

NORTH YORKSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

12 October 2011

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

Appointment of the New Corporate Director – Health and Adult Services Directorate

You will all be aware by now that Health and Adult Services has appointed its new Corporate Director, Helen Taylor. Helen started in her post on 10 October, and I am sure you will want to join me in welcoming Helen to North Yorkshire County Council and to her first meeting of the County Council. Helen was the Director of Adults Health and Wellbeing for the London Borough of Tower Hamlets. Most of her career has been spent in rural shire areas and she has extensive experience in Health and Social Care having worked at all levels in both Local Government and the NHS. She was also the national policy lead on Social Care and Older People for the Audit Commission. Helen I know is delighted to join us and is looking forward to getting back to her Yorkshire roots.

Adult Social Care Vision

Health and Adult Services published its new vision for adult social care on Thursday 15 September 2011.

The vision emphasises the importance of supporting people to live independent, active and fulfilling lives using innovative thinking to look beyond council services to existing support and networks in local communities.

The vision is described in a series of three booklets and stresses the importance of developing a different relationship between North Yorkshire County Council and the communities it serves. The vision focuses on a move from a situation where people depend on our services to one where everyone can help to have control over their own lives. The booklets setting out the vision are available on the Council's web site. The first of these has already been considered at the meeting of the Care and Independence Overview and Scrutiny Committee and booklets two and three will be considered at their next meeting on 10 November. A letter with these details has been sent to all County Councillors.

The Voluntary Sector Innovation Fund

Members will be aware that an Innovation Fund has been set up using funds secured through the Performance Reward Grant. The Council has made £1.5M available for the voluntary sector over three years and voluntary sector organisations can bid for this funding in tranches of £500,000 for 2011/12, £578,000 for 2012/13 and £500,000 for 2013/14. The purpose of the Innovation Fund is to help our voluntary sector partners to develop innovative local services for the most vulnerable to live healthy independent lives in our communities.

I am pleased to confirm that we have completed the first bidding round where £325k has been allocated to a range of voluntary organisations who have embraced the "innovation challenge" and come forward with some excellent ideas. Successful schemes included those that supported active ageing and day activities for older people, which will help to keep people healthy and well. We will also be holding a Voluntary Sector "Innovation Day" where all the successful bidders will present their innovative schemes to the wider sector to help organisations prepare for the second round of bids to be held next year.

Extra Care

The Executive has agreed to the first stages of a procurement process for the provision of further extra care housing developments in North Yorkshire. The process will lead to the selection of a partner to provide up to 30 developments by the end of 2020. A European Procurement Notice seeking expressions of interest will be the first part of the formal process and follows on from a period of market testing.

Since the last full council meeting I am extremely pleased to announce that a successful official opening took place of the extra care facility at Popplewell Springs in Tadcaster. Following this, the latest development at Greyfriars, Richmond has been completed and the first group of people have moved in. This group includes those who were resident in Richmond House, the NYCC elderly persons home, and the sheltered housing complex on which the new development is sited. An official opening ceremony is planned for later in the year.

CLARE WOOD