

NORTH YORKSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL**17 FEBRUARY 2010****CARE AND INDEPENDENCE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE****STATEMENT BY THE CHAIRMAN**

1. I agreed to change the date of the meeting to 11 February. This has meant that the Committee will meet after the publication of this report.

Update on Dementia Network and Next Steps and the Yorkshire and Humberside Improvement Programme Review

2. The Committee has continued to support the Directorate, the PCT and colleagues in the Third Sector in improving access to Dementia services in the county.
3. It was a key recommendation of the Committee that a Network be created to give all sectors the opportunity to drive the National Dementia Strategy objectives forward locally. The Network has made a strong start with two meetings having been held, the first in November 2009 and the second recently on 3 February. Current services on the ground have been identified and it has been possible to see gaps in provision and support which are the subject of a working joint commissioning and action plan.
4. We will also see ways of ensuring people with Dementia and their carers can influence activity by participating fully, not just at Network meetings but also in local user and carer groups.

Yorkshire and Humberside Improvement Review Peer Network

5. In October last year the Yorkshire and Humberside Improvement Partnership conducted a Peer Monitoring Review of Dementia Services in North Yorkshire. A good deal of information on current baseline activity was prepared and this has been useful for Members, like myself, who are committed to being involved.
6. The results of the Review are to be made available shortly and at the time of writing this report are not available, however early feedback is there is clear joint commitment to improve services for people. Once in the system people get a good service and there is excellent involvement of the Third Sector. What needs improving, and perhaps this is no surprise to us, is the need to create a better whole system care pathway, deliver greater integration of services and tackle what was seen by some as inequity of provision across the county. It is therefore pleasing that this is one of the topline objectives of the Network which meets again in June this year.

Valuing Employment Now

7. In my last Statement I reported that a Task Group had been appointed to examine the implications of the National Strategy – Valuing Employment Now (VEN). This Review started on the basis that we would assess and contribute to our and our partners' preparedness for the implications of VEN. The Review can now look further in that with the support of the Directorate it will come forward with recommendations and proposals about how we and our partners might respond.
8. VEN requires us to close the employment gap between those with learning disabilities and the disabled population as a whole by increasing the number of real jobs available and ensuring appropriate support. I have mentioned before the significant changes this implies for current practice; services in the community for people with learning disabilities could look radically different from what they do now.
9. The Task Group is now beginning to assemble the information it needs to understand better the nature and scale of this service change. The key areas for the Task Group now are to develop North Yorkshire County Council as an exemplar authority and how we might influence our partners to follow this lead.

Annual Report of the Dignity Champion and Older Peoples' Strategy Assessment

10. The impact of the changing demographic profile within the county is well known to the Council. It is important therefore that the Committee continues to do what it can to ensure that older peoples' interests are recognised as a corporate responsibility and that dignity is high on the County Council's agenda.
11. County Councillor Shelagh Marshall, Older Peoples' Champion, submitted her 10th Annual Report to the Committee, which provides an update of her substantial work on the Dignity Agenda and how she is able to influence the national agenda by applying North Yorkshire experience.
12. At the same Committee we are to consider the Annual Assessment of how well NYCC engages with older people. This is undertaken by County Councillors in conjunction with representatives from the North Yorkshire Older Peoples' Forum and the NYSP Older Peoples' Partnership. I was pleased to support Melva Steckles, Chairman of that Task Group in the conclusion that the County Council has made substantial progress in engaging with older people.

Safeguarding Adults

13. All councillors share a responsibility to ensure that all vulnerable people can live their lives free from violence and abuse. Safeguarding is everybody's business – adult abuse can happen to anyone, anywhere, and responsibility for addressing it lies with all of us. In addition to the key role of the lead member for adult social care, overview and scrutiny committee members are critical to ensuring that vulnerable adults are safeguarded.
14. We will consider the first Annual Statement of the North Yorkshire Safeguarding Board, since the Board was established last year. The Board has clearly made substantial progress in its performance framework raising public awareness and introducing safeguarding policies and procedures in directorates and other agencies.
15. In the pipeline is the Government's response to the "No Secrets" Review which will require further changes to procedures and practice and is most likely to put the Safeguarding Board on a statutory footing akin to that of the Local Safeguarding Children's Board.
16. This topic will remain a high priority in our work programme for the coming year.

Extra Care: The Vision

17. We are to have a follow-up presentation to our visit of the Extra Care Development in Springfield Court, Easingwold. The Committee wishes to have a formative role in the development of a design guide and promoting Extra Care Development across the county.

Work Programme Items for the Future

18. At our future meetings we will examine the conclusions of the recent Partnerships for Older Peoples' National Evaluation Report. In the words of the Health Secretary "this represents a powerful and persuasive argument for putting prevention first". It confirms what the Committee and Adult and Committee Services Directorate thought locally during the local pilot, that prevention projects produce savings for the National Health Service to a far greater extent than they do for Adult Social Care.
19. Also on our agenda is how the Directorate is progressing with the Personalisation and Self-Directed Supported Agenda and the conclusions of the Joint Task Group with Scrutiny of Health on localisation of the National Stroke Awareness Strategy.

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Chairman
Care and Independence Overview and Scrutiny Committee
County Hall
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5 February 2010
Background Documents: Nil