

NORTH YORKSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

19 MAY 2010

CARE AND INDEPENDENCE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

STATEMENT BY THE CHAIRMAN

“The more we understand the more we can help”

Personalisation and Self-Directed Support

1. We have concluded that progress on this agenda is good and is on schedule to deliver services by 2011. Currently there are over 1,000 members of the public who have received Self-Directed Support Budgets.
2. We have highlighted a number of areas requiring further information which we plan to return to, we are especially interested in the demographic profile of people who have and still elect to receive Self-Directed payments. Currently the main service group is people with a learning disability; it would be satisfying to see an increase in other service user groups, particularly older people. How we communicate and make people aware of the options open under Personalisation will feature again in our work alongside other information on how other local authorities are faring and a brokerage agency to improve advocacy for individuals.

Shaping the Future – Consultation and Update

3. Having taken a keen interest in the work of Shaping the Future; a dialogue with the third sector in the county, the Committee turned its attention to Shaping the Market, which represents the second phase; a dialogue with the independent sector and the third sector over provision of services.
4. The future shape of adult care is a major issue for this county. The strategic direction is towards intensive support for individuals in the first weeks when they need it and then approaching the independent sector and third sector to provide long-term care. This brings into focus how the residential care sector in particular will need to adapt. It is fundamental that the County Council invests in early intervention and prevention but the difficulties in doing so are recognised. Providers can be selective in the number and nature of services they are providing.

5. The Committee raised some specific concerns with the consultation document:
 - Zoning for tendering in the light of European regulations.
 - Communication with the third sector over the implications of the changes and the tight timescales in respect of short-term funding.
 - Procurement rules, which might exclude a large proportion of the third sector for tendering for services.
 - The impact upon residential care.
 - The impact upon voluntary sector organisations in terms of losing skilled members and capacity.
6. The progress of this consultation is generally sound but there were a number of aspects we intend to pursue further with the directorate and representatives of the sector.

YHIP Dementia Report

7. We considered the conclusions of the Yorkshire and Humberside Improvement Peer Monitoring Review: Dementia Services. The conclusions mirror the Committee's opinion that a strong start has been made locally in delivering the aims of the National Dementia Strategy.
8. The Committee agreed with my suggestion that it is now time to review progress made against the National Dementia Strategy and what has happened since we published our report, endorsed by the Executive, at the beginning of 2009. We intend to do this at our September meeting with the support and assistance of the people, agencies and individuals who so strongly influenced our original proposal. The key question for us will be; what does it look like for individuals in our communities who have Dementia now we are one year into the Strategy? And how effectively agencies nationally, locally and regionally are working together to address this condition.

Valuing Employment Now: Task Group

9. The Task Group which is looking into improving pathways for employment hosted a recent workshop. The aim was to devise a series of actions that if undertaken would improve the County Council's and our partner's performance in assisting people with a learning disability into employment.

10. The themes that emerged ranged from seeking leadership and corporate commitment through to freeing up personnel processes so team managers feel they have the opportunity to explore the potential for opportunities to be created in the workplace.
11. The more we are able to make people with a learning disability financially independent the more this improves their quality of life and eases the increasing financial burden on social care.

Safeguarding Adults

12. I attended an excellent launch of the new Safeguarding Protocols and Procedures under the Safeguarding Adults Board. The level of integrated agency commitment to this agenda is impressive. It is though a comparatively new agenda to that of Safeguarding Children. Inter-agency support and leadership commitment now needs to be translated into community awareness and action. A point we will consider when we address what role local elected members as community leaders have and how their involvement, particularly on Local Safeguarding Boards, can be made real and effective.

**County Councillor Tony Hall
Chairman
Care and Independence Overview and Scrutiny Committee**

**County Hall
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**6 May 2010
Background Documents: Nil**