

NORTH YORKSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

CARE AND INDEPENDENCE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

STATEMENT BY THE CHAIRMAN

16 May 2007

Direct Payments and Individualised Budgets

1. 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.
2. 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.
3. These are exciting developments and the Committee has agreed to embark on scrutiny work in this area concentrating in part on the barriers to take up and what can be done to promote more widespread use throughout the county, but also how the authority prepares for individualised budgets and the wider notion of self directed care.

POPPS and Scrutiny of Partnerships

4. 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 incorporated as part of Members involvement in the forthcoming evaluation of the POPPS.
5. A task group has been appointed to meet with the consultants who are leading the evaluation with a view to commenting upon the interim review at the September meeting.

Single Assessment Process

6. On periodic occasions the Committee has examined various aspects of the implementation of the Single Assessment Process. (SAP) Our intention is to consult direct with users and carers at sessions facilitated by the Harrogate and Craven Carers Resource and Easingwold Community Care Association.
7. We managed to do just that with some success at Ripon where over 20 people, who had been through the SAP process, told us of their experiences. In the main feedback was positive with comments confirming the following aims of SAP:

- ❖ Individuals are placed at the heart of the assessment and care planning, and these processes are timely and in proportion to the individuals' needs.
 - ❖ Professionals are willing, able and confident to use their judgement.
 - ❖ Care plans or statements of service delivery are routinely produced and service users receive a copy.
 - ❖ Professionals contribute to assessments in the most effective way, and care co-ordinators are agreed in individual cases when necessary.
 - ❖ Information is collected, stored and shared as effectively as possible and subject to consent.
 - ❖ Professionals and agencies do not duplicate each others assessments.
8. Attempts to repeat this event in the Ripon area did not meet with the level of success we had hoped for. A different approach is now needed, one which involves staff to help recruit numbers of users and carers and where consultation takes place in settings where they receive services.
9. The findings from these and the Easingwold sessions will inform our thematic work on assessing the impact and progress of the SAP throughout the county.

SHELAGH MARSHALL

Chairman of the Care and Independence Overview and Scrutiny Committee

County Hall,
NORTHALLERTON.

16 May 2007

Background Documents - NIL