

NORTH YORKSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

21 JULY 2010

CARE AND INDEPENDENCE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

STATEMENT BY THE CHAIRMAN

“THE MORE WE UNDERSTAND THE MORE WE CAN HELP”

Scrutiny of Drugs and Alcohol Team

1. Drugs and alcohol misuse is both a major and growing national problem and is seen to impact upon North Yorkshire communities significantly. We agreed to include the work of the Drugs and Alcohol Action Team (DAAT) onto our work programme. The DAAT comprises a multi-agency partnership arrangement overseen by a Board and is responsible for delivering drugs and alcohol services in the county area.
2. An independent review of this partnership in summer 2009 highlighted its failings, poor performance and shortcomings especially in terms of governance and user involvement. The Committee views these concerns as serious enough to bring into question how well the community is being served by the current arrangement. For that reason we will pursue this further by ensuring that the recommendations that emerge from this independent review are acknowledged, are recognised and above all else are genuinely owned and acted upon by the DAAT Board.
3. Our objectives are to seek reassurances and evidence of strategic level commitment from the leaders of the partner organisations that make up the DAAT. We will look for identifiable and demonstrable evidence of change, and then assess whether it has been constructive and productive for North Yorkshire communities. This means an examination of the effectiveness with which each of the recommendations of that strategic review are being approached especially how they affect the pattern and access to local services.
4. In the medium to long-term the Committee will consider broader themes such as the balance of commissioning activity between drugs awareness and treatment and alcohol misuse, which is seen by many as the more urgent and wider problem for North Yorkshire.
5. That implies weighing up wider factors relating to service delivery arrangements in the county, funding arrangements and assessment of the effectiveness of multi-agency working.

6. This intended wide ranging brief touches upon elements of the new Corporate and Partnerships Overview and Scrutiny Committee terms of reference. That Committee has been invited to participate fully in the review.

Dementia Meeting

7. It is over 18 months since the completion of work by this Committee on Dementia. It is time to look at what the picture looks like for people with Dementia, their carers and the wider community since the launch of the National Dementia Strategy in 2009.
8. We have agreed that our September meeting will be turned over completely to a review, of how the NDS been interpreted nationally, regionally and locally, what has changed and is the position the committee adopted over a year ago still relevant?

Update on Implementing Telecare

9. The use of Telecare is a key priority for North Yorkshire and can allow people to stay at home longer, give more control over their lives and allow them to manage risks effectively.
10. The Committee maintains a strong interest in this area since the completion of an in-depth review in 2008. The Committee was pleased to see a continuing investment in its development with now over 2,000 people and their carers benefiting from enhanced packages. Telecare is now embedded into mainstream practice and performance management. It is integrated into the design and ethos of extra-care expectations and service specifications for domiciliary care. In addition, there is an expectation from commissioned services that they use Telecare to deliver outcomes.
11. A realistic but challenging target has been set for 2010 for 20% of all people receiving services to have Telecare as part of their solution. All this activity has resulted in considerable national and local recognition.

COUNTY COUNCILLOR TONY HALL
Chairman
Care & Independence Overview & Scrutiny Committee

County Hall
Northallerton
8 July 2010

Background Documents: Nil