

NORTH YORKSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

15 December 2010

STATEMENT OF CHILDREN'S SERVICES PORTFOLIO HOLDER

COUNTY COUNCILLOR CAROLINE PATMORE

Medium Term Financial Strategy

The statement to Council on 13 October 2010 set out the approach being taken under the Children and Young People's Service Savings and Transformation Strategy. Members will recall that it is committed to giving highest priority to frontline services, while acknowledging that the scale of savings needed means that they cannot be protected completely. That commitment is reflected in the detailed savings proposals as they are being developed against the July target. In relation to staffing, for example, it is likely that the overall reduction in numbers will exceed 250, but weighted so that strategic support services would reduce by a significantly higher percentage (probably exceeding 25%) than the frontline (possibly around 8%).

In order to reach the £19.47 million target linked to the Comprehensive Spending Review, further reductions will be made in strategic and support costs beyond those previously envisaged. It appears inescapable at this stage, however, that further savings will also need to be made in frontline services, albeit as the measures of last resort. Such changes will be made through a combination of reviewing how some provision is delivered, what levels of service can be provided, and where charges may need to be extended or increased.

Every effort will be made to maximise service levels by doing things differently, reviewing practice for greatest impact on outcomes and ensuring the most cost effective approaches are used. Any potential use of charging in new areas of provision (eg in relation to transport or Children's Centres) will also be considered with careful attention to impact. Such changes would involve possible changes to legislation and significant consultation.

The Directorate remains on target to deliver the cash target for 2010/11. This includes savings made against most of the projects in the CYPS Strategy. Savings for future years have been, and will continue to be, set in train through extensive reviews of policies and services (which include ways of working and use of varied providers). Fundamental review work is currently at consultation stage on:

- Project 1 – Business Support and Administration
- Project 3 – Integrated Services
- Project 4 – Integrated Youth Support and Youth Service
- Project 5 – Quality and Improvement – School Improvement Functions
- Project 7 – Home to School Transport – Review of Discretionary Entitlements
- Project 10 – Outdoor Education

Savings are being achieved or planned through normal management processes under Project 8 (Procurement), Project 11 (Efficiencies arising from SEN/BESD review implementation), Projects 12 and 13 (Staff and management productivity additional to other projects). Where more fundamental reviews are required in any of these areas, formal proposals will proceed through normal consultation procedures with staff, unions, parents, schools and partners as appropriate.

Savings required under Project 14 (Ingleborough Centre) have been secured through consultation with professional associations, the Schools Forum and key local stakeholders as appropriate.

Under Project 17 (Integration of Assessment and Commissioning for Children with Learning Difficulties and Disabilities), the policy direction has been agreed, based on extensive discussion

with partners and parent representatives. Detailed savings proposals, based principally on efficiencies, will be brought forward in due course.

The Adult Learning and Skills Service is also now formally consulting with Skills for Life, Family Learning and other substantive staff to consider proposals on the management structure for these two curriculum areas and proposals to ensure that the service is offering a cost effective delivery model that is accessible to learners across all areas of the county.

Youth Council Developments

There are currently 16 youth councils in operation in North Yorkshire at varying stages of development. Although supported by 4Youth and, in some cases, District Councils and North Yorkshire Youth, the councils act as independent bodies and are completely young people led. The youth council network is supported by a full time 4Youth worker who also has responsibilities for Keyfund. The North Yorkshire Youth Council (NYYC) is made up of two representatives elected from each of the area youth councils and meets 6 times per year in York. Three NYYC members have been elected by their peers as UK Youth Parliament MPs and as part of their duties attended recently a debate held in the House of Commons in October.

County Councillor Caroline Patmore
Executive Member for Children's Services