

NORTH YORKSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

18 MAY 2011

CARE AND INDEPENDENCE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

CHAIRMAN'S STATEMENT

“THE MORE WE UNDERSTAND THE MORE WE CAN HELP”Complex Needs

1. In common with many other local authorities, North Yorkshire has insufficient specialist local provision to meet the needs of people with a disability who have complex needs. As a result, a number of people requiring a specialist level of care have been placed in agencies across the country.
2. We saw during the budget setting process the financial significance of this issue. Care packages in out of county placements vary in cost from approximately £500 per week (£26,000 per annum) up to approximately £2,500 per week (£130,000 per annum).
3. Whilst in some circumstances, due to the very specialist nature of the medical condition, a placement in a dedicated agency is required; out of county placements have disadvantages:
 - Progress is difficult to monitor with the potential risk of missing opportunities to move people to more ordinary ways of living.
 - Many are in residential or nursing care; supported accommodation is often a better housing model
 - Individuals gradually lose important links with their peers.
 - Families can face obstacles in maintaining regular visits.
 - Out of county placements, reduce opportunities for employment by residents of North Yorkshire.
4. Our primary interest is 'out of county' care providers with the most expensive placements, we will therefore keep a weather eye on the review of the provision of services for people with complex needs this area of activity.

Call In: Care Charging

5. We considered a “call in” of the Executive Members decision on 14 March 2011 regarding “Unit Costs for Adults Services – Revised Schedule of Charges for Full Cost Payers”. We were already familiar with this topic having received briefings leading up to and during the consultation exercise on the new charging scheme.
6. Our discussion focussed upon the underlying reasons for these proposals, i.e., social care services need to change to support the move towards personal budgets. We were reassured that the effect of the charges would be closely monitored with regular reports provided to the Committee. After

weighing up both sides of the argument, we could not support the call in and therefore did not refer the matter back to the decision taker or to full Council.

7. The signatories to the call in have been invited to attend the September meeting of the Committee when we will take the first of a series of monitoring reports on the impact of the new charges.

Substance Misuse

8. I have reported previously on the review of the Substance Misuse Board. Work now turned to the balance between drugs awareness and treatment and that for alcohol misuse, focussing especially on how to reduce alcohol related harm.
9. Understanding the impact of commissioning efforts to tackle the effects of alcohol misuse needs to be considered against a backcloth of changed structural arrangements within the National Health Service. The question was how to reallocate resources to intervention and preventative services, especially on combating alcohol abuse, which then benefits other services 'upstream' (especially Health). We heard that a regional profiling report had concluded that the level of alcohol related harm across the region had increased considerably over the last 6 years. The argument in support of public health initiatives to reduce the level of alcohol related harm was overwhelming.
10. We have agreed to work with the Substance Misuse Commissioning Team on a countywide partnership strategy on combating alcohol misuse and related harm. The purpose is to set out an agreed approach to reducing alcohol-related harm in North Yorkshire and York amongst local partners. It will provide direction for commissioning and delivering treatment, prevention and harm reduction interventions in line with the priorities of partners. Some of the expected benefits include:
 - A reduction in the increase in alcohol-related hospital admissions
 - A reduction in alcohol-related crime
 - An increase the proportion of dependent drinkers in treatment
11. When completed, the Committee will decide how, with the support of partners, the County Council might assume leadership of this agenda.

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

County Hall
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4 May 2011

Background Documents: None