

NORTH YORKSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

16 FEBRUARY 2011

CARE AND INDEPENDENCE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

CHAIRMAN'S STATEMENT

"THE MORE WE UNDERSTAND THE MORE WE CAN HELP"

Dementia Declaration

1. The Committee has long prioritised Dementia in its work because it is one of the greatest challenges facing our ageing society. We now turn our attention to themes where elected member interest will add the most value:-
 1. Contributing to improving awareness and support by helping to change attitudes in the wider community to people with Dementia.
 2. Championing elected member participation corporately but especially in localities by participation in local Dementia forums.
2. We will make progress on the first by committing to sign the National Dementia Declaration launched on Dignity Day, Friday 25 February 2011. On the second, we will find ways of connecting elected members to local involvement forums. These bring together people with Dementia, carers, health and social care professionals and others to understand the local experience of people with Dementia and work out solutions.

Annual Performance Assessment for Adult Social Care

3. We were pleased to receive a copy of the Commission for Social Care Inspection, which advises the County Council of the outcome of the Adult Social Care Services Annual Performance Assessment. The report was supportive of the work of the directorate.
4. The Committee has asked me to write on its behalf to all members of staff, via the Director, congratulating them on this achievement in such difficult circumstances and against a backcloth of budget uncertainty.

Annual Report by the Older Peoples' Champion

5. It was pleasing to read the tenth Older Peoples' Champion Report. County Councillor Shelagh Marshall has again achieved a great deal,

reflected in the wealth of useful and wide-ranging information in her review of the year of older peoples issues.

6. It is a privilege to have someone who campaigns tirelessly on the national, regional and local stage as our Older Peoples Champion.

Drugs and Alcohol Commissioning In-depth Review

7. Our earlier work on substance misuse focussed on the improvements to governance of the Drugs and Alcohol Action Team Board. We will now assess how far the Board's actions are working by hearing the reaction from stakeholders, providers, users and carers. Do they share the Substance Abuse Board's view of its own success?
8. This will lead us onto a much broader discussion on drug and alcohol use. The questions we will ask cover –
 - ❖ How the Committee moves the alcohol commissioning intervention and prevention agenda forward including -
 - ❖ Looking at the balance in commissioning activity between drug and alcohol treatment; what would an effective transformation of services look like and how might we plan for delivery?
 - ❖ What is the bigger picture around intervention and the notion that more money spent on intervention and preventative services, especially on combating alcohol abuse, benefits other services 'upstream' (especially Health) .
 - ❖ How are elected Members to be involved as place shapers/community leaders so that as this debate broadens, their expectations are understood?
 - ❖ To what extent can the Committee/Elected Members press for these to be priorities for the Director of Public Health especially as public health responsibilities are incorporated within local authorities?
9. I am pleased that the Corporate and Partnerships Overview and Scrutiny Committee has agreed to participate in this review.

Extra Care Housing

10. The relationship between the status of nine residential care homes and extra care development is under discussion by the Executive. There is great scope for the involvement of partner organisations and other providers with wide ranging benefits for not just residents but other public services and facilities.

11. This means seeing extra care as more than just a property with social care support, in a number of locations, it has already proven to be an important and vibrant part of the social and economic fabric of a community.
12. The message from the Committee is that the county council stays open minded about the potential of innovative and entrepreneurial approaches, especially when the length of an ECH development project can be two to three years.

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

County Hall
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4 February 2011

Background Documents: None