

NORTH YORKSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

15 DECEMBER 2010

CARE AND INDEPENDENCE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

STATEMENT BY THE CHAIRMAN

*“THE MORE WE UNDERSTAND THE MORE WE CAN HELP”***Reablement**

1. Reablement aims to restore personal autonomy for people in those aspects of daily living considered most relevant by service users and their family carers. The service is characterised by support from trained staff spending more time with people in the early stages after an illness or accident to explore their motivation and goals and to see whether their earlier independence can be restored.
2. The Committee will now review the shape, impact and effectiveness of Reablement services in North Yorkshire. This starts with an assessment of how effective these practices have been in the community, what service users expectations are and how we handle implementation across the County.

Drugs and Alcohol Team – In-depth Review

3. We responded to concerns about the performance of the Drugs and Alcohol Action Team (DAAT) by reviewing how well it was serving the community. An independent assessment found weaknesses in the DAAT in terms of service delivery, governance and user and care involvement. The study brought forward 30 recommendations that, if implemented, would make it fit for purpose. Having looked at progress the Committee concluded that -
 - there was demonstrable evidence of positive activity and relevant change;
 - progress against the 30 recommendations of the independent review has been both impressive and timely; and
 - there is clear evidence of strategic level commitment from the partner organisations that make up the DAAT, now renamed the Substance Abuse Board.
4. This completes stage 1 of the short-term objectives of our review, for the medium and long-term the scope broadens out to include more thematic issues around the balance of activity between drugs awareness and treatment and alcohol misuse.

5. We start this in February by entering into a dialogue with representatives of provider organisations, service users and carers and practitioners on the ground. This will lead onto a study of how commissioning activity addresses the corrosive effects of substance abuse especially the balance between investment in alcohol and drug treatment services.

Stroke Awareness and Recognition

6. The Committee was pleased to support the findings of the Member Task Group on Stroke Awareness, Prevention and Recognition. This will contribute to work by the NHS locally to develop improved stroke services against the National Stroke Strategy published in 2007.

Budget Savings - Scrutiny Committee

7. By the time the papers for the County Council have been despatched we will have considered proposals for how the Adult and Community Services Directorate intends to deliver its contribution towards the County Council's required budget savings over the period 2010/11 to 2014/15. These come before us at the same time as the publication of the Government's "Vision for Adult Social Care". This stresses the importance of putting people at the heart of their own care. The message running through the Government's vision is that social care is not about 'them' – it is about us all.
8. The vision informs the White Paper on care and support due at the end of next year. It focuses primarily on personalised services, provision of individual budgets to eligible people and delivery of care and support in partnership between individuals, communities, the voluntary sector, the NHS, councils and wider support services.
9. As authorities devolve commissioning responsibility to individuals via personal budgets, the emphasis is on working with providers to broaden the market of care services, particularly small social enterprises, so that individuals can exercise real choice over care services. I would expect this aspect in particular to be one of the main features of the Committee's work over the next eighteen months.

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

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NORTHALLERTON
1 December 2010 - Background documents: Nil