

NORTH YORKSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

SAFE AND SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

STATEMENT BY THE CHAIRMAN

22ND MAY 2008

1. Gambling in the Community

2. When we looked at the impact and support for those with a gambling dependency in our community, we received expert advice from the Chief Executive of GamCare and counselling services that operate in the North East region and across our County.
3. There are now realistic prospects that a partnership arrangement will be entered into to provide support in North Yorkshire, something that simply does not currently exist. Rather than the County Council directly facilitating a new infrastructure of support as was originally envisaged, the likelihood is that existing services, after being trained by the national charity GamCare, will expand to take referrals from individuals and from partner agencies. It is no longer necessary therefore that a business case is prepared.
4. Without the Committee's involvement this new service would not have been developed. I am proud that the Committee has been instrumental in bringing partners to the table in this way.

5. York and North Yorkshire Credit Union

6. The Committee was pleased with the progress that has been made in implementing the York and North Yorkshire Credit Union business case. We intend to maintain our interest to ensure that there is no delay in the appointment of the much needed development officer, the bringing together of a shadow board and ultimately the extension of the existing Credit Union Common Bond. Just quite exactly how this will work, will be the subject of a report to our next meeting.
7. It is particularly pleasing that the County Council, in conjunction with the York Credit Union, has been able to secure a positive contribution from the Skipton Building Society, who has offered specialist advice and various other resources, notably IT development support.

8. Community Safety Agreement

9. The Committee commented favourably as part of the first round of consultation of the development of a Community Safety Agreement for North Yorkshire on behalf of the York and North Yorkshire Safer Communities Forum. The Forum is a relatively new partnership operating

as a sub-group of NYSP. It is of key importance that the Committee maintains this democratic input into its work.

10. Injury Minimisation Programme for Schools

11. Over the last two years, the Committee maintained contact with a local scheme in Scarborough which aims to reduce the number of accidents and injuries to children. We were instrumental in securing Area Committee funding in Scarborough and Ryedale for the scheme to continue last year.

12. Having explored all opportunities and possibilities, the Committee accepts it unlikely that it will lever in funding from any sources for another academic year. Whether individual schools can find a funding solution remains to be seen, but in essence there appears to be nothing that the Committee can now do to keep the scheme running. A report will therefore be made to the Executive highlighting our concerns at the likely impact of the scheme's withdrawal.

PAUL RICHARDSON

Chairman

Safe & Sustainable Overview & Scrutiny Committee

County Hall

NORTHALLERTON

Background documents: Nil

9th May 2008