

North Yorkshire County Council**Care and Independence Overview and Scrutiny Committee**

Minutes of the meeting held on 2 October 2014 at 10.30 am at County Hall, Northallerton.

Present:-

County Councillor Patrick Mulligan in the Chair

County Councillors: David Billing (substituting for Brian Marshall), Lindsay Burr MBE, Liz Casling, John Ennis, Helen Grant, Mike Jordan, John McCartney, Heather Moorhouse, Joe Plant and John Savage.

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

In attendance: County Councillor Don Mackenzie (Executive Member for Public Health and Prevention)

Officers: Sally Anderson (Safeguarding Adults Policy Officer, Adult Social Care Operations (Health and Adult Services)), Neil Irving, Assistant Director (Policy & Partnerships, (Policy and Partnerships)), Tony Law (General Manager Performance & Change, Performance and Change Management (Health and Adult Services)), Anne Marie Lubanski (Assistant Director Social Care Operations, (Health and Adult Services)), Lincoln Sargeant (Director of Public Health, (Health and Adult Services)), Mike Webster (Assistant Director, Contracting, Procurement and Quality Assurance, (Health and Adult Services)), Ray Busby (Scrutiny Support Officer, (Policy and Partnerships))

Apologies: Cllr Penny Marsden, Cllr Brian Marshall, Cllr Chris Pearson, Mike Padgham (Independent Care Group)

Copies of all documents considered are in the Minute Book

42. Minutes**Resolved –**

That the minutes of the meeting held on 3 July 2014, having been printed and circulated, be taken as read and be confirmed and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

43. 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.

44. North Yorkshire Local Assistance Fund

Considered -

The report of the Assistant Director - Partnerships and Policy outlining to Members the progress of the North Yorkshire Local Assistance Fund (NYLAF) to date, and plans for stakeholder engagement on the future of the NYLAF in October 2014 and

seeking their views about the options for the future of the NYLAF ahead of a decision being sought from the Executive in December 2014 or January 2015. An identical report was to be presented to the Young People Overview & Scrutiny Committee on 24 October 2014.

Members reviewed progress, specifically how NYLAF has adapted to ensure that expenditure is used wisely, but does not exceed its existing budget. The challenges for 2015/16 onwards were understood by Members, and the stakeholder consultation undertaken welcomed. As part of this consultation, Members were presented with a number of options regarding funding for the future. Because of the support NYLAF gives to some of our most vulnerable adults, the Committee strongly believed that the NYLAF should continue as currently. This means NYLAF continuing to provide awards up to the amount that has been provided to date by central Government. In reaching this decision Members were mindful that even relatively small sums, when made available to struggling families, can have a significant, often life-changing impact. That said, in coming to this recommendation, the Committee did acknowledge the financial implications this has for the County Council now that the Government has announced that funding to support NYLAF will be incorporated into mainstream grant funding.

Resolved -

That the Executive be advised that: In recognition of the support NYLAF gives to some of our most vulnerable adults, the Committee strongly believes that the NYLAF should continue as currently. This means NYLAF continuing to provide awards up to the amount that has been provided to date by central Government.

45. Council Plan - 2020 North Yorkshire Plan

Considered –

The report of the Assistant Director - Policy and Partnerships

Members commented that loneliness and isolation had featured in the Committee's work on a number of occasions; the Older People's Champion also providing updates on the national campaign to raise awareness in her annual reports to the Committee. Having to endure the adverse effects of loneliness and isolation, a Member said, is not something confined to many older people, other groups and vulnerable individuals in society - for example people with long-term conditions, young people in rural communities, disabled people - could all be similarly affected and disadvantaged.

Resolved –

1. The responses to the proposed priorities and implications for the vision, objectives and values of 2020 North Yorkshire, be noted; and
2. The proposal that the priorities identified be those adopted for the Council Plan be supported.

46. 2013/14 Local Account

Considered -

The report of the Corporate Director - Health and Adult Services updating Members on the contents of the 2013/14 Local Account in respect of the performance of the Adult Social Care Service (included as Appendix 1 to the report) and asking for Members' comments.

Given that the Local Account is now an essential part of sector - led improvement and must be an honest assessment of social care performance over the previous years, it was important that the Committee had an opportunity to review, pass comment and make suggestions for any amendments, before it is published. Members found the document well written and accessible. It passed what they believed was perhaps the pivotal test: it is not self-congratulatory, evidenced in part by the included case studies which describe how the Directorate has learned from experience, and then improved practice.

Members agreed that the North Yorkshire version is a high quality document, and were pleased that the CQC has held up the North Yorkshire Local Account as an example of best practice.

Members considered how the Account is published, where it is “on deposit”, to whom it is sent, how people can get to see it and comment if they wish. It was noted that this year, consideration is being given to publish this year’s Local Account in electronic format only. The cost benefits might speak for themselves, but Members sought reassurances about the document’s continued accessibility. When it was explained that hard copies would still be available for those that want and/or need it, and it is intended to continue to spread the word through existing networks, Members were comfortable with this streamlined approach.

Resolved –

- (a) The Committee noted the content of the Local Account.
- (b) Agreed that the Local Account be published as an electronic copy only.
- (c) 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.

47. Care and Support Where I Live Strategy

Considered –

The oral report of the Corporate Director - Health and Adult Services

Members reviewed the consultation document: “2020 North Yorkshire Care and Support Where I Live”. They supported the strategy which they agreed represents a significant part of the Council’s vision to meet people’s needs now and in the future. The notion of planning ahead to respond to the increasing number of people who need care and support was welcomed. It is also indeed vital, Members thought, that Extra Care homes are at the heart of the community in targeted locations so that people know they can receive the help, support and advice they need. Equally important is that we continue to manage demand, to cope with the implications of demographic change.

Resolved -

Members looked forward to the results of the consultation process and emerging Directorate thinking being available for the January Committee meeting, prior to a decision being taken by the Executive.

48. 2013/14 Annual Report of the North Yorkshire Safeguarding Adults Board

Considered –

The report of the Scrutiny Team Leader asking the Committee to receive the Annual Report of the North Yorkshire Safeguarding Adults Board.

Resolved –

The report be noted and the Committee agreed to receive further ongoing reports of progress.

49. 2014 Annual Report of the Director of Public Health for North Yorkshire

Considered –

The reports of the Scrutiny Team Leader and the Director of Public Health for North Yorkshire presenting to Members the 2014 Annual Report of the Director of Public Health for North Yorkshire.

Resolved –

That:-

- (a) The reports be noted.
- (b) NYCC, District Councils and CCGs 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.
- (c) NHS England continues 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.
- (d) Statutory and VCSE partners 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.
- (e) NYCC, District Councils and NHS partners 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.
- (f) Statutory bodies work closely with the VCSE sector to plan the development, delivery and support for health and care services which draw on volunteers
- (g) Organisations working with local communities promote an asset based approach to understanding and responding to the issues that are important to those communities.

- (h) 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.

50. Work Programme

Considered –

The report of the Scrutiny Team Leader on the Work Programme.

Resolved –

That the Work Programme be agreed.

The meeting concluded at 12:45 pm