

**North Yorkshire County Council**

**Care and Independence Overview and Scrutiny Committee**

Minutes of the meeting held on 23 January 2014 at 10.30 am at County Hall, Northallerton.

**Present:-**

County Councillor Patrick Mulligan in the Chair

County Councillors: Lindsay Burr, Liz Casling, John Ennis, Helen Grant, Mike Jordan, David Jeffels as substitute for Penny Marsden, Brian Marshall, Heather Moorhouse, Joe Plant, Chris Pearson and John Savage

Representatives of the Voluntary Sector: Jon Carling (North Yorkshire and York Forum), and Jackie Snape (Disability Action Yorkshire)

Representative of the Independent Sector: Mike Padgham

Officers: Sally Burton (Acting 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))

**Copies of all documents considered are in the Minute Book**

**21. Minutes**

**Resolved –**

That the minutes of the meeting held on 3 October 2013, having been printed and circulated, be taken as read and be confirmed and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

**22. 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.

**23. Making Difficult Decisions in Adult Social Care: Public Consultation on Eligibility and Charging for Adult Social Care**

Considered -

Report of the Corporate Director - Health and Adult Services, informing Members of the results of the public consultation in relation to the County's proposals to raise its eligibility criteria for Adult Social Care to make changes to its charging arrangements for Adult Social Care and its approach to preventative services. Members were also asked to give their views on each of the proposals ahead of decisions being made at Executive on 4 February 2014.

The portfolio holder Cllr Clare Wood believed the consultation process had been rigorous. Detailed analysis of correspondence replies was included so that the Committee could take a view and also help advise her appropriately regarding recommendations to the Executive.

Sally Burton reassured the Committee that the Executive report had yet to be written, but it had been possible to produce a high quality report with evidence of the results of the consultation process, and an account of the emerging thoughts which would determine the final recommendations.

Members agreed that, going forward, it would be important for the prevention strategy to be fully developed to support people through social isolation and loneliness. Adult and Health Services was working closely with CCG colleagues on plans to target services where this would make the most difference. The voluntary and community sector were also involved in developing the community based approach.

Portfolio holder Cllr Don McKenzie said it was pleasing that the results of the consultation process had highlighted the importance of prevention, and these comments were endorsed by Members.

Members agreed that it was important the Committee had not been spared any of the detail about the results of the consultation document, or any of the Directorate's emerging conclusions. During a full debate Members commented:

- a) Being told that the Executive report had yet to be written and therefore no recommendations had been arrived at, was helpful and reassuring;
- b) Both the report of the consultation and the Directorate's covering report were clear and concise;
- c) Officers' unmistakable commitment to making the consultation process a fair one should be recognised.

The Committee concluded:

1. The consultation process has indeed been carried out in the way it was described to us at our October meeting.
2. The Committee was satisfied that no decisions have been reached prior to any recommendations being made to the Executive.
3. The consultation process was a rigorous one and people had many and appropriate opportunities to contribute and engage with it.
4. The results of the consultation process have been thoroughly and properly assessed and were presented in a transparent and objective way.
5. The rationale of Directorate thinking has been openly documented and the conclusions, as outlined in the covering report, had been properly arrived at.
6. In respect of the proposals within that covering report, the Committee reviewed each of the main conclusions (those formatted in boxes) in turn, i.e., 3.1.16 relating to savings; 3.2.10 relating to disposable income and subsidy; 3.2.14 relating to support by two carers; 3.2.15 relating to charging for services; and 3.3.9 relating to prevention strategy.
7. The intentions in each of these paragraphs was supported bar those highlighted in 3.2.14. Members would want to draw the attention of the Executive to the Committee's discomfort at the possibility of a charge being introduced for two care workers, where this is needed. It seems to the Committee that a relatively small number of people would be bearing a disproportionately high burden. For that reason, should there be financial leeway to exercise discretion in respect of any of the proposals, then such discretion should be exercised here.

8. In relation to paragraph 3.3.9; The Prevention Strategy: the Committee always intended to review service areas integral to a preventative approach – Telecare, Reablement, Support for Carers and so on – but wants to be directly involved in the consultation on the imminent Prevention Strategy. And once introduced, the Committee should play a key role in monitoring the effects and the assessment of its success.
9. More widely, whatever the Executive decision regarding the proposals in the “Making Difficult Decisions” consultation document, the Committee will keep a weather-eye on the effects of Eligibility for Social Care Services and Charging for Community Based Services.

**Resolved -**

That the consultation report be noted and the Chairman compile a report for the Executive based upon the comments made during the meeting

**24. Annual Report on the Older People’s Champion**

Considered -

The report of County Councillor Shelagh Marshall, North Yorkshire’s Older People’s Champion, updating Members on the work following from last year’s annual report and the work to be focused on for this year.

Members endorsed comments at the meeting that Cllr Sheila Marshall was a first class older people’s ambassador for the County Council and thanked her for her tireless work in support of older peoples’ interests. Members in particular endorsed her comments in relation to loneliness and isolation. The Chairman added that this issue would always feature in the Committee’s work

**Resolved -**

That the report be noted.

**25. Autism Strategy**

Considered -

Report of the Corporate Director - Health and Adult Services informing Members of the current status of the strategy and seeking their comments on the document, in particular the priority actions for 2014-15.

Anne Marie Lubanski explained how HAS was working closely with health colleagues on supporting people with Autism. She answered comments from Members regarding the working relationship with Young People, explaining that the two Directorates were working together.

**Resolved -**

- a) The draft interim strategy for meeting with needs of adults with Autism in North Yorkshire 2014~15 in particular the priority actions be received and endorsed.
- b) The Committee be advised of the end of the consultation period from decisions reached

**26. Work Programme**

Considered -

In endorsing the work programme the Committee agreed that the work on the financial abuse review be carried out by a number of Members over the course of the next 2 – 3 months.

The meeting concluded at 12:30pm.

RB