

NORTH YORKSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

17 DECEMBER 2008

STATEMENT OF THE COMMUNITY SERVICES PORTFOLIO HOLDER COUNTY COUNCILLOR GREG WHITE

COMMUNITY PLANNING AND COMMUNITY SAFETY

Credit Union

The credit union project is progressing well. The intention is to go to the Financial Services Authority in December to seek approval to extend York Credit Union's common bond to the rest of North Yorkshire. The consultants provided by Skipton Building Society are assisting in this work. Area Advisory Groups have been set up in Scarborough and Selby districts to identify customer access points and secure volunteer commitment. Area Advisory Groups will be set up elsewhere in the county on the basis of two districts per year. However, from day one everywhere in the county will have postal, telephone and internet access to the credit union. In response to the credit union article in the August edition of the North Yorkshire Times a number of people have expressed an interest in becoming a credit union board member. A training event was held on 22 November for prospective board Members.

NYSP draft framework for community engagement and neighbourhood management

The North Yorkshire Strategic Partnership is currently consulting on a draft framework for community engagement and neighbourhood management within North Yorkshire. The framework is being developed with the aim of sharing resources and information to improve community engagement and neighbourhood management by partners across the County. A small Task group has been set up to oversee this work and they are seeking comments on the work so far, looking at the principles, standards and workstreams which might form part of this Framework. The consultation document is available from the Policy and Partnerships Unit or the NYSP website (www.nysp.org.uk) and the closing date for comments is 4 February 2009.

North Yorkshire Welcome Pack

One of the challenges identified as part of the recent review on the impact of inward migration from the EU Accession States was access to information on services available to the community from all partners - often individuals do not know what support is available, or how they can access it. A web-based information pack has been developed with partners to bring this information

together in one place, available in 21 languages and updated monthly to ensure all information is accurate. It is now available on the NYSP website (www.nysp.org.uk/welcomepack) and is being promoted through our usual channels, such as NY Times and our front line services. Members are encouraged to promote it to all members of the community and service users who would benefit from it.

NYSP Wider Partnership conference

This year's Wider Partnership conference was held on 17 October at the Pavilions, Harrogate and was a highly successful event, with over 200 delegates attending from across the public, business, voluntary and community sectors with the aim of looking at how NYSP partners can work together to deliver the ten priorities of the recently-launched Sustainable Community Strategy. Delegates participated in a series of workshops themed around the ten priorities and identified challenges and approaches to be taken in tackling these. Paul Johnstone, Regional Director for Public Health, also gave a speech on how we can work towards sustainable communities from a public health perspective, highlighting challenges for the County's key partners in tackling health inequalities. Feedback on this event highlighted that delegates found it to be highly informative and engaging and a conference newsletter will be circulated in December to underline all of the key points and outcomes for partners.

Policing Green Paper

The Home Office have published a summary of responses to the Policing Green Paper and the Government's next steps. The Government continue to believe that there are very strong arguments in favour of direct elections to police authorities and will be introducing the necessary legislation as part of the Policing and Crime Bill announced in the recent Queen's Speech.