

North Yorkshire County Council

Care and Independence Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Minutes of the meeting held on 22 January 2015 at 10.30 am at County Hall, Northallerton.

Present:-

County Councillor Patrick Mulligan in the Chair

County Councillors: Lindsay Burr MBE, Liz Casling, John Ennis, Helen Grant, Mike Jordan, John McCartney, Penny Marsden, Heather Moorhouse, Joe Plant, Chris Pearson and John Savage.

Representatives of the Voluntary Sector: Jackie Snape (Disability Action Yorkshire)

In attendance: County Councillor Shelagh Marshall (Older People's Champion)

Officers: Richard Webb (Corporate Director Health and Adult Services), Mike Webster (Assistant Director, Contracting, Procurement and Quality Assurance (Health and Adult Services)), Kathy Clark (Assistant Director, Health and Adult Services), Joss Harbron (Head of Provider Services, Adult Social Care Operations (Health and Adult Services)), Ray Busby (Scrutiny Support Officer, (Policy and Partnerships))

Apologies: County Councillor Brian Marshall, County Councillor Claire Wood (Executive Member for Adult Social Care and Health Integration), Jon Carling (North Yorkshire and York Forum) and Mike Padgham (Independent Care Group).

Copies of all documents considered are in the Minute Book

51. Minutes

Resolved –

That the minutes of the meeting held on 2 October 2014, having been printed and circulated, be taken as read and be confirmed and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

52. 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.

53. 20/20 Challenges and Social Care Issues

Considered -

Presentation by the Corporate Director - Health and Adult Services

Richard Webb gave an overview of national, regional and local issues and what these mean for the County Council and Scrutiny particularly. The presentation would help the Committee fine tune its work programme for the following year around: the Prevention agenda, what the Council is doing for 2020 savings; progress in health and social care integration and particularly the work of the Health and

Wellbeing Board; what strategies will come on stream during the course of the year; and the key role that public health plays and use of the public health grant in promoting social care initiatives. Members agreed that Group Spokespersons should look further at how these might influence the work programme.

Richard also focussed on winter pressures and crisis, and spoke about the implications of the direction of health and social care, particularly integration.

During discussion, Members raised the working relationship between the Scrutiny of Health Committee, this Committee and the Health and Wellbeing Board particularly in relation to mental health. Whilst there was a consensus that some joint consideration of mental health issues was important, in the first instance it was suggested that Scrutiny Board consider how this subject might be tackled so that each of the three committees was appropriately addressing points in relation to their specific responsibilities.

There was some discussion on the difficulties encountered particularly by domiciliary care staff in travelling from client to client and the consequent difficulties faced by providers in recruitment.

Resolved -

That Richard Webb be thanked for his presentation and the points raised be discussed by the Group Spokespersons at their Mid-Cycle Briefing in order that recommendations regarding the work programme could be made to the Committee.

54. Care and Support Where I Live - Feedback from Consultation and Final Draft Strategy

Considered -

The report of the Corporate Director - Health and Adult Services informing Members of the results of the public consultation in relation to the draft Care and Support Where I Live Strategy and seeking Members' views on the proposed final draft which will be considered by the Council's Executive on 17 March 2015.

Kathy Clark advised that the date of the Executive meeting which would consider the final draft of the Strategy would be 17 March 2015.

Members were encouraged that questionnaires had been received from various people from across the whole county, the highest number from the Scarborough area, the majority from people aged 65 to 74, and the lowest from those aged 18 to 24. Members noted that the majority of people would agree to the ambition to help people to live independently in their homes, but the size of the majority (94%), Members believed, demonstrated that people's priorities are as thought: they want services provided in their own homes with good quality home care; they want help with home adaptations; they want access to good quality information advice, and they want telecare equipment to keep them safe.

Members also noted that there was less support for the replacement of care homes - a majority are in favour of replacement - but the proposal that the Council's elderly person's homes be closed, understandably attracted some concern.

The Committee was reassured to learn that changes to the strategy will be made to reflect concerns that arose during the consultation. Revisions being looked at include:

- Affordability for individuals and for organisations;

- Ensure a care and support model that can meet changing needs;
- The need for quality care homes alongside extra care;
- Developing the options and opportunities for community facilities within schemes; and
- Working closely with partners in health, housing and the voluntary sector to make the best use of expertise and assets.

Resolved -

- (a) That the contents and comments on the report be noted.
- (b) The Chairman advise the Executive that the Committee believes that the evidence suggests that the consultation was successful in eliciting areas where changes can be made to reflect the wishes of people and communities, and by bringing forward views in support of the proposals. Therefore the Care and Support Where I Live Strategy has the Committee's full support.

55. Annual Report of the Older People's Champion

Considered -

The report of County Councillor Shelagh Marshall, Older People's Champion.

Shelagh Marshall's report detailed the priorities she pursued over the course of the year, the campaign for loneliness and isolation perhaps being the most prominent. But Shelagh also highlighted some of the key activities and initiatives in local communities which successfully contribute to older people's health and wellbeing which the Committee accepts will be crucial if we are to meet that demographic challenge, and the NYCC 2020 programme. The Committee supported Shelagh's view that, as a local authority with responsibility for public health, we have a key responsibility to ensure opportunities for physical, social and educational activities so that social care is delayed and social isolation prevented.

Resolved -

That County Councillor Marshall be thanked for her report and her work during the course of the year.

56. Winterbourne Concordat Review

Considered -

The report of the Corporate Director - Health and Adult Services providing assurance that the requirements of the Winterbourne Concordat are being met, informing the Committee of the progress made over the last 12 months and highlighting issues for consideration.

Members were pleased see good and substantial progress in each of the Concordat areas: partnership working is effective; there is clear evidence of agency commitment; case management and placements are being reviewed effectively and, most importantly, safeguarding obligations are being observed. Prevention and crisis response is improving with more facilities around Section 136, Place of Safety. The overriding principle that people are appropriately placed with the right care and support in their local communities, near their families and friends, had Members support.

Resolved -

- (a) That the position of out of County placements and the progress made on the actions required from the Winterbourne Concordat be noted.
- (b) That the Committee was greatly reassured that the aims outlined in the Winterbourne Concordat are of high priority to Health and Adult Services and partners and that the focus will continue to be that people are appropriately placed, with the right care and support in their local communities near their families and friends be noted.
- (c) That the information the Committee required for future updates be noted and bearing in mind how the Directorate manages these 'complex cases' is one of the 2020 savings areas, the Committee will return to this subject later in the year.

57. Work Programme

Considered –

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

In asking Group Spokespersons to consider the implications of Richard Webb's presentation for the work programme, Group Spokespersons were also requested to consider how terms and conditions for paid workers, who work in the domiciliary care sector could be included in the Committee's work.

Resolved –

That the Work Programme be agreed.

The meeting concluded at 12:30 pm.