

NORTH YORKSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

19 May 2010

STATEMENT OF PORTFOLIO HOLDER FOR COMMUNITY PLANNING AND ENGAGEMENT, AND YOUTH SERVICES

COUNTY COUNCILLOR HEATHER GARNETT

4Youth Service developments

The 4Youth Service is committed to allocating some of its budget each year directly to young people for them to determine its use. This is delivered through the Keyfund process. The Keyfund process awards, incremental grants of £250 - £2000 to groups of young people giving them the opportunity to run projects and gain experiences previously beyond their reach. It uses these grants as an incentive for young people to organise something beyond their present capabilities and to progress through the four stages by designing and delivering increasingly more complex projects. It provides a tried and tested way for young people to develop the 12 Keyfund skills with the support of trained facilitators. In 2009-10, 927 young people registered with the Keyfund - 95% were aged between 13-19 years. Grants awarded amounted to over £36,000 - a further £26,500 has been reserved with Panel decisions awaited.

As part of a wrap around support package, youth workers are integrating provision with colleagues in Children's Social Care to provide 'out of hours' support to young people entering the newly established Supported Lodgings Scheme. Youth workers will be assisting young people with developing life skills and social skills that will help them make the transition from being looked after, into independent living. Included in this will be work that helps engage them with positive activities being provided within the areas where they are living.

A number of 4Youth information pages on the NYCC Website have been updated. The pages provide a more comprehensive outline and description of the work the service undertakes with young people in North Yorkshire. The pages can be viewed at <http://www.northyorks.gov.uk/index.aspx?articleid=12365>

Adult Learning and Skills Service

The new structure for the Adult Learning and Skills Service is now in place (effective from 1 May 2010). There are a number of vacancies that will be advertised shortly to ensure that we have a consistent approach in all the seven areas. Other vacancies (administration and one Deputy Area Adult Learning Manager) are being managed on an area by area basis.

Discussions on the area plans for 2010/11 are underway. The draft plans will be discussed at Area Committees in May/June for consultation with members. An update on the fee structure for 2010/11 will be included in the Area Committee report.

Learners are currently able to search for courses on line but from September 2010 the Adult Learning and Skills Service will have an on-line enrolment process in place. This system is currently being tested and this will be available to all learners across the County who might wish to enrol in this way. Other enrolment options (by telephone or face to face) will still be available.

Lead Accountable Body for Informal Adult Learning

The White Paper *The Learning Revolution* made the case for much greater coherence at a local level between informal adult learning and other key activities, including digital inclusion, family learning, citizenship, mental and physical wellbeing, health, culture and environmental awareness. It called for Local Authorities to develop the local strategic vision for informal adult learning and to lead the associated planning and funding functions as Lead Accountable Bodies (LAB). Following consultation with Executive Members, it has been agreed *in principle* that NYCC should be an LAB. There is now much work to do with the Skills Funding Agency to clarify/resolve a number of important issues before any final decision is taken or any commitment made by the County Council.

Access to Services

March saw the County Council resume responsibility for highways matters in Harrogate Town and the end of the highways agency agreement with Harrogate Borough Council. Highway fault calls that used to go to Harrogate Borough Council are now being handled directly by the County Council's own Customer Service Centre. The resources to handle these extra calls have been found by increased efficiency measures within the Centre where it is also possible to ensure consistency of messages to the public on highway matters. No significant difficulties have been identified which is, in part, testament to the good joint working between all relevant parties including Harrogate Borough Council.

Good progress has been made in the last year of the Local Area Agreement (LAA) for setting up joint access centres where the public can access a range of public services in one building. Of the original 34 sites, 31 are now fully operational and work is on-going to bring the remaining 3 into operation; it is expected they will all be operational within a further 12 months. This particular LAA target has therefore been exceeded with 82 % of the population of North Yorkshire now living within 5 miles of such a centre and the full amount of Reward Grant is therefore expected for this particular area.

North Yorkshire Strategic Partnership (NYSP)

Following a consultation with partners, the six-monthly meeting of NYSP Partnership has been scrapped because it not been working effectively as a strategic forum over the preceding 18 months. Instead it has been agreed that alternate meetings of Local Government North Yorkshire and York will be extended to include the Chairs of the Primary Care Trust, Police Authority and Fire and Rescue Authority. The aim of these extended meetings will be to secure the engagement and endorsement of the local authority Leaders and the Chairs of key local public sector partners to key items of NYSP business (for example the Sustainable Community Strategy and the Local Area Agreement) and other relevant issues.

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