

North Yorkshire County Council

Care and Independence Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Minutes of the meeting held on 4 July 2013 at 10.30 am at County Hall, Northallerton.

Present:-

County Councillor Patrick Mulligan in the Chair

County Councillors: Lindsay Burr, Liz Casling (as substitute for Janet Sanderson), John Ennis, Helen Grant, John McCartney, Penny Marsden, Brian Marshall, Heather Moorhouse, Joe Plant, Chris Pearson, John Savage

County Councillor Don Mackenzie, Portfolio Holder – Adult Services

Representative of the Independent Sector: Mike Padgham

Officers: Helen Taylor (Corporate Director Health and Adult Services), Mike Webster (Assistant Director Procurement, Partnerships and Quality Assurance (Health and Adult Services)), Ray Busby (Corporate Development Officer, (Policy and Partnerships))

Apologies:

Before the start of the meeting Members stood in one minute's silence as a mark of respect at the sad news of the recent death of County Councillor Margaret Hulme.

Copies of all documents considered are in the Minute Book

1. Minutes

Resolved –

That the Minutes of the meeting held on 24 January 2013, having been printed and circulated, be taken as read and be confirmed and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

2. 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.

3. Social Care and Independent Living Overview

Considered –

The presentation by the Corporate Director – Health and Adult Services.

Helen Taylor's presentation covered health and equalities across the County, the challenges facing the Health and Adult Services Directorate in terms of financial pressures and demand for social care support.

The following points were raised during discussion:

- The success of re-ablement services and its importance in the context of achieving NYCC savings targets.
- The demographic picture of the County, the increasing numbers of dementia and the challenges this presents for the Directorate and communities.
- The implications of the proposed change from the moderate criteria under FACS to substantial. A Member's understanding was that when the criteria was set at moderate, it was believed that as more people who presented with lower needs were supported and more people benefited from earlier prevention, a cost saving would be seen. His recollection was that an analysis of whether this was the case would be undertaken to demonstrate both quantitatively and qualitatively, the impact of meeting assessed need at the lower, moderate level. The Member's concern was that moving to substantial might result in a short-term saving, but would ultimately cost more. He hoped the Committee would be able to review this when it offered its comments on the proposals as part of the consultation process.

Resolved –

That the presentation be noted and the points raised be fed into the Committee's work programme.

4. North Yorkshire Carers Strategy 2012/15

Considered –

The report of the Corporate Director – Health and Adult Services

1. Updating Members on the North Yorkshire Carer's Strategy 2012-15 and subsequent Implementation Plan.
2. Presenting the initial findings of the Department of Health Statutory Carer's Survey.

Members discussed the support that the Directorate gives to carers.

In response to a question regarding the Care Bill, it was agreed that further information be submitted to the Committee in due course as part of its review of carers issues generally.

Resolved –

That:

- i. The findings of the Department of Health's Statutory Carer's Survey 2012 be noted.
- ii. The actions that have already commenced in line with the North Yorkshire Carer's Strategy be noted.
- iii. The full findings of the Department of Health's Statutory Carer's Survey together with information on our compactor local authorities form the basis of a future report to this Committee.

5. Local Account for Adult Social Care Services 2012/13

Considered –

The report of the Corporate Development Officer, giving Members of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee an overview of the production of the 2012/13 Local Account.

It was emphasised that the Committee plays an important role in the process of agreeing the Local Account.

Resolved –

- i. Whilst satisfied with the initial outline of the process of approval, Members agreed that prior to publication, the final version of the Local Account come before them at their October meeting.
- ii. The work currently being undertaken on the ADASS regional sector-led improvement initiative 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.

6. Dementia Care Navigators

Considered –

The oral report of the Corporate Director – Health and Adult Services and giving feedback from the event held on 1 July 2013.

Ray Busby reported on the recent consultation event in Easingwold, also attended by the Chairman. Living with dementia has been of interest to the Committee for some time, since it had completed its report some three years ago. The consultation event with potential providers had sought views on how best to support people with dementia in the community, particularly Dementia Navigators.

The consultation had set out the outcomes the Council had wanted to achieve for those people needing support and advice, their families and carers. The Navigator worked alongside the person living with dementia and their family in their journey; supporting people to access services and receive the information they need; ensuring they are treated with compassion, dignity and respect; enabling them to make independent choices about their care; and empowering them to take control of their lives.

Tender documents were currently being prepared, to be launched in mid-August. The tender would close at the beginning of October, evaluated in November and most likely awarded in December. The contract is expected to start in January/beginning of February 2014.

Resolved –

Information on the progress of the contract for the Dementia Care Navigator Service be made available to Group Spokespersons at their Mid-Cycle Briefing, however if circumstances warrant, consideration for the circumstances surrounding the award of the contract be part of the agenda for the meeting of the Committee on 23 January 2014.

7. Voluntary and Independent Sector Co-opted Representation

Considered –

The report of the Corporate Development Officer invites Members to consider non-statutory co-opted representation on the Care and Independence Overview and Scrutiny Committee and to advise the Council of their views.

Group Spokespersons had agreed that whilst reappointing representatives was the preferred option it should be stressed to all three representatives how important it was for

them to attend on a regular basis, or agree a means by which a substitute could attend in their place.

Resolved –

The Committee recommends that the current arrangements for the co-option of two representatives of the voluntary sector, by an election carried out by the North Yorkshire Forum, and a representative from the independent sector, nominated by the Independent Care Group, should continue.

8. Innovation Fund

Considered –

The report of the Corporate Director Health and Adult Services updating the Committee on the current position of the operation of the Innovation Fund.

The Director advised there was a clear connection between the Innovation Fund and the work of the Health and Wellbeing Board in addressing social isolation and loneliness - one of the Board's key priorities.

Bids were to be invited for the third stage of the innovation process. It was agreed that a more detailed report when the evaluation was undertaken would be submitted to the Committee.

Members sought reassurance that engaging a third party to undertake analysis of the Innovation Fund implications would be money well spent. It was suggested that, in due course, details be submitted to Group Spokespersons and the Committee.

Resolved –

The Committee is recommended to receive further progress reports as appropriate, particularly the results of the evaluation process.

9. Safeguarding Financial Abuse

Considered –

The report of the Corporate Development Officer.

- i. To report on discussions with the Chairman of the North Yorkshire Safeguarding Board.
- ii. To propose an approach that the Committee could employ to the scrutiny of safeguarding issues.
- iii. To decide upon the Group spokesperson's recommendation that an in-depth review be undertaken in relation to financial abuse of vulnerable adults.

Members acknowledged it was important the Committee paid significant attention to the issues regarding Safeguarding. The Annual Report will be submitted to the October meeting as planned. The Committee agreed to initiate the Task Group to examine the financial abuse of older people and a number of Members volunteered, expressing interest. It was suggested that the first step be a briefing meeting to which all Members could attend, after that the work of the Task Group could be developed.

Resolved –

1. The Committee note the recommended approach to consideration of safeguarding issues.
2. An in-depth review on the financial abuse of adults be undertaken along the lines of the project plan attached.

10. Work Programme

Considered –

The report of the Scrutiny Team Leader.

The Committee has agreed the attached work programme.

The report gives members the opportunity to be updated on work programme items and review the shape of the work ahead.

Ray Busby highlighted the proposed changes to dates of Mid-Cycle Briefings. The agendas for forthcoming meetings were agreed in principle, subject to flexibility where required.

Resolved –

The Committee agreed the work programme.

The meeting concluded at 12:30 pm

RB/ALJ