

North Yorkshire County Council

Care and Independence Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Minutes of the meeting held on 31 May 2012 at 10.30 am at County Hall, Northallerton.

Present:-

County Councillor Don Mackenzie in the Chair

County Councillors: John Batt, Bill Hault, Margaret Hulme, David Ireton, Brian Marshall, John McCartney, John Savage, Helen Swiers,

Representatives of the Voluntary Sector: Alex Bird

County Councillor Clare Wood, Portfolio Holder – Adult Services

In attendance: County Councillor Tony Hall

Officers: Helen Taylor (Corporate Director – Health and Adult Services), Mike Webster (Assistant Director, Contracting, Procurement and Quality Assurance, (Health and Adult Services)), Anne Marie Lubanski (Assistant Director Social Care Operations, (Health and Adult Services)), Ray Busby (Scrutiny Support Officer, (Policy, Performance and Partnerships)), Larry Hollando (Performance and Change Manager (Health and Adult Services)), Jenny Morgan (Network Coordinator, Communication & Interaction (CYPS)), Andrew Terry (Assistant Director Access and Inclusion (CYPS))

Apologies: John Fox, Pat Marsburg, Mike Padgham, Dave Peart, Herbert Tindall, Lynne Webb-Thorius,

Copies of all documents considered are in the Minute Book

121. Minutes

Resolved –

That the minutes of the meeting held on 2 February 2012, having been printed and circulated, be taken as read and be confirmed and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

122. 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.

123. Commissioning and Personalisation

Considered –

The report of the Corporate Director, Health and Adult Services outlined to Members:

- how the Health and Adult Services (HAS) Directorate has approached the implementation of personalisation (now known as Think Local, Act Personal), particularly in respect of services commissioned from the voluntary sector
- the implications for commissioning arrangements in adopting a personalised approach
- the detail discussions and the consequent arrangements put in place to assist voluntary organisations in the transition towards personalisation.
- to give specific examples of how these arrangements have been implemented
- to allow Members to consider the progress that has been made for introducing personalisation into commissioning arrangements with voluntary sector organisations

Mike Webster explained how commissioning was changing as a result of personalisation and its affects on social care providers. For example, many providers were adjusting to the reduction and withdrawal of block contracts. Some had experienced a detrimental effect on income as attendance payments were now only being made where individuals attend and use the service.

A number of organisations had responded positively and were now finding alternative means of support and revenue.

County Councillor Bill Hoult commented that the advent of personalisation would make organisations, the authority and individuals all think about different approaches and ideas. There were issues around the Directorate's commitment to invoicing arrangements with regards a block contracts. MW resonded to say that consultations are underway involving some voluntary sector organisations to look at solutions.

The wider issue moving towards personalisation had, Alex Bird remarked, brought forward concerns relating to:

1. Volunteer retention and how this might destabilise the diversity of the social care market.
2. The impact on providers could also affect the inter-relationship with other services.
3. Less block contracts meant greater uncertainty around transport provision and some users therefore not being able to attend day services for example.
4. The extent to which this would impact adversely on the number and effectiveness of low level intervention and prevention schemes.
5. Wider contractual questions centred on the monitoring of contracts and how robust monitoring arrangements were.

Resolved –

That the report be received.

1. Members note the arrangements that have been put in place and the progress made to date.

2. This be a feature in the Committee's work programme in the future, as developments occur.

124. Alcohol Related Harm

Considered –

Report of the Scrutiny Team Leader on the progress on the development of an Alcohol Related Harm Strategy at a meeting held on 10 February and subsequent discussions with Dr Martin Hawkings, Consultant in Public Health, in the context of the Government's Alcohol Strategy.

Members reaffirmed the view that this remained an important issue for the Committee to retain on its work programme. In the short-term the Committee would look to raise the profile of the forthcoming North Yorkshire Alcohol Strategy, bearing in mind the work that is being undertaken by the Substance Misuse Board.

The Committee was supportive of this theme being a workshop topic at the Wider Partnerships Conference on 18 October 2012.

Resolved –

That the Chairman's report be received.

125. Outcome of Carers Meeting

Considered –

The report of County Councillor Tony Hall giving an account of the Members session on Carer's Strategy that was held on 29 March 2012.

The Portfolio Holder and a number of Members commented on the value of the meeting which had been an opportunity to formulate the development of a key strategy with the Directorate.

Resolved –

1. That the information given be noted.
2. The results of the consultation be reported to the meeting of the Committee on 30 August 2012.

126. Strategy for Adults with Autism: Progress on implementation of "Fulfilling and Rewarding Lives"

Considered –

Report of the Corporate Director – Health and Adult Services advising:

1. on the requirements of the Autism Act 2010 and "Fulfilling and Rewarding Lives", the strategy for adults with autism in England, published in March 2010 and related statutory guidance;
2. on the progress made in the implementation of the national strategy;
3. on plans to develop a North Yorkshire Strategy for adults with autism

Larry Hollando from Health and Adult Services and Jenny Morgan and Andrew Terry from Children and Young People's Services attended for this item.

In response of 'Fulfilling and Rewarding Lives' the report highlighted the proposed development of a North Yorkshire strategy for adults with autism which would complement the draft strategy for children and young people, currently out for consultation.

In Health and Adult Services, the needs of people with autism had traditionally been dealt within learning disability services; the new legislation will however require a fresh examination of the directorate's approach.. In many cases individuals with Autism, with complex needs had been placed out of County, this was not necessarily in their best interest as it removed them from their families and communities.. Current thinking was to improve services within North Yorkshire this should include ensuring services to become "Autism friendly". One of the key ways to achieve this would be appropriate training for frontline staff.

The report had highlighted a significant increase, both nationally and locally, of Autism cases; In North Yorkshire in particular there has been an increase of young people with special educational needs with a statement by the local authority. There is no clear evidence to explain the increase, it is thought to be as a result of greater awareness generally and changed diagnostic approaches by general practitioners.

A particular high prevalence in Harrogate was highlighted. In response, officers advised that the presence and availability of specialist services, particularly from the Third Sector, and cultural issues around a willingness to diagnose may go some way to explain this figure.

Members questioned the issue around transition; when an individual leaves Children and Young People's Services and becomes the responsibility of Health and Adult Services. Officers highlighted recent work between the Directorates including the creation of a Transition Board with senior representation from both directorates and the PCT which had identified further improvements in joint working. County Councillor John Savage and County Councillor Bill Houtt agreed to maintain an interest in this item and the Committee generally would keep a weather eye over progress and receive a report in due course.

Resolved –

The Committee noted the content of this report and agreed to receive a further report setting out the process for developing the North Yorkshire Strategy for adults and autism, including the involvement of this Committee.

127. Work Programme

Considered –

The report of the Scrutiny Team Leader.

The Committee agreed the work programme.

Resolved –

That the work programme be received and agreed as printed.

The meeting concluded at 12:35 pm.

RB/JD