

**NORTH YORKSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL**

**Care and Independence Overview and Scrutiny Committee**

**17 December 2018**

Feedback from Mid Cycle Briefing 15 November 2018

**1.0 Purpose of Report**

- 1.1 To provide feedback on three topics discussed at the Care and Independence Overview and Scrutiny Mid Cycle Briefing

**2.0 Safeguarding Board - meeting with Dr Sue Proctor**

- 2.1 Dr Sue Proctor introduced the Board's Annual Report for the financial year 2017/2018.
- 2.2 Sue explained that an independent consultant's review of safeguarding in North Yorkshire had identified strengths, areas of challenge, some key messages about learning, ways of working and had helped galvanise board members' thoughts about effectiveness of the Board's actions forward.
- 2.3 Sue explained, from her perspective, the significance of each of the priorities identified in the Annual Report and highlighted in her covering report to members. Additional points she and members talked about included::
- The importance of tackling financial abuse (currently the third most prevalent form of abuse in the county)
  - Involving Trading Standards in Board activity
  - Building relationships and encouraging participation and representation from the military and farming communities.
  - Understanding the relationship between mental health, isolation and safeguarding.
  - Ensuring there is effective victim support.
  - Working with other organisations, for example Citizens Advice Bureaux, to help build community awareness and resilience.
- 2.4 Dr Proctor reassured members that the high level of attendance at Board meetings did indeed reflect strong partnership commitment. That said, she would be encouraging partners to ensure continuity in representation i.e. that it was a named individual who attended board meetings on a regular basis. Also, she was making it clear that she would expect that person to have the requisite leadership authority to participate and speak with confidence for their constituent organisation.

- 2.5 The consensus around the table from members was that from what they had heard at the meeting and from their reading of the Annual Report, the evidence points to the Board being in a healthy state - governance arrangements are sound; partnership commitment is good; work on community prevention and awareness is robust, and strategic links with other partnerships in localities are working well.
- 2.6 Members agreed that it was pleasing that Dr Proctor, even at this early stage of her tenure as Chair, is demonstrating clear and determined leadership. Members liked her vision for the Board.
- 2.7 The session prompted members present to reflect again upon how much they understand their role as councillors when it comes to safeguarding, and whether some form of training should be mandatory. Two years ago, Care and Independence Overview and Scrutiny Members had taken up the opportunity of a bespoke version of the "safeguarding alerter" training programme. It would be sensible to review - after the upcoming District and Borough elections - how this package, or something like it, could be extended to the wider North Yorkshire elected membership.

### **3.0 Local Account**

- 3.1 Members received the final draft of the Local Account.
- 3.2 Given that the Local Account must be an honest assessment of social care performance, it was important that, before it is published, members had an opportunity to review, pass comment and make suggestions for any amendments. As in previous years, members believed it passed the pivotal test - it is not self-congratulatory.
- 3.3 They liked the content and format of the documents, commenting favourably on the way often complex information and concepts had been presented in an appealing, informative and accessible way. A number of suggestions were made about possible content in the future, including placing an emphasis on the contribution of the voluntary sector and volunteers in general.
- 3.4 The Local Account has now been published on the website at the following link: <https://www.northyorks.gov.uk/adult-social-care-local-account>

### **4.0 Director of Public Health**

- 4.1 Dr Lincoln Sargeant presented his sixth Annual Report to us for information and for feedback. Lincoln explained that the report looked back to review progress made in improving population health in North Yorkshire since 2013, viewed data and engaged with partners to jointly develop priorities for population health until 2025.
- 4.2 The report can be found by clicking on the following link: <http://www.nypartnerships.org.uk/dphreport2018>

4.3 Lincoln had made three recommendations in his report:

## **5.0 Reduce health inequalities**

5.1 All partner agencies should consider the role they can play to improve the health and wellbeing of people with the poorest health outcomes and take explicit actions to address the factors that they can influence to close the gap experienced by people and communities who have shorter and less healthy lives compared to the rest of North Yorkshire.

## **6.0 Improve public mental health**

6.1 As signatories to the Prevention Concordat for Better Mental Health the North Yorkshire Health and Wellbeing Board have committed to implement its principles. Specifically, this commits partner organisations to work to strengthen individuals and communities to be resilient and to remove the structural barriers to good mental health including reducing poverty and discrimination, and improving access to education, employment, transport, housing and support for the most vulnerable people.

## **7.0 Embed a public health approach**

7.1 All partners in North Yorkshire consider how to embed a public health approach into their practice, including impact on sustainability, integration, prevention and reducing inequalities; and increasing skills around data, evidence and evaluation.

7.2 Members learned of the launch of the new JSNA 2018 district health profiles. The links below take you the profiles for each district. They bring together content from a range of routine sources to provide an overview of population health in each district, covering topics such as demographic change, health inequalities, wider determinants of health, behaviour and lifestyle factors and the main causes of ill health and death. Members liked that the profiles can be used alongside other sources of data and information to help set strategic priorities and influence planning for improving population health.

All profiles are available at: <http://hub.datanorthyorkshire.org/dataset>

## **8.0 Recommendations**

8.1 This report be received.

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Background documents - Nil