

North Yorkshire County Council

Care and Independence Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Minutes of the meeting held on 2 July 2015 at 10.30 am at County Hall, Northallerton.

Present:-

County Councillor Patrick Mulligan in the Chair

County Councillors:, John Ennis, Helen Grant, Bill Houlton, Mike Jordan, John McCartney, Penny Marsden, Brian Marshall, Heather Moorhouse, Joe Plant, Chris Pearson, Tim Swales (as substitute for Liz Casling) 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 Clare Wood (Executive Member for Adult Social Care Health Integration).

Officers: Mike Webster (Assistant Director, Contracting, Procurement and Quality Assurance (Health and Adult Services)), Kathy Clark (Assistant Director, Health and Adult Services), Avril Hunter (Strategic Commissioning Manager, Commissioning and Partnership (Health and Adult Services)), Ray Busby (Scrutiny Support Officer, (Policy and Partnerships))

Apologies: Mike Padgham (Independent Care Group)

Copies of all documents considered are in the Minute Book

66. Minutes

Resolved –

That, the Minutes of the meeting held on 23 April 2015, having been printed and circulated, be taken as read and be confirmed and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

67. Exclusion of the Public

Resolved -

The public are excluded from the meeting during consideration of Item no. 9 on the agenda on the grounds that it involves the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in paragraph 4 of Part of Schedule 12A to the Local Government Act 1972 as amended by the Local Government (Access to Information)(Variation) Order 2006.

68. Public Questions or Statements

There were no public questions or statements

70. Mental Health Strategy

Considered -

The report of the Corporate Director - Health and Adult Services advising the Committee of the progress made with the proposed joint mental health strategy for North Yorkshire including the approach to the development of the strategy, the proposed principles and key priorities within the Draft Strategy and timetabling of journey through approval processes.

A member suggested the meaning of the quoted figure in the report regarding the estimated loss of working days due to mental ill health, which was thought to cost something in the region of £26m year, be clarified.

A member was sceptical that the ambitious yet very necessary aims in the strategy could realistically be achieved in a climate of cuts to public expenditure. Kathy Clark explained that some mental health budgets were protected, and all partner agencies had shown willingness to consider using monies in a different way, but the challenge of financial constraints was acknowledged.

Members particularly liked the clarity of the three priorities in the strategy: resilience, responsiveness and reaching out, which focus on support to individuals, families and communities working in partnership and responding to needs.

Resolved -

- a) That the report be noted and the feedback given by Members on the development and the draft principles and priorities be noted.
- b) The Health and Well Being Board be advised that the draft strategy has this committee's wholehearted support;
- c) The committee look at the final version that is put to the Health and Wellbeing Board.

70. Deprivation of Liberty Standards

Considered -

The report of the Corporate Director - Health and Adult Services briefing Members of the Deprivation of Liberty Safeguards and its significance for the Adult Services Directorate.

The report highlights the issues of significant for the Committee because it affects some of the most vulnerable adults in our communities, safeguarding adults is a particular responsibility for Members of this Committee and the latest developments in connection with Deprivation of Liberty Safeguards are having a direct impact upon the Directorate obligations and resources, in addition to recognising the additional burdens, it is important that the Committee reassures itself that all possible steps are being taken to respond proactively to the recent legal requirements.

Members were advised that managing this demand and greater expectations will be achieved by a combination of reconfiguring in-house services, investments in resources, better use of purchaser services and changed internal processes to spread and enhance the capacity.

Mike Webster explained that measuring whether this response is having the right effect, and evaluating our overall performance relative to others, is not straightforward because there is so little national benchmarking data. All authorities seem to be struggling to cope with these increased demands and especially struggling to complete case assessments on time.

Resolved -

- (a) That it is recognised that NYCC as a Supervisory Body, alongside most Local Authorities nationally, is currently under extreme pressure to apply the Deprivation of Liberty Safeguards as they are intended.
- (b) That it is acknowledged that at this time, progress is affected in not undertaking the required work to develop MCA practice generally across the different agencies within the County.
- (c) That the burden associated with Deprivation of Liberty Safeguards is unlikely to significant changed within the next 2-4 years be noted.
- (d) Members recognised that the unexpected surge in demand undoubtedly places the Directorate's performance in jeopardy, but the Committee's view, from the information given, was that the Directorate's response has been effective.

71. Self-Funders

Considered -

The report of the Corporate Director - Health and Adult Services updating the Committee on the privately determined and financed social care market in respect of self-funders, this would help shape the work the Committee intended on customer experience and advice and the care funding reforms (commonly termed the Dilnot proposals).

It was explained that this is a significant issue for a county like North Yorkshire which has above average numbers of people who pay and arrange for their own care needs, with no direct Council involvement in setting up the care package, and above average numbers of people who, through the Council's charging arrangements, pay the full cost of their care package.

Resolved -

The committee noted that the position of self-funders and paying for residential care will be significantly affected by the Dilnot proposals to be introduced as part of the Care Act; the committee therefore agreed to look at the impact of this part of the Care Act provisions before it comes into force in April 2016.

72. Carers and the Care Act

Considered -

Avril Hunter (Strategic Commissioning Manager, Commissioning and Partnership (Health and Adult Services) reported on directorate activity and preparedness for that part of the care act that impacts upon work with carers. In particular, Avril addressed how the directorate is responding to the requirement to ensure that unpaid carers will have the same rights as those they care for, so may be able to get more help to carry on caring and look after themselves

Avril highlighted:

- Carers Resource Centre who will be carrying out some Carers assessments. Contract monitoring is will include those aspects of support including information and advice.
- How information will be gathered through existing HAS IT systems
- The Carers emergency Card
- The work with carers on the provision of quality, accessible information - especially leaflets.

Resolved -

That the oral report be noted.

73. Work Programme

Considered -

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

Resolved -

That the Work Programme be agreed.

This presentation was considered in private and the public have no right of access to that report. The following is a public summary of business conducted in private.

74. Assessment and Reablement Pathway: 2020 Savings

Considered -

Oral report by Anne Marie Lubanski (Assistant Director Social Care Operations, (Health and Adult Services)).

Anne Marie explained that much of the information provided to members was still very much provisional, the staffing matters associated with the work on the Assessment and Reablement Pathway was subject to further work and consultation with staff.

Anne Marie circulated a draft narrative: "Independence with Support When I need it" which set out the key themes and ambitions to transform our social care service. When referring to this, Anne Marie highlighted:

- The importance of the right information, support and motivation to help people find solutions for themselves.
- The work being done by prevention officers, in conjunction with stronger communities programme, ensuring local knowledge and opportunities for the local community are enhanced and identifying where services need to be developed.
- The exercise of examining what each step, each process within the Pathway, costs the service and whether it could and how it should be reconfigured.
- Work with the customer services centre on the response people receive on first contact to ensure that the person has all they need to explore possible options and optimise their independence.
- The work planned to improve people's experiences of hospital discharge

Resolved -

- (a) That the oral report be noted.
- (b) Recognising that these developments were part of the NYCC's 2020 savings targets, and that the staffing implications had yet to be worked through with the people affected, it was agreed that the Committee return to the topic in the New Year.

The meeting concluded at 1pm