

North Yorkshire County Council

Care and Independence Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 27 June 2019 at 10.00am at County Hall, Northallerton.

Present:-

County Councillor Karin Sedgwick in the Chair.

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

In attendance:

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

Officers: Toya Bastow (Direct Payments Support Service Manager, Care and Support (HAS)), Ray Busby (Scrutiny Support Officer), Joss Harbron (Head of Provider Services, Care and Support (HAS)), Chris Jones-King (Assistant Director Care and Support, Health and Adult Services), Cara Nimmo, Head of Craven Locality and Care and Support Portfolio (HAS), Cath Simms, Head of Targeted Prevention, Care and Support (HAS), Louise Wallace (AD Health and Integration, Commissioning (HAS)).

Apologies:

County Councillors John Ennis and John Mann

Voluntary and Community Sector: Independent Sector: Mike Padgham (Independent Care Group) and Jill Quinn (Dementia Forward)

Copies of all documents considered are in the Minute Book

190. Minutes

Resolved –

That the Minutes of the meeting held on 4 April 2019 having been printed and circulated, be taken as read and be confirmed and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

191. Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest to note.

192. 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.

193. Chairman's Remarks

Cllr Karin Sedgwick thanked her predecessor, John Ennis, for everything the committee accomplished, for handing over the committee's business in such good health, and for his guidance about the committee's work.

194. Supporting People with Learning Disabilities in North Yorkshire

Considered

Presentation by Cara Nimmo, Head of Craven Locality and Care and Support Portfolio (HAS)

Cara advised that In North Yorkshire it is estimated that there are 11,338 people with a learning disability aged 18-85. This is predicted to rise to 11,870 by 2030, Launched in June 2017, the Health and Well Being Boards "Live Well, Live Longer" strategy for people with Learning Disabilities was created in consultation with people who have a Learning Disability in North Yorkshire. It is grounded in a partnership approach between NYCC & NHS partners.

Since April 2017 assessment staff throughout the whole of Adult social care pathway work with and support adults with Learning Disability

Across the County there are around 200 Supported Living properties, housing over 500 people, so it is essential that we ensure services and properties are good quality and provide value for money. A programme of work was started in September 2018 to provide a strength based assessment for all adults with Learning Disability, residing in supported living accommodation. The aim is to focus on individuals strengths and promote maximum independence.

Cara highlighted the work of the Learning Disability Partnership Board as an effective user-led body. Members mentioned the previous work they had undertaken which highlighted the value and strength of our approach to user engagement and empowerment.

On the basis of what Members heard, they concluded that:

- Overall governance arrangements appear to be sound.
- The service is looking at people's strengths and skills to help them live in the community. Support is focussed on the person
- There is a good organisational culture and the directorate is determined to build on that and move forward.
- Services are being planned around people's skills and interests. We are supporting the person to have an ordinary and meaningful life

Resolved –

- a) That the report be noted.
- b) The Chairman report the committee's conclusions in her statement to council, emphasising the committee's view that the directorate's actions are consistent with the aims of the strategy that people with a learning disability should have the opportunity to live long and healthy lives.

195. Update on the All Age Autism Strategy and implementation within Health and Adult Services

Considered –

Presentation by Joss Harbron, Head of Provider Services, Care and Support (HAS)

Members recognised the statement that Autism is much more common than many people think. When advised that 17% of children with Autism have been suspended from school; 48% of these had been suspended three or more times; 4% had been expelled from one or more schools, a member remarked that this was very much of concern to the Young Peoples Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

Members supported the key commitments of the directorate, especially the processes around improved Diagnosis and referrals, the investment in staff investment and training; and the improvements achieved as a result of the Self- Assessment Framework.

Resolved -

- a) That the report be noted.
- b) The committee expressed its appreciation and congratulations to all staff involved in ensuring that NYCC First Local Authority to have all of its Adult services accredited in the UK in 2016.

196. Direct Payments

Considered

Presentation by Toya Bastow, Direct Payments Support Service Manager, Care and Support (HAS)) supported by Cath Simms, Head of Targeted Prevention, Care and Support (HAS)

Toya explained that a direct payment is the amount of money that the local council pays to an individual who has been assessed as needing help from social services, and who would like to arrange and pay for their own care and support services instead of receiving them directly from the local authority.

There is considerable evidence that many of those who have opted for Direct Payments have found it a positive change. The advantages include:

- They offer (and can increase) choice, control and flexibility.
- They can build confidence and gives power.
- It can cost the authority less.

However, 23 years after the introduction of direct payments – and despite successive governments' attempts to promote them – few people eligible to use them do so. Furthermore, there is great variation in the take-up in local authorities and between service user groups.

Statistically speaking, Toya conceded, NYCC's comparative performance appears disappointing. We found good reasons for this, most notably connected with social

care market conditions - for example the majority of direct payments money is, in practice, used to pay for personal assistants where the lack of provider availability is a significant problem. Some people eligible for support are simply uncomfortable about being an employer and the responsibilities that come with that. Some may lack confidence about keeping careful records and safely filing important documents such as receipts, although help to make these arrangements is available.

Members suggested that it may be the case that rurality and the demographic profile of the people we support makes it a challenge for the directorate to significantly increase take-up. That said, members were in agreement that from the evidence presented at the meeting:

- there was no lack of enthusiasm on the directorate's part for promoting direct payments to staff working with specific care groups;
- the indications were that direct payments are routinely offered as an option to people eligible to use them;
- efforts are being made to make staff more aware about what direct payments can be used for, who is eligible to use them, and how they can be accessed; and
- resources are well-placed to support people to help them manage their direct payments.

Members agreed that whilst the figures around take-up may not be where we would like them to be, there is convincing evidence that there is a supporting infrastructure within the directorate combined with a good understanding of the principles behind direct payments.

Resolved –

- a) The Chairman report the committee's conclusions in her statement to council.
- b) The Committee look again at NYCC performance on Direct Payments in a years' time.

197. Work Programme

Considered -

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

Ray Busby explained that it had not been possible to fit into the regular meeting cycle the intended session with Professor Sue Proctor, Chair of the Safeguarding Adults Board. Care and Independence Overview and Scrutiny members had met with the Board Chair at least once a year for a number of years now. This had usefully been timed to coincide with the publication of the Annual Report of the North Yorkshire Adults Safeguarding Board. That report would be available mid to late November. .

Members confirmed that they would want to meet with Professor Proctor, and if that meant a one off meeting with this as the sole item of business, then so be it.

Referring to discussion earlier at the meeting, Ray Busby reported that the Young Peoples Overview and Scrutiny Committee, is keen to do some exploratory joint scrutiny work on the new pathway that has been agreed between the HAS and CYPS

directorates for young people transitioning from children's social care to adult social care. A joint session had been suggested.

Resolved -

- a) That the work programme be agreed.
- b) An informal joint session with YPOSC committee members be arranged to review the new protocols and pathways for those children and young people who move from children's social care to adult social care – often referred to as "Transitions".