

# **NORTH YORKSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL**

**10 October 2007**

## **SCRUTINY BOARD**

### **STATEMENT BY THE CHAIRMAN**

The Scrutiny Board met on 19 September 2007.

#### Draft Overview and Scrutiny Guidance

The Scrutiny Board working group set up to look at the implications of the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Bill has completed its review of the County Council's overview and scrutiny protocols. The group has developed a publication called "Your Guide to Overview and Scrutiny in North Yorkshire County Council".

The draft text of the guidance was approved by the Scrutiny Board for presentation to each of the Overview and Scrutiny Committees so that all Members have an opportunity to comment on the guidance before it is finalised. It is proposed that the guide should be produced as a booklet of A5 size and have a pocket in which additional guidance information sheets can be placed.

#### Progress of the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Bill

The Board heard that the Bill will proceed to the report stage in the House of Lords once Parliament reconvenes. It is expected to receive Royal Assent late in October 2007. Following the passing of the Bill we can expect to see the Regulations and draft guidance with the implementation of Community Calls for Action and the strengthened powers for Overview and Scrutiny from April 2008.

The parallel implementation of Community Calls for Action under the Police and Justice Act 2006 has been "paused" pending the outcome of the Flanagan Review of Policing.

#### Setting up a Local Involvement Network (LINK) for North Yorkshire

The Board considered the timescale and implications of the introduction of Local Involvement Networks (LINKs) which will replace Patient and Public Involvement in Health Forums (PPIFs) from April 2008.

Once the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Bill receives Royal Assent each local authority with Social Services responsibilities will have a statutory duty to make contractual arrangements with a "host" organisation to support a LINK in its area. Under its contract with the local authority, the host will be responsible for the establishment and support of a LINK to carry out the following activities:

- Promoting and supporting the involvement of people in the commissioning, provision and scrutiny of local health and social care services
- Enabling people to monitor and review the commissioning and provision of care services
- Obtaining the views of people about their needs for, and their experiences of, local health and social care services
- Making their views known to those responsible for commissioning, providing, managing and scrutinising those services.

A key implication for Overview and Scrutiny is that the LINK will be able to refer issues to their local Overview and Scrutiny Committees. This could involve any relevant committee.

### Green Lanes

The Board confirmed that the Environment and Heritage OSC will continue to consider issues relating to Green Lanes. When such an item is on the agenda, the Chairman and Members of the Transport and Telecommunications OSC will be invited to attend the meeting.

**County Councillor Paul Richardson**  
**Chairman of Scrutiny Board**  
**1 October 2007**