

NORTH YORKSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL**CARE AND INDEPENDENCE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE****17th March 2011****COMPLEX NEEDS PLACEMENTS****Report of the Corporate Director – Adult and Community Services****1.0 Purpose of the report**

- 1.1 To inform members of the committee of an initiative to review the appropriateness and cost of current out of county complex needs placements or people with a disability.

2.0 Background

- 2.1 North Yorkshire in common with many other local authorities has insufficient specialist local provision to meet the needs of people with a disability who have complex needs. As a result of this a number of people with a disability requiring a specialist level of care have been placed in agencies across the country. The vast majority of such placements have been made for people with a learning disability or suffering from autism. A smaller number of people with mental health problems and physical disability have also been placed out of county.
- 2.2 Whilst in some circumstances, due to the very specialist nature of the medical condition, a placement in a dedicated agency is required; out of county placements have a number of disadvantages:
- Due to distance progress is difficult to monitor with the potential risk of missing opportunities to move people to more ordinary ways of living.
 - Many placements are in residential or nursing care; supported accommodation is often a better housing model which can offer the care required whilst retaining the maximum independence individuals can achieve.
 - Individuals placed away from their town of origin gradually lose important links with their peers.
 - In many cases families encounter significant obstacles in maintaining regular visits.

- Many out of county placements have high costs and reviews by care managers to check on progress and ensure the placements are value for money are inevitably less frequent.
- Out of county placements reduce opportunities for employment by residents of North Yorkshire.

2.3 Care packages in out of county placements vary in cost from approximately £500 per week (£26,000 per annum) up to approximately £2,500 per week (£130,000 per annum). Individuals with complex needs often have a mixture of health and social care needs. As a result of this many placements are jointly commissioned by NYCC and North Yorkshire and York NHS and many of the highest costs package are jointly funded with the NHS.

3.0 Current position

3.1 In light of the high costs and the need to review our approach to the provision of services for people with complex needs this area of activity has been identified as a key priority by both Adult & Community Services (ACS) and North Yorkshire and York NHS (NYYNHS). The Assistant Director Operations is leading on this initiative in close co-operation the Assistant Director Contracting, Procurement and Quality Assurance and a multi agency project board has been convened to steer activity.

3.2 The first initiative agreed to address the issues of complex needs placements is a review of 'out of county' care providers, starting with some of the most expensive placements. This exercise will be conducted by two experienced brokerage organisations appointed by ACS and NYYNHS respectively as well as reviews by internal commissioning staff.

3.3 The reviews will consider in detail how plans of care are delivered by agencies along with the quality and cost of provision will be carefully considered. As a result of reviews a number of possible outcomes are expected:

- Placement cost and quality is confirmed and no change is required.
- Quality and or cost required to be reviewed resulting in an amended care plan and/or a change in cost.
- The placement is no longer appropriate, for example an individual has potential to move to a more independent placement, in which case an alternative arrangement will be negotiated.

3.4 Further work has also begun to map out future needs and begin to explore cost effective local solutions for people with complex needs requiring future services. This will include options for commissioning local specialist provision for people with a disability who may be suitable to return to North Yorkshire as well as new people in 'transition' from children services requiring such placements.

4.0 Recommendations

- 4.1 That the Committee note the report on complex needs placements.
- 4.2 That the Committee be kept updated on the initiatives lead by ACS to address the needs of people with complex needs.

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