project Plan – Report of the Head of Scrutiny and Corporate Performance

Ray Busby presented the report which highlighted how the Care and Independence Overview and Scrutiny Committee would approach and understand re-ablement. Ray Busby highlighted the Review on page 8 of the report and work to be done by the Committee:

- Working with the Adult and Community Services Directorate on how to get information on re-ablement to the Community in North Yorkshire.
- How to make Councillors more aware of the re-ablement service.
- Understanding whether changes were being implemented successfully.

The Chairman suggested that the Committee could become involved with the communications strategy in the Directorate for re-ablement of front line services.

Members made the following comments:

- Highlighted that in some cases it was the family that needed to understand the changes rather than the service user and this needed to be included in the communications strategy. Seamus Breen said that people needed to understand the initial offer to help "get them back on their feet" and then discuss any care package needed. He suggested, getting these messages across may be an area for the Committee to work.

Ray Busby advised he hoped to arrange a meeting in December for Councillors on re-ablement and would email Members on their availability to attend.

RESOLVED –

That Re-ablement be included in the work programme.

51. STROKE PREVENTION – ‘UNDER PRESSURE’ AN INVESTIGATION INTO AWARENESS AND RECOGNITION TASK GROUP REPORT

CONSIDERED –

The report of the Head of Scrutiny and Corporate Performance to discuss the draft report from the Member task group on Stroke Awareness, Prevention and Recognition.

The Chairman introduced the report as the leader of the Member task group. He stated that the draft report dealt with pre-stroke matters, for example lifestyle issues, and later stroke issues with regards to coming out of hospital and the re-ablement which then takes place. He stated that the County Council had a responsibility to look after people's health and even more so once the PCT no longer existed. He highlighted that appendix 3 had not been attached to the report as it was a set of data figures from GP's which outlined that once patients were in the system they had been risk assessed and this showed as percentages, which were mostly high.

Bryon Hunter, Scrutiny Support Officer, highlighted the stroke pathway on page 20 of the report, in particular the recognition and awareness stage. He questioned how the NHS responded to a stroke and how GP's know that it is a stroke. He stated that the PCT were focussed on the 'blue light' response to a stroke and not particularly on the care pathways which take place after. Bryon Hunter informed Members that the draft report had been presented to the Scrutiny of Health Committee and had been unanimously supported. He also stated that patients with conditions such as heart disease or diabetes who receive medication were in the system but there were still many people with undiagnosed conditions that need to be included on the system.

The Chairman stated that people were aware of the F.A.S.T campaign, but not many people actually dialled 999 when they recognised someone was having a stroke.

Members made the following comments:

- Concern that the funding of £117,000 for stroke awareness was coming to an end and highlighted that County Councillors could have been made more aware of this cut. Seamus Breen explained that the cut of £117,000 was not a North Yorkshire County Council cut; the funding was from the Department of Health. The funding had only been given over a short term of two years until March 2011. He informed Members that discussions had taken place on how they would replace the existing strategy and that the County Council was offering a robust re-ablement strategy. Seamus Breen stated that the Comprehensive Spending Review would have an impact and that the County Council would have to a look at their priorities for future years.

Ray Busby informed the Committee that all the Scrutiny Committees would be looking at the outcome of the Comprehensive Spending Review and ~~the taking place~~ their upcoming meetings. He highlighted that an extra meeting had been put in the diary on 25 November 2010 for this Committee to look at those issues. He understood that all Scrutiny Members would be informed of dates of these Committees as they may wish to attend.

RESOLVED –

- (a) That the report and Members comments be noted.
- (b) That the final version be circulated to the NHS North Yorkshire and York and that the three cardiovascular networks in the County, be agreed.
- (c) That the NHS and NY&Y be invited to respond formally to indicate how the report will be used to inform work on Stroke pathways across the County.

52. DRUGS AND ALCOHOL TEAM

CONSIDERED –

The report of the Head of Scrutiny and Corporate Performance on the progress against the improvement recommendations outlined in an independent review of functions and effectiveness agreed by the DAAT Board and reported to the Committee earlier this year; and to invite the Committee to take a view on progress of this review and what the next step might be.

Ray Busby, Scrutiny Support Officer, introduced the report stating that the first phase of the review had been reported to Members at a recent Mid Cycle Briefing by Angela Dixon from the PCT and that the progress action plan was attached to the report. He stated that the opinion of Members who attended the Mid Cycle Briefing was that progress was being made and there had been clear evidence submitted that the initial objectives of the Scrutiny Review had been addressed.

Ray Busby highlighted paragraph 5 of the report, which outlined the future work for the Committee in working with the DAAT (now Substance Misuse) Board. Angela Dixon had agreed to attend a future Mid Cycle Briefing on 24 February 2011, to provide an update to Members and that they were all welcome to attend.

The Chairman informed Members of a study from Professor D. Nutt which had been carried out which, using a range of indicators, concluded that alcohol abuse caused more harm to individuals and the community than substance abuse. He also explained that the Corporate and Partnership Overview and Scrutiny Committee would be looking at the corporate issues of substance abuse alongside this Committee.

Seamus Breen informed the Committee that he was now the Chair of the Substance Misuse Board and that he would ensure that alcohol was appropriately prioritised within commissioning arrangements as it was arguably a more significant social problem across North Yorkshire. He also stated that there was a lot of work being carried out by the Board on an alcohol strategy and that a report would be brought to the 24 February 2011 meeting.

Members made the following comments:

- Alcohol was not classed as a drug so funding was not made available to deal with alcohol related problems. Seamus Breen commented that the National Framework does not set aside money specifically for alcohol abuse. He also stated that hospital admissions were higher for alcohol related problems than for drugs misuse and that in future less money may be spent on the treatment and more on preventing alcohol misuse.

RESOLVED –

- (a) That the report be noted.
- (b) That the arrangements to complete the review be noted.

53. DEMENTIAN STRATEGY – NEW QUALITY OUTCOMES

CONSIDERED –

The report of the Chairman to provide supporting information for the Committee's review of how the National Dementia Strategy has been interpreted nationally regionally and locally and to invite discussion on areas the Committee might now wish to focus upon.

Ray Busby suggested two areas of work for the Committee now that the Dementia Network is up and running:

- Supporting people in the community.
- To continue to encourage carers in local dementia forums.

Ray Busby advised on five Forums being set up in North Yorkshire to improve services and make a difference for local people and their carers. The Forums would be connected to the Dementia Network and would be in the following areas:

- Ripon and Harrogate.
- Scarborough, Whitby and Ryedale.
- Craven.
- York and Selby.
- Hambleton and Richmondshire.

Ray Busby said that in future it was hope there would be Elected Member involvement in the local Forums.

The Chairman highlighted the recent Department of Health Dementia Conference he had attended and the launch by the Government of a Social Care Package of £2 billion. He said that many organisations had come together and signed up to a National Dementia Declaration. Seamus Breen advised that North Yorkshire was already a leading authority on Dementia. He drew Members attention to page 64 of the report on the four priority areas:

- Good quality early diagnosis and intervention for all.
- Improved quality of care in general hospitals.
- Living well with dementia in care homes.
- Reduced use of antipsychotic medication.

Seamus Breen supported North Yorkshire signing up to the declaration and he also wanted to encourage Care Homes to sign up to the declaration.

RESOLVED –

- (a) That the report be noted.
- (b) That the Dementia Strategy remains high on the Care and Independence Overview and Scrutiny agenda.
- (c) That the North Yorkshire County Council consider making a declaration ensuring quality of care in Care Homes and a high level of Member awareness of Dementia issues in communities.

54. UPDATE ON IMPLEMENTATION OF SELF DIRCTED SUPPORT

CONSIDERED –

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

Anne Marie Lubanski, Head of Self Directed Care and Transformation, Adult and Community Services, presented the report. She updated on key areas of work and said that she would report back to the Committee in the New Year. Anne Marie Lubanski advised that training had now been given to all members of staff and although the personal budget system had been available since September 2009 from the 1 October 2010 this would be introduced to everyone. Anne Marie Lubanski handed Members two booklets entitled – Your Support, Your Way. (A copy of the booklets is included in the Minute Book).

Ann Marie Lubanski advised that the local authority had entered into a personal health budget with York PCT. She said this was a positive step for the individual, the local authority and the PCT but it was largely “unknown territory” in terms of progress. She advised that she would be working with the PCT to look at how this would be further developed and the LA would be supporting this initiative.

Members asked the following questions:

- In answer to a question on take up of self directed care, Anne Marie Lubanski said that the Local Authority were on target although changes were being made all the time.
- Concerns that personal budgets were not being used effectively. Anne Marie Lubanski noted that in some cases the Local Authority still became involved if needed. She explained the safeguards being put in place and also internal monitoring safeguards.

RESOLVED –

- (a) That the Update on Implementation of Self-Directed Support Report be noted.
- (b) That the Care and Independence Overview and Scrutiny Committee receive ongoing reports of progress.

55. SAFEGUARDING ANNUAL REPORT

CONSIDERED –

The covering report of the Head of Scrutiny and Corporate Performance on the Annual Statement of the North Yorkshire Safeguarding Adults Board.

Anne Marie Lubanski, Head of Self Directed Care and Transformation, Adult and Community Services, presented the report. She advised that it was a positive report with a strong multi-agency approach to co-ordinating activity; there had been a high level of commitment from all partners. Anne Marie Lubanski advised that there had been over 1000 alerts to the Safeguarding Adults Team in 2009/10 which she suggested may be due to an increase in training and awareness.

Anne Marie Lubanski suggested an area of work in the future would be to receive feedback from people going through the safeguarding process.

The Chairman noted that the message coming from the report was that it was everyone’s business and should be top of the Local Authority’s agenda.

Members made the following comments:

- In answer to a question on how abuse is discovered, Anne Marie Lubanski explained how alerts were put in place and the different ways to hear about safeguarding. She also advised of the implementation of spot checks.

Anne Marie Lubanski said that she would bring information on the Awareness Campaign back to Committee before it goes out. Members agreed.

RESOLVED –

- (a) That the Annual Statement of the Safeguarding Adults Board be endorsed.
- (b) In particular the Committee recognised and welcomed:
 - (1) the clear evidence of engagement by organisations at a strategic level.
 - (2) the commitment of partners to the Board.
 - (3) the impressive progress by the Board especially in the development of protocols and workforce training.
- (c) That the Care and Independence Overview and Scrutiny Committee receive further ongoing reports of progress and remain aware of national developments and best practice.

56. CHARGING FOR SOCIAL CARE SERVICES AND ASSESSMENT OF CLIENT CONTRIBUTIONS TOWARDS SERVICES

CONSIDERED –

The report of the Corporate Director – Adult and Community Services providing further updates regarding the proposed changes to the way people are charged for social care services provided in the community. This is a follow up report to the report dated 3 June 2010 and subsequently presented to members of the Area Committees during July and September at Appendix 1 to the report.

Debbie Hogg (Assistant Director Resources) and Linda Porritt (Benefits, Assessments and Charging Co-ordinator, Adult and Community Services) presented the report to share comments and observations made by Members of the Area Committees and to advise of the next stages of the consultation prior to policy changes being introduced.

Debbie Hogg gave a summary of the road show to Area Committees and an update on the implementation of 'Fairer Contributions' for services linking in with Personal Budgets. She highlighted the summary of comments from Area Committees at paragraph 3.9 to the report and the confusion expressed by Members. She confirmed that no consultations had been made with user groups and was unsure whether a report would be brought back to the Care and Independence Overview and Scrutiny Committee before going to Executive.

Linda Porritt highlighted the three bullet point illustrations on paragraph 3.8 to the report explaining disposable income from a person's total weekly income.

Debbie Hogg advised that a further consultation would be undertaken with user and carer groups and a Members briefing paper would be sent out following this meeting to allow people to fully understand the information. In relation to timing, Debbie Hogg said that the Department of Health had set an implementation deadline of April 2010 however the implementation date within NYCC would follow the consultation process and to coincide with the implementation of the new financial system.

The Chairman thanked Debbie Hogg and Linda Porritt for attending.

RESOLVED –

- (a) That the progress to date be noted.

- (b) That the detailed consultation with service users and representative groups, as part of our 'duty to involve' be noted.
- (c) That the Chairman and Group Spokespersons assess the result of the consultation process with users and carers so that they can take a view on whether a report should come before the Committee before going to the Executive.

57. 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 noting that Yorkshire Coast and Moors Area Committee had recommended that the Care and Independence Overview and Scrutiny Committee should look at support from the County Council for the voluntary sector. After a discussion the Committee agreed to refer the matter to the Corporate and Partnerships Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

RESOLVED –

- (a) That the content of the report be noted.
- (b) That the item on Volunteering in North Yorkshire be referred for consideration to the Corporate and Partnerships Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

MD/LB/ALJ