

North Yorkshire County Council

Care and Independence Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Minutes of the meeting held on Monday 17 December 2018 at 10.00am at County Hall, Northallerton.

Present:-

County Councillor John Ennis in the Chair

County Councillors: Eric Broadbent, Mike Chambers MBE, Caroline Goodrick, Helen Grant, Andrew Jenkinson, Stanley Lumley and Stuart Martin MBE and.

In attendance:

County Councillors Caroline Dickinson (Executive Member for Adult Social Care).

Officers: Ray Busby (Scrutiny Support Officer), Anton Hodge Assistant Director - Strategic Resources, Central Services, Rachel Kemp (Service Manager - DToC, Care and Support (HAS)), Louise Wallace (AD Health and Integration, Commissioning (HAS)) and Richard Webb (Corporate Director of Health and Adult Services)

Apologies: Cllrs Philip Broadbank, David Jeffels. John Mann and Karin Sedgwick.

Voluntary and Community Sector: Jill Quinn (Dementia Forward).

Independent Sector: Mike Padgham (Independent Care Group)

Copies of all documents considered are in the Minute Book

173. Minutes

Resolved –

That the Minutes of the meeting held on 27 September 2018 having been printed and circulated, be taken as read and be confirmed and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

174. Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest to note.

175. 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.

176. Fair Charges for the cost of Adult Social Care

Considered –

- a) Presentation by Anton Hodge, Assistant Director - Strategic Resources, Central Services and by Linda Porritt.

- b) Consultation documents on Fair Charges for the Cost of Care.
- c) Decision record (HAS 10/2018) on charges for the Cost of Adult Social Care.

The committee took the main proposals in turn

Ensuring that the total cost of care and support is taken into account when determining the level of contributions paid by those people who use the service

Anton explained that, at the moment, if a person needs to have two care workers at the same time on the same day, they are only charged for one. The proposal is to revise the charging policy to ensure that the client makes a contribution towards the cost of the whole package of care (including the second carer).

The expectation is that a small number of people may end up paying more. Members expressed the view that this whole exercise - including re-assessment of need - should give us further grounds for being confident that we are meeting people's needs in the best way we can - given current financial constraints. Some members repeated their discomfort with a situation where an individual who requires "two-handed" care will pay more because they have additional and/or complex needs. However, it was noted that the amount the person pays will continue to be calculated by completing the means tested financial assessment, taking into account an individual's income and expenditure accordingly.

Increasing the charge made to people who use the transport service, while confirming that NYCC will continue to pay most of the cost

The notion of a fairer and more efficient collection of charges for transport was supported. The committee considered that changes would be more palatable if there were to be a flat rate per journey and a weekly cap on the charge to any individual. To most members this seemed a fairer and less complex than schemes which, for example, attempted to calculate cost per distance travelled. Rates of £7.50 per journey and a £40 weekly cap are under consideration in the Directorate.

The consultation ends on the 21 January 2019.

Resolved –

- a) Whilst broadly supportive of the rationale behind the proposals on transport charges, the committee does wonder whether it will have a "chilling" effect on service users' inclination to participate in activities.
- b) Members found the consultation process to be thorough and well organised. The documentation was clear, easily understood and explained the proposals and their implications clearly.
- c) Members expressed the view that consideration should be given, assuming either or both proposals go ahead, to some form of phased implementation.
- d) It was agreed that the Chair and group spokespersons give further thought about what happens next, and how the committee might best assess the impact of these proposals should they be adopted.

177. HAS Financial Pressures

Considered -

Paper highlighting the areas presenting with the most significant financial pressures facing HAS as at October 2018 and the management action that is being taken in response.

Presentation by Richard Webb.

Anton Hodge explained that Health and Adult Services had forecasted a projected overspend in Quarter 2 of 2018 of £3.5m. The main area of overspend is within Care and Support, the service area which accounts for £124m of a net £155m directorate budget. An overspend in this area of £4.3m is being offset by underspends elsewhere in the Directorate.

Richard Webb outlined the action plan is now in place aimed at reducing the financial pressures, while continuing to look for other savings to support the Council's overall budget position.

Resolved -

- a) That the report be noted.
- b) The committee recognised that, despite all these pressures, the Directorate has already contributed significantly to the Council's savings requirement.
- c) The committee believed it had received a reasonable, full and honest account of the financial pressures the service is facing, including a detailed and thorough explanation of how this situation had come about, and what the risks are to social care services and the council as a whole.
- d) The committee was satisfied that the right action is in place to address this situation.

178. Health and Social Care Integration

Considered -

Ray Busby reported that the joint members task group on Health and Social Care Integration is entering the key stage of its work - holding in depth conversations with representatives of key Clinical Commissioning Groups and NHS Trusts, based on submissions they have already made.

Having reviewed the returns from the call for evidence, the group had decided to follow this up with a conversation, based in the main on the comments made, so that they can better understand the challenges faced by organisations in making progress on Integration, and get a clearer insight into what good integration looks like. These would be in a select committee style, but to facilitate confidence in this process, engagement and unfettered discussion, sessions would be as informal as possible. They would not be in public.

Resolved -

That the report be noted.

179. Delayed Discharge of Care

Considered -

Presentation on Delayed Discharge

Resolved -

That the report be noted.

180. Feasibility Study

Considered -

Ray Busby advised that members had received a briefing on how NYCC might use a range of approaches to encourage and shape the social care market, so that it meets the needs of all people in our area who need care and support, whether arranged or funded by the state, by the individual, or in other ways. The study undertaken by Mazars would be reviewed by group spokespersons as part of a wider briefing on Shaping the Care Market

Resolved -

That the information given be noted

181. Work Programme

Considered -

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

Resolved -

That Respite be taken as a substantive item at the April 2019 meeting along the lines of the draft scope/outline attached to the report