

NORTH YORKSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

20 July 2011

STATEMENT OF THE ADULT SOCIAL CARE SERVICES PORTFOLIO HOLDER COUNTY COUNCILLOR CLARE WOOD

Budget Position

The Directorate continues to focus on the Budget. The positive outcome in 2010-11 was particularly pleasing given the early indications of a significant overspend earlier in the financial year. However we are now in a new financial year and the challenge is renewed; agreed savings are required and the growth in service demand continues.

The Directorate continues to keep a close attention on high cost packages, review the support people need to remain at home safely and introduce reablement at the first point of contact. I will say more about the success of this initiative later. Overall the financial position is challenging and we will continue to closely monitor our spending position and maximise savings opportunities where ever possible to deliver a balanced budget.

Management Board Changes

As you know Derek Law will be retiring from the County Council and Derek's last working day will be 12 August. The appointment process for new Director is well under way with interviews taking place on 14 and 15 July, and the Directorate has restructured and renamed as Health and Adult Services.

Changes within the Directorate have taken place to take on the new roles arising from the changing health arrangements.

Adult Social Care Restructure

We have completed the interviewing process for the restructure and appointments are now confirmed for all managers within the service. This has reduced the numbers and tiers of middle management in operational services and we have also invested some of the savings from this process into additional front line workers.

We are now involved in the second phase of the restructure which is focussed on changing the culture within Adult Social Care Services to be consistent and more cost effective. This includes the focus on reablement as the entry-level offer for Social Care and also incorporates the principles of personalisation for people with ongoing needs. The implementation date for the changes to the structure has now been agreed as the 12 September but there is a great deal of work being undertaken at the moment in order to ensure that this transition happens as seamlessly as possible.

Reablement

Members will now be familiar with the implementation of reablement and the work of the Short Term Assessment and Reablement Team (START). This innovation has meant that, when people in North Yorkshire need social care support, they will first be offered up to six weeks of intensive support to ensure that they are able to optimise their independence.

The aim is to support people to get back in control of their lives, helping them to be as confident as realistically possible in their own skills and abilities. The service is for all, including people with a learning disability and those with mental health issues.

Although there have been challenges to the implementation of START, such as the size of our county and the sparsity of the population, nevertheless I am pleased to say that reablement has been a tremendous success both for the people of North Yorkshire and for the Council. The people receiving the service are more confident and independent and are spending less on long term support while NYCC has seen a reduction in costs of ongoing support and this has enabled Health and Adult Services to support more people within the same cost envelope.

Voluntary Sector and Innovation Fund

Work has continued with the voluntary sector to look at new structures and to achieve the efficiencies that are required. Discussions with the former infrastructure organisations, which will now be known as Local Service and Development Organisations, are practically complete in order to have one contract which will be managed through the Chief Executive's Group. Individual voluntary sector organisations have all been subject to an annual review process and the outcome of these reviews is currently being discussed with the organisations.

The first round of applications for the Innovation Fund is currently being evaluated and considered. The fund totals approximately £1.5m over the next three years and is funded from the Performance Reward Grant. Two further rounds will be open to bids later this year and in 2012/13.

CLARE WOOD