

NORTH YORKSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

CARE AND INDEPENDENCE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

STATEMENT BY THE CHAIRMAN

21 February 2007

Assistive Technology and Telecare

1. A working group has been examining the contribution Telecare can make to the preventative agenda and promoting independence and concluded that the County Council, in partnership, is delivering this agenda well.
2. The results of pilots in both Harrogate and Selby, suggest that Telecare presents opportunities for reinvestment in their preventative agenda. Arguably, to gain the greatest efficiency, preventative use prior to the service user becoming critical will derive the maximum gains for organisations, users and carers. This local finding has been mirrored nationally. The Committee has encouraged the Directorate to consider this point further, something which is very topical bearing in mind NYCC has recently moved from "Critical" to the "Substantial" category under Fair Access to Care Criteria.
3. Our share of national Preventative Grant money is being effectively and appropriately directed to ensure that there is equity of service provision across the county. The investment in systems and infrastructure is fit for purpose both now and in the future.
4. Overall, we saw welcome evidence that Telecare is moving from the "margin" to being part of "mainstream" social care.

Post Office Network Proposals

5. The Committee had been tasked with leading on the response to the DTI proposals on the future of the Post Office Network. As a result of a consultation process with interested parties a draft response to the DTI consultation proposals was prepared. Also, the Committee considered and agreed to support the motion before you today, subject to certain amendments.
6. The response compiled represents a sound and sensible approach. The aim was to draw attention to the notion that the proposals should not mean financial exclusion for those living in remote areas and that the criteria adopted ensures there is a sound and sustainable service for our community. We were particularly anxious that developments should not proceed without full and adequate consultation in local areas.

Direct Payments and Individualised Budgets

7. Under national legislation, local authorities with social services responsibilities now have a duty to offer direct payments to those who can manage them and

who are eligible for services following an assessment of their needs. The Committee has maintained a watching brief over progress in this area.

8. We were recently informed of a new model of service called individualised budgets. This recognises that some people do not want to have to manage the money as is the case in direct payments, but would like the Council to manage it for them. It also enables individuals to choose services provided by the Council which direct payments do not.
9. These are exciting developments and the Committee has agreed to embark on scrutiny work in this area concentrating on the barriers to take up and what can be done to promote more widespread use throughout the county.

POPPS and Scrutiny of Partnerships

5. We have received information and an update on progress of the Partnership for Older Peoples Project. The County Council is one of nineteen first wave pilots across the Country to test innovative preventative models with older people over the next two years. For some time the Committee has been anxious to undertake scrutiny work involving a partnership arrangement and was happy to agree to this being focussed upon evaluating the success of a particular initiative undertaken under the POPPS project.

Single Assessment Process

10. On periodic occasions the Committee has examined various aspects of the implementation of the Single Assessment Process. (SAP) Our intention to consult direct with users and carers at sessions facilitated by the Harrogate and Craven Carers Resource and Easingwold Community Care Association.
11. The joint scrutiny working group set up with Health Scrutiny Committee Members is due to meet again shortly to examine detailed information on the implementation of processes and procedures of SAP throughout the county.

SHELAGH MARSHALL

Chairman of the Care and Independence Overview and Scrutiny Committee

County Hall,
NORTHALLERTON.

8 February 2007

Background Documents - NIL