

CARE & INDEPENDENCE OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Thursday 2 October 2014

Report of the Director for Public Health for North Yorkshire 2014

1 Purpose of the Report

- 1.1 To present the Report of the Director for Public Health for North Yorkshire.

2 Background

- 2.1 It is the duty of the Director of Public Health (DPH) to write an annual report on the health of the local population. This is my second report.
- 2.2 The strong and engaged voluntary, community and social enterprise sector (VCSE) is a particular asset for the County and is a key partner in helping to address the challenges we face in promoting and protecting the health of our people. The representatives of the sector are keen to develop and strengthen collaborations with public sector partners that will be of mutual benefit and lead to better outcomes for people across our communities.

3 Executive Summary

- 3.1 The profile of North Yorkshire shows:
- A healthy population with higher levels of road injuries and death, excess weight in adults and smoking in pregnancy compared to the England average.
 - Improving life expectancy at birth with a widening gap between districts (Hambleton – highest; Scarborough – lowest).
 - An ageing population with the number of people over 85 years set to increase by a third over the next decade.
 - Low levels of deprivation but challenges related to rurality, affordable housing and fuel poverty are present in all districts and for some population groups.

- 3.2 The report also highlights areas where a co-ordinated approach by partners is needed. These include:
- Ensuring that each child has an active care record, supporting delivery of screening, immunisation and the Healthy Child Programme services.
 - Developing a mental health strategy to ensure that residents of all ages can maximise their mental health and wellbeing and access effective services when needed.
 - Ensuring that health and social care services are responsive to local needs and help residents to maintain their independence.
 - Implementing an alcohol strategy to address the harms associated with binge drinking and other risky drinking behaviours.
- 3.3 Every community has a range of resources or assets that can be harnessed to meet local needs and challenges. The report outlines approaches communities can take to identify and make use of their individual, organisational, physical and economic assets. There must, however, be investment to make effective use of these assets and we are reminded that “voluntary action and volunteering do not come for free.”

4 Recommendations

- 4.1 NYCC, District Councils and CCGs should work closely to implement NICE guidance with regard to providing an integrated approach to preventing and managing obesity and its associated conditions ensuring that gaps in current services are addressed.
- 4.2 NHS England should continue to work closely with the provider of the Child Health Information Systems (CHIS) covering the child population of North Yorkshire to ensure there is an improvement plan to achieve delivery of the national service specification in accordance with national timescales, liaising with NYCC in respect of any current or future inter-dependencies in relation to commissioning, service provision and data or information flows.
- 4.3 Statutory and VCSE partners should continue to work together to develop a North Yorkshire Mental Health Strategy to ensure there is a co-ordinated approach to improving the mental health and wellbeing of the population of all ages, improving outcomes for people with mental health problems and combating the stigma and discrimination associated with mental illness.
- 4.4 NYCC, District Councils and NHS partners should make the most of the opportunities presented by the Better Care Fund and the shift towards integrating services to respond to community needs and maximise the use of community assets working closely with the VCSE where possible.
- 4.5 Statutory bodies should work closely with the VCSE sector to plan the development, delivery and support for health and care services which draw on volunteers

- 4.6 Organisations working with local communities should promote an asset based approach to understanding and responding to the issues that are important to those communities.
- 4.7 Any assessment of need such as Joint Strategic Needs Assessments should include an assessment of the available assets that are already available to address the needs identified.

5 Appendices

- 5.1 Appendix 1 – Report of the Director of Public Health for North Yorkshire 2014.

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Director of Public Health for North Yorkshire
2 September 2014