

North Yorkshire County Council

Care and Independence Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 19 January 2017 at 10am at County Hall, Northallerton.

Present:-

County Councillor Patrick Mulligan in the Chair

County Councillors: Val Arnold, Jim Clark, John Ennis, Helen Grant, Bill Hault, John McCartney, Brian Marshall, Heather Moorhouse, Chris Pearson, John Savage and Tim Swales.

Representatives of the Voluntary Sector: Jackie Snape (Disability Action Yorkshire) and Mike Padgham (Independent Care Group).

In attendance: County Councillor Clare Wood (Executive Member for Adult Social Care Health Integration).

Officers: Ray Busby (Scrutiny Support Officer, (Policy and Partnerships)), Julie Glenny (Supported Employment Team Manager), Joss Harbron (Head of Provider Services, Care and Support (HAS)), Jean Marsh (Supported Employment Team Manager), Tina Ramsey (YorSexualHealth), Amanda Reynolds (Assistant Director for Integration, Commissioning) and Georgina Wilkinson (Health Improvement Manager, Public Health).

Apologies: Julie Knight (North Yorkshire Centre for Independent Living) and Cllr Mike Jordan

Copies of all documents considered are in the Minute Book

118. Minutes

Resolved –

That, the Minutes of the meeting held on 27 October 2016, having been printed and circulated, be taken as read and be confirmed and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

119. Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest to note.

120. 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.

121. YorSexualHealth

Considered –

From April 2013, North Yorkshire County Council became responsible to arrange for the provision of open access sexual health services for everyone present in their area. Last year, group spokespersons received a presentation at the start of the commissioned service. One year on, Georgina Wilkinson (Public Health) and Tina Ramsey from YorSexualHealth, the provider, presented an update to the full committee.

The Service's Annual Report, which covered the period 1 July 2015 to 30 June 2016, was circulated. Tina explained that the key challenges and success in the first year had been:

- The setting up of four locality centres and sixteen community clinics across the county in a variety of settings including GP practices, community hospitals and military bases. All of these clinics provide integrated contraception and Sexually Transmitted Infections (STI) diagnosis, treatment and care.
- Co-location of specialist elements of the integrated service into the centres.
- Getting staff efficiently and safely to remote areas over long distances.
- Training all clinical staff to a level that they are able to provide diagnosis, treatment and care and contraception services.
- Setting up the infrastructure to allow the use of the electronic patient record data base and overcoming the significant network coverage issues in North Yorkshire.

Resolved -

- a) That the presentation be noted.
- b) The committee agreed that progress in establishing the service in the first year had been impressive.
- c) From the evidence it had seen and heard, the committee agreed that:
 - Contract monitoring is good, but because there is good information sharing, terms can be flexible, allowing appropriate changes to be made.
 - The success of this contractual relationships stems in part from people's willingness to use resources imaginatively rather than protectively

122. Supported Employment

Considered -

The report of the Corporate Director - Health and Adult Services providing background to what is the fourth in a series of conversations the committee has had with social care providers. This time it is the turn of the Supported Employment - an in-house service for supporting people with significant disabilities to secure and retain paid employment.

Members agreed that the service performs well in the following key areas:

- Providing a comprehensive assessment of a person's skills, abilities resulting in a vocational/employment related action plan.
- Supporting people to find paid employment, both part time and full time.
- Signposting and advice for jobseekers and carers and professionals on a range of employment issues.
- Supporting disabled people to retain their jobs if their support needs change.
- Supporting and advice to employers on adjustments or training

But there are challenges. Within the current economic situation, there is evidence both within the team and nationally that finding paid work is becoming increasingly difficult for disabled job seekers. There is also local evidence that disabled employees are finding it increasingly challenging to maintain their employment as employers have increased expectations of their workforce and are often unwilling to make reasonable adjustments within the workplace.

The figures suggest the service is doing well in this difficult climate. In 2015, 61 people were successfully supported into employment by the service in North Yorkshire - 17 people with a physical or sensory impairment, 22 with learning disability and 22 people with Autism. Nationally, the current employment rates are 74% of the general population. 43% of people with mental health problems are in employment. 65% of people with other health conditions. Figures show that in North Yorkshire 10.7% of people with an LD are in employment against a national average of 6%. This is against national target of 46% for people with LD. Figures for people with MH in North Yorkshire are at 13.9%, which compares favourably against a national average of 6.8%.

Resolved -

- a) That the report and subsequent discussions be noted.
- b) As far as the committee was concerned, the evidence seen suggested that:
 - The stability of the management and operation of the service helps it to build strong and long lasting relationships.
 - The continuity of the support it offers is seen, by employers especially, as credible.
 - The team's track record inspires confidence in clients but also in employers who can be reassured that the service's approach will be comprehensive, stable and sustainable. It also is able to leverage existing relationships with key partners for example health, other authorities and other service providers.
 - There is a good understanding the needs of users and other communities;
 - Pleasingly, there is a regular review of the impact that the service is having;
 - There is a determination to seek and use feedback from service users, communities and providers so that commissioning is in tune with local needs;
 - The figures suggest the service is doing well in this difficult climate.

123. Annual Report of the Older Peoples Champion

Considered -

The report of County Councillor Shelagh Marshall OBE, Older Peoples Champion.

Shelagh advised that for seventeen years she has reported on her work as Older Peoples Champion, promoting the interests of people aged 50 and above. In this year's report - which Shelagh said is to be her last - she took the committee through the changes she has seen in her role, and how she has furthered older people's interests in the things they say matter the most: health, financial security and social connections.

Members were pleased to hear that Shelagh intends to continue supporting the national older people's agenda through involvement in the Campaign to End Loneliness and, in North Yorkshire, through the Yorkshire & Humber Advisory Forum.

A member commented, and her colleagues agreed that, the council has been fortunate to have had such a respected and well-liked ambassador for North Yorkshire older peoples' interests.

Resolved -

That the report be noted.

124. Discharges from Hospital

Considered -

The report of the Corporate Director - Health and Adult Services providing information about delayed discharges from hospital across North Yorkshire and plans to build upon the progress made to address delays jointly with NHS partners.

Unnecessary delays in discharging people from hospital are a long standing issue nationally. In a recent report the National Audit Office (NAO) cautioned: "*There are currently far too many older people in hospitals who do not need to be there. Without radical action, this problem will worsen and add further financial strain to the NHS and local government*".

Amanda Reynolds explained that the main drivers for the increase are attributed to the number of days spent waiting for a package of home care and waiting for a nursing home placement or availability. The committee's aim was to try to understand the scale of the problem in North Yorkshire from a social care perspective. And, if the problem is significant, to what extent can that be traced to local social care provision and support in the community.

For the year April 2015 – March 2016, data indicates there were 14,290 delayed transfer days for patients resident in North Yorkshire who were the subject of a transfer of care from hospital. The NHS was solely responsible for 60% (8,596) of the total delayed days with social care being solely responsible for 34% (4,801). Both the NHS and social care were jointly responsible for the remaining 6% (893) i.e. the patient requires both health and social care support upon discharge.

The period June to October 2016, however, shows that there has been a steady and significant increase in the number of days attributable to social care. This is in part explained by South Tees Hospital Trust beginning to report adult social care delays for the first time since 2014.

In respect of delayed days, North Yorkshire's performance compares better against shire counties than with regional authorities, though rankings have slipped across all categories since April 2016.

A locally agreed target and action plan for reducing delayed transfers of care has been developed, as part of the 2016/17 North Yorkshire Better Care Fund plan, on the basis of maintaining the outturn position for 2015/16.

While partners agreed that a stretch target would not be realistic at this time, the committee acknowledged there remains a strong ambition across the partnership to further reduce delayed transfers of care and improve the health and independence of local people in line with the aims of the Better Care Fund and the Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy.

While delays are increasing this is clearly in the context of a worsening situation across the country; comparative performance in North Yorkshire remains good. Action plans are being developed at all levels and for all partners, with specific actions being taken by Health and Adult Services to address social care delays. The provision of social care is critical to preventing unnecessary delays in discharge from hospital but there are some significant challenges for social care in North Yorkshire, in particular capacity within the care market and the ability of social care providers to respond to demand.

Resolved -

That the report and action being taken with partners to address delays transfers of care in North Yorkshire be noted.

125. Work Programme

Considered -

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

With the support of the Chairman, Ray Busby explained the agreement that had been reached with group spokespersons and the directorate that the committee would be wise to settle on a limited number of big themes. These would include "integrated health and social care services" and "how services are being transformed and resources managed to respond to growing/changing demand".

Resolved -

- c) That the Work Programme be agreed.
- d) That Mike Padgham be invited to address the committee on social care issues generally, but also focussing on the challenges facing social care providers.
- e) That with regard to the latest information regarding developments at Botton Village, the Area Committee be advised that:

- There was no reason to depart from the neutral position the committee has adopted throughout.
- If the area committee believes recent events at Botton warrant member level attention, the scrutiny committee's opinion is that this is best managed at the local level.

The meeting concluded at 12:45pm

RB