

**NORTH YORKSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL****15 December 2010****STATEMENT OF THE COMMUNITY SERVICES PORTFOLIO HOLDER  
(Adult Social Care, Library and Information Services)****Budget**

Concentration on the budget continues to be the priority of the Corporate Director, Adult and Community Services, and his senior management team. This is both for the current year to ensure that savings projects yield anticipated savings of £8.3m and also for the following four years now that requirements of the coalition government's stringent savings programme are known. Adult and Community Services are working to an anticipated budget cut of £20.5m and this means that some very difficult and painful decisions have to be made whilst, at the same time, allowing the directorate to initiate new, more cost effective ways of protecting vulnerable people, producing better outcomes for people and developing alternative ways of delivering services.

**Adult Social Care Operations**

Adult and Community Services is expecting to have to make savings in excess of £18m from the above services. The Directorate will be consulting on the closure of 9 out of its 18 Elderly People's Homes whilst planning to develop more Extra Care housing initiatives to foster a better quality of life for those people who still require some residential provision. ACS is continuing to offer a range of preventative services, such as befriending and drop in schemes, and telecare, alongside other assistive technology, all aimed at keeping people independent and in their own homes for as long as possible. Adult Social Care Operations has also developed an initiative using a special short term reablement team (START) for people seeking adult social care. The START team works intensively with people for up to six weeks after, for example, an illness, enabling people to become more independent and to require a much reduced service after this period of enhanced support.

**Library Services**

The Library Services is expecting to make cuts of over £2m from its budget and therefore Adult and Community Services is consulting on proposals to concentrate its resources on two supermobiles and the 18 branch libraries that are the most used and most conveniently located in the county. At the same time it will be retaining first class library facilities and fostering, wherever feasible, library outlets run by communities but with professional support from the library service. Members may recall that I spoke in October about Hawes Library being transferred to the community and also about the launch of the Grassington Hub partnership, including the new Grassington library.

## **Rating for Adult Social Care**

I am pleased to tell you that NYCC has been awarded the top “Excellent” rating for Adult Social Care Services by the Care Quality Commission and has been judged as continuing to deliver excellent outcomes for the people of North Yorkshire. This is the third year running that NYCC has gained the top “excellent” rating for its performance in Adult Social Care and this is a reflection of staff’s tremendous commitment and very hard work.

This is a major achievement against the challenging economic climate, an aging population and ever increasing demand for adult social care services.

## **Staff Achievement**

The Great Yorkshire and Humber Care Awards evening was held recently and a number of our staff were nominated under several categories of award. The awards offer an opportunity to celebrate the incredible achievements of people who work in the region’s social care sector and I am delighted that Adult Social Care Operations received so many nominations. I would like to congratulate in particular Tracy Fullard, from the Craven and Harrogate area, who won the regional Care Home Registered Manager award and will now go forward to the national finals in May.

## **County Councillor Chris Metcalfe**