

North Yorkshire County Council

Care and Independence Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Minutes of the meeting held on 30 August 2012 at 10.30 am at County Hall, Northallerton.

Present:-

County Councillor Don Mackenzie in the Chair

County Councillors: John Fox, Bill Houlton, David Ireton, Brian Marshall, John McCartney, Chris Pearson (as substitute for Margaret Hulme), Dave Peart, 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)), Sukhdev Dosanjh (Assistant Director Performance and Change Management (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)), Tony Law (General Manager Performance and Change (Health and Adult Services)), Tim Smith (HAS Programme Manager (Health and Adult Services))

Apologies: John Batt, Margaret Hulme, Pat Marsburg, Mike Padgham, Herbert Tindall, Lynne Webb-Thorius,

Copies of all documents considered are in the Minute Book

128. Minutes

Resolved –

That the Minutes of the meeting held on 31 May 2012, having been printed and circulated, be taken as read and be confirmed and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

129. 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.

130. North Yorkshire Joint Carers' Strategy 2012-15

Considered –

The report of the Corporate Director – Health and Adult Services presenting and seeking comments on the draft North Yorkshire Carers' Strategy 2012-15.

Sukhdev Dosanjh explained that the culmination of the engagement exercise was being reported so that the Committee could review the results prior to publication of the Strategy. With such a changing landscape in health, the key challenge moving forward would be to reach agreement before April 2013 with the CCGs to a robust implementation plan.

Ray Busby explained that during the revision of last year's Local Account the Committee had flagged up an intention to review the support the County Council gives to carers, particularly how the Council and its partners helped them engage and participate in planning services.

The Chairman welcomed Ian Parkinson, the Chairman of North Yorkshire Forum to the meeting. His view was that the engagement had been a positive experience with many carers coming forward to express their views and concerns. He believed that in the main, these contributions from carers had influenced Directorate thinking. Particular priorities many carers had identified included respite, short breaks and information. It was important that services, especially breaks be tailored to the needs of the individual. As a carer, one of the key burdens was the feeling of constant responsibility; time taken away gave rise to guilt for not being there. The pressures of caring at times could feel unending.

Members discussed the pivotal role of GPs in identifying and supporting carers, and the potential difficulties in ensuring integrated support when Clinical Commissioning Groups (CCGs) were being formed.

Judith Knaption explained that CCGs were supportive of the notion of the Joint Carers' Strategy, but they would be looking for a strategy that could be sustained. One which identified clearly and succinctly the action they would be committing to, for example around referral for assessment.

County Councillor Clare Wood explained that a major challenge remained to ensure that all partners reach agreement on an implementation plan which is robust enough to secure the necessary resources and commitments.

Resolved –

- a. The report be noted.
- b. It be noted and the final draft of the strategy, together with the agreed Implementation Plan, will form the basis of a future report to this Committee.
- c. Group Spokespersons be requested to keep a weather eye on progress, particularly the progress on the development of the implementation plan with CCGs and determine an appropriate time for the issue to be referred back to Committee.

131. Local Account for Adult Social Services

Considered –

The report of the Corporate Director – Health and Adult Services regarding the contents of the second Local Account in respect of the performance of the Adult Social Care Service and to ask for their comments.

Sukhdev Dosanjh explained that the Local Account is now part of sector led improvement, a regime different from the centralist target monitoring of recent years. The emphasis is on a more light touch approach. As an authority there is an expectation we will be critical, honest and record public views about our services faithfully. Local authorities must not attempt to minimise the significance of any under performing areas or customer dissatisfactions.

County Councillor Clare Wood highlighted the need to reconcile the inclusion of performance data and narrative yet keep the document short and accessible.

She added that much work had been done in preparing the information this year along the lines of the recently published Care and Support White Paper. This approach to the document provided appropriate insight into those services where the County Council and the people supported have identified room for improvement.

Members agreed this made it easier for service users, carers and the public in general to understand the areas and services where the County Council believes it is doing well. In this respect County Councillor Clare Wood drew attention to the success in retaining the level of "Moderate" as a category within fair access to care. This was very much against the national trend.

In response to comments, the Portfolio Holder and officers from the Directorate reported the level of interest in both the quantity and quality of last year's Account.

Members made a number of points regarding the narrative and text suggesting that greater weight should be placed within the text on the impact of Personalisation.

Overall, Members welcomed the overall look of the document, and the limited but targeted printing arrangements. They also agreed that as much as possible could be done by individual officers and Members to ensure the public were made aware of the Local Account, its purpose and its contents.

Resolved –

- (i) The content of the Local Account be noted.
- (ii) The priorities and challenges set out in future years in the context of the Care and Support White Paper be noted.
- (iii) The positive contribution by all staff and managers in continuing to maintain the high level of service and performance improvements in the context of the Council's key objective: that affordable, high quality and safe care is provided be noted.
- (iv) The Committee concluded this was a well prepared Local Account and looks forward to further involvement in next year's Local Account on a similar basis.

132. Charging and Assessment of Client Contributions

Considered –

The report of the Corporate Director – Health and Adult Services with an up to date position since the implementation of the Fairer Contributions Charging policy for community based services.

Resolved –

Members of the Care and Independence Overview and Scrutiny Committee were asked to note the content of the report and the progress made to date.

Officers advised that this review came at a time when transitional protection arrangements were coming to an end. The Committee's examination from Members' opinion confirmed that view that the change in approach has been effectively communicated. Members agreed that there had been some impact but it does not appear to have affected individuals' decisions in relation to their care needs.

Members requested that further information into the figures of people who had just simply declined a level of services and the reasons for that.

133. Work Programme

Considered –

The report of the Scrutiny Team Leader giving Members the opportunity to be updated on work programme items and review the shape of the work ahead.

Resolved –

- a. It be noted that the planned Dementia Event in October was likely to be cancelled and arranged for a date later in the year. Members would be advised accordingly.
- b. In the light of the timescale required regarding finalising the Annual Report of the North Yorkshire Safeguarding Board, the Committee meeting in October be postponed and be arranged on a date in November, to be agreed between the Chairman and Group Spokespersons.

The meeting concluded at 12:30 pm.

RB/ALJ