

## NORTH YORKSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

20 JULY 2011

### STATEMENT OF CHILDREN'S SERVICES (CHILDREN'S ACT 2004), SPECIAL EDUCATION NEEDS AND YOUTH JUSTICE CHIEF EXECUTIVE GROUP SERVICES PORTFOLIO HOLDER

COUNTY COUNCILLOR CARL LES

#### **Medium Term Financial Strategy**

The Statement to Council on 13 October 2010 set out the approach being taken under the Children and Young People's Service Savings and Transformation Strategy which is committed to giving highest priority to frontline services, while acknowledging that the scale of savings needed means that they cannot be protected completely. The service is on course to deliver this year's target savings of £9.150 million and a more detailed report will be made to Members in the near future.

This information appears in the Statements to Council for both Executive Members for the Children and Young People's Service as this reflects their joint responsibility for all the relevant resources.

#### **Queen's Birthday Honours**

I am delighted to tell you that Howard Smith, the Commissioning manager in Children's Social Care received an MBE in the Queen's 2011 Birthday Honours list. Howard has worked for North Yorkshire County Council for 27 years and was recognized for his outstanding work with looked after children

#### **Adoption Service Inspection**

North Yorkshire's adoption service was inspected in May 2011. This is a two year inspection programme that scores local authorities in five categories:

1. Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe
2. Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do
3. Helping children make a positive contribution
4. Organisation
5. Overall summary and rating

The inspectorate judged North Yorkshire to be outstanding in all five categories, which is an exceptional achievement and the inspection report commented that "children coming into North Yorkshire County Council Adoption Service receive outstanding quality of care, children make significant progress and achieve demonstrable and measurable improvement across all outcome areas". Out of 152 Local authorities that have been inspected there is only one other that has achieved this rating.

#### **Adoption Conference**

The Adoption Conference is an annual event at which adopters, foster parents, staff from a range of agencies and all the relevant parts of the Children and Young People's Service come together to celebrate good practice and to look at how we can improve things further. This year's conference, held on 1 July 2011, took a broad look at how to help adopters and adopted children enjoy a rounded approach to life. Local and national speakers led the day and initial evaluations show that it has once again been a very positive event.

#### **The Munro Report**

The final report of the Munro Review of Child Protection was published on 10 May 2011 bringing to a close the wide ranging review started in July 2010. Professor Munro concluded that a "one size fits all" approach to child protection was preventing local areas from focussing on the child and recommended that local areas be given more flexibility to design their own child protection services. The full report, together with recommendations, can be downloaded at <http://www.education.gov.uk/munroreview/>. The Government response to Professor Munro's recommendations is expected later in the year.

### **Woodleigh Children's Home- Outreach Service**

Woodleigh Outreach Service have won the European Risk Management Award for the Best Risk Management Approach in the Public Sector. They were finalists alongside Ealing Council, London Underground, London Borough of Newham and London Borough of Lambeth. The judges found it particularly interesting how Woodleigh linked human behaviour with the management of risk when providing young people with single event and residential adventure activity experiences and awarded them winners of there category.

### **Hookstone Chase Community Primary School – Change in Provision for Special Educational Needs**

The Executive has determined the Statutory Notice to change the provision for Special Educational Needs at Hookstone Chase. It is now an Enhanced Mainstream School for children with Communication and Interaction Needs. This concludes the programme to provide more specialist support in mainstream schools. All 25 Enhanced Mainstream Schools are now offering outreach support to neighbouring schools and are able to take small numbers of additional children on an in-reach basis.

Directorate restructurings resulting from the budget cuts continue. The majority have concluded but there are a number still ongoing or due to start, notably Learning Disabilities Services in ACS, Quality & Improvement, Outdoor Education, Adult Learning and Skills Youth Support and Youth Justice in CYPS.

The current position is (as of 4 July 2011)

- Workforce numbers at 6088 FTE compared to 6432 as of 31.3.10 – a reduction of 344 FTEs and some 400 posts
- 140 staff have been redeployed,
- 102 redundancies including 23 voluntary
- 57 staff notified of redundancy awaiting redeployment, if possible.

Work on the "One Council" workstreams is underway. Internal communications with our staff is as important as ever during this ongoing period of change. The staff intranet provides an increasing wealth of information for staff (and members) on One Council and the progress it is making, with specific issues highlighted. Sessions for staff with the Chief Executive continue and there will be more opportunities for staff to get involved as part of the wider engagement sessions which will start shortly.

The council will be launching a new e-newsletter for the public and customers next month. Available online through the council's website, with alerts sent to subscribers, the newsletter will keep residents up to date with council services, events and news. It will be published fortnightly, with work currently underway on setting up the technology and subscriptions to support it.

### **Armed Forces Community Covenant**

North Yorkshire County Council was among a number of military and civilian organisations that signed the North Yorkshire Armed Forces Community Covenant during its launch on 30 June 2011.

The covenant aims to support military communities and to recognise the sacrifices made by members of the armed forces. It aims to ensure that service personnel, families and veterans get help and support they need and are treated with the dignity that they deserve.

North Yorkshire was chosen as one of the first places in the UK to sign up to a community covenant, in recognition of the work which already takes place to support service personnel, families and veterans. The military presence in North Yorkshire is hugely significant and beneficial for the county - both socially and economically.

### **Consultation on refreshed sustainable community strategy**

The North Yorkshire Strategic Partnership (NYSP) published the current sustainable community strategy in 2008. It contained a ten-year vision to make North Yorkshire a better place in which to live, work and visit; and ten priorities to achieve this vision.

A public consultation has recently been launched on a draft refreshed and more focused strategy, to ensure that it continues to focus on those issues that are critical to local communities at this time of reduced public expenditure. The draft has three priorities, all of which require partnership efforts to be tackled effectively:

- protecting and supporting vulnerable people
- supporting economic growth and employment
- improving accessibility for all our communities

The consultation draft is available from [www.northyorks.gov.uk/scs](http://www.northyorks.gov.uk/scs) and the consultation will close on 23 September 2011. Following the consultation period the strategy will be worked up further and will be presented to the County Council in December 2011 for final approval.

### **Local information system**

In June the County Council and public sector partners, including district councils, City of York Council and North Yorkshire Police, launched STREAM.

STREAM is a shared resource and single point of data, providing a 'one stop shop' for information, statistics, research and mapping. It provides organisations and members of the public with online access to population, employment, economic, community safety, health and education data from local and national sources. Users are able to look at trends in the data and create maps, charts and area profiles for use in reports, funding applications and strategic documents.

STREAM can be accessed at [www.streamlis.org.uk](http://www.streamlis.org.uk) and has replaced the neighbourhood profiles previously available on the County Council's website.

### **Broadband and Connecting North Yorkshire**

The 'Connecting North Yorkshire' project, which is led by the County Council, has received Government funding of up to £16.4 million to bring high-speed broadband to all in the County by 2017. The funding has been granted by Broadband Delivery UK (BDUK), a Government organisation tasked with ensuring that all areas of the UK can get broadband access. North Yorkshire was chosen in October 2010 as one of four areas for a pilot rural broadband project. The ability to offer services such as remote access to computers and servers, video-conferencing, web-meetings and access to a company telephony system, will help to put North Yorkshire on a level playing field with the major cities such as Leeds and London when it comes to broadband access.

## **One Council Organisational Change Programme**

Work continues in developing and progressing the One Council Organisational Change Programme. Members will recollect that this issue was covered in the Members Seminar on 18 April 2011 and the Executive has received an update on 5 July. Intensive work is now taking place in order to produce more detailed plans by the end of September. This is a large and complex programme and there are likely to be many interdependencies so it is important that a robust plan is produced.

Communications with staff are referred to earlier in my statement. Members will also be kept up to date by Members News, Members Seminars whilst the Corporate and Partnerships Overview and Scrutiny Committee and the Audit Committee will regularly monitor progress. The Executive are also to receive regular updates in recognition of the value of the One Council Change Programme.

**County Councillor Carl Les**

**Executive Member for Children's Services (Children's Act 2004) Special Education Needs and Youth Justice, Chief Executive Group Services**