

## NORTH YORKSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

## CARE AND INDEPENDENCE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

24 APRIL 2014

## WORK PROGRAMME REPORT

**1.0 Purpose of Report**

- 1.1. The Committee has agreed the attached work programme.
- 1.2. The report gives Members the opportunity to be updated on work programme items and review the shape of the work ahead.

**2.0 Background**

- 2.1 The scope of this Committee is defined as:

***‘The needs of vulnerable adults and older people and people whose independence needs to be supported by intervention from the public or voluntary sector.’***

**3.0 Mid-Cycle Briefing**

- 3.1 At their last Mid-Cycle Briefing Group Spokespersons heard that the prevention strategy, which the Committee recognised was a fundamental part of the ‘Making Difficult Decisions’ consultation process, is still work in progress. It was appreciated that the new Director, Richard Webb, would want to be comfortable with its approach; therefore it was agreed that he be invited to discuss with the Committee his view of the prevention strategy as part of a broader presentation on the challenges faced by Social Care – especially in North Yorkshire.
- 3.2 The Executive has agreed a rolling programme of in-depth analysis of performance in key areas, directorates taking it in turn to update on a chosen service area by key activity, impact on budget, key HR implications, where relevant, and brief commentary to set the context.
- 3.3 At their last Mid-Cycle Briefing Group Spokespersons continued this analysis of the figures relating to residential and nursing care and the performance of the Directorate generally in promoting people’s independence. You will recall that it had been agreed that Group Spokespersons would look at performance data relating to items coming up to your meeting. The START report on your agenda includes performance data as recommended by the Group Spokespersons.
- 3.4 At the next Mid-Cycle Briefing Group’s Spokespersons have asked for performance data information with regard to people with long term

conditions so that advice can be given on how best to approach this topic at your July meeting.

#### **4.0 Public Health Reports**

4.1 Your Group Spokespersons have agreed that a series of Public Health reports will be considered, starting with the Alcohol Strategy, followed at your next meeting by Mental Health Strategy and Smoking Cessation.

#### **5.0 Financial Abuse Review**

5.1 So far, County Councillors Helen Grant, John McCartney, John Savage and Patrick Mulligan have been involved in the Financial Abuse Review. Three meetings with interested groups and individuals have been held, namely: two Faith Debt Advice organisations operating in the Hambleton and Northallerton area, a Citizens Advice Bureau in Hambleton / Richmond and with the Manager of Hambleton Advocacy.

5.2 Themes emerging from these early discussions are:

- Lack of knowledge of abuse and what it is
- Lack of awareness due to frailty, fluctuating capacity, mental health and other health issues
- Lack of understanding of Powers of Attorney. This can mean those named on the documents misuse these powers
- Use of Powers of Attorney inappropriate for personal gain
- Concerns over withdrawal of support which could be provided by family members, close friends, neighbours of carers.
- Concerns about the consequences for the person(s)
- Concerns over isolation and loneliness
- Concerns over family disputes
- Level of acceptance due to the relationship with the perpetrator
- In terms of debt advice when working with clients it can be seen that some form of financial exploitation may be an underlying factor
- The quality of referral to advice agencies from other organisations is crucial
- On many occasions when financial exploitation is an issue the perpetrator is often someone close
- The services for victims is not always joined up
- The importance of financial literacy in schools

- In a high number of cases where exploitation is apparent, Mental Health issues are clearly a factor
- Staff and volunteers are coming across a number of occasions where financial abuse is clearly in evidence. But it is not always obvious as abuse. There is continuing work with the County Council on awareness raising for staff and volunteers.

5.3 In terms of Safeguarding, a positive impact can only occur if the Safeguarding process is conducted with the interest of the vulnerable person at the heart of the process.

5.4 Strategic issues so far raised include:

- Investment in prevention strategies is critical
- Raising awareness in vulnerable communities
- Joint working to promote holistic support
- Lack of choice of services in isolated communities
- Consistency of approach from responsible NYCC staff
- The impact of funding cuts on vulnerable adults which has the potential to further isolate people and increases their vulnerability

5.5 Further meetings are planned with interested groups so that the review report can be made available to the North Yorkshire Safeguarding Board in June.

## **6.0 Recommendations**

6.1 The Committee is recommended to consider the attached work programme and determine whether any further amendments should be made at this stage.

**BRYON HUNTER**  
**SCRUTINY TEAM LEADER**  
 County Hall  
 Northallerton

Author and Presenter of Report: Ray Busby  
 Contact Details: Tel: 01609 532655  
 E-mail: ray.busby@northyorks.gov.uk

14 April 2014

Background Documents: None

## Care and Independence Overview and Scrutiny Committee – Work Programme Schedule 2014/15

### Scope

The needs of vulnerable adults and older people and people whose independence needs to be supported by intervention from the public or voluntary sector

### Meeting dates

<b><i>Scheduled Mid Cycle</i></b> Lead Members of Committee	Thurs, 15 May at 10:30am	Thurs, 4 September at 10:30am	Thurs, 4 December at 10:30am	Tues, 24 March 2015 at 10:30am
<b><i>Scheduled Committee Meetings</i></b> <i>Agenda briefings to be held at 9.30am prior to Committee meeting. Attended by Lead Members of Committee</i>	Thurs, 3 July at 10:30am	Thurs, 2 October at 10:30am	Thurs, 22 January 2015 at 10:30am	Thurs, 23 April 2015 at 10:30am

### In-depth Scrutiny Review

Meeting	SUBJECT	AIMS/TERMS OF REFERENCE	ACTION/BY WHOM
Thursday, 24 April 2014 at 10.30am	Homecare Services - Short Term Assessment and Re-ablement Team	Assessment of effectiveness – Review of Performance	Report from HAS
	Prevention Strategy	Position following adoption of consultation report	Report from HAS
	Dementia	Update on activity against National Objectives	Report from HAS
	Alcohol Strategy	Public Health	Report from HAS

## Care and Independence Overview and Scrutiny Committee – Work Programme Schedule 2014/15

### Overview Reports

MEETING	SUBJECT	AIMS/TERMS OF REFERENCE	ACTION/BY WHOM
<b>Thursday 23 July 2014 at 10.30am</b>	Integrated Joint Commissioning		Report from HAS
	Integrated support for people with Long Term Conditions	Support for people in the community	Report from HAS
	Carers Issues	<i>Possible informal discussion with Carers Forum representatives</i>	
	Extra Care (possibly – timing dependent on Executive forward work plan)	Progress/Situation report on procurement (possible location visit of extra care premises at some point)	Report from HAS
	Personalisation	Evaluation/Self-directed Support/ Review of Direct Payments	Report from HAS
	Mental Health Strategy	Public Health	Report from HAS
	Smoking Cessation	Public Health	Report from HAS
<b>Thursday, 2 September 2014 at 10:30am</b>	Out of County Placements/Complex Needs	Update	Report from HAS
	Safeguarding Issue	<i>to be determined. (possibly specialist work to safeguard vulnerable people?)</i>	
	Developing the local market - services to support personalisation		Report from HAS
	Integrated Community Equipment/Centres for Independent Living/User led organisations		Report from HAS

Please note that this is a working document, therefore topics and timeframes might need to be amended over the course of the year.