

NORTH YORKSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

14 December 2011

SCRUTINY BOARD

STATEMENT BY THE CHAIRMAN

Scrutiny Board met on 16 December 2011.

As is usual practice fellow chairmen summarised the work of their Committee and County Councillors Shelagh Marshall and Tim Swales summarised their activities as the Older Peoples' Champion and the Young Peoples' Champion respectively. There is clearly a lot of excellent work taking place across the County and I commend my colleagues for their efforts. In addition to these updates we also discussed the following specific topics:

Scrutiny Arrangements at the District / Borough Councils

We considered a short report on scrutiny arrangements at the district and borough councils in the County and looked briefly at the type of projects they were involved in. We found that they are involved in a wide range of projects, some of which are akin to the work of our scrutiny committees, but perhaps the most significant factor was that similar arrangements exist for identifying scrutiny topics. In particular we noted how all scrutiny committees work closely with directorates to identify emerging issues before they reach the Executive/Cabinet.

Update on the health changes

To some extent we revisited issues discussed at the recent members seminar, but it did give us an opportunity to consider in more detail how the changes would impact on scrutiny committees. The general feeling was that when the Health and Wellbeing Board becomes fully operational and we take over responsibility for health improvement there will be significant opportunities for all overview and scrutiny committees to make a positive contribution.

Finally I would just like to mention that I attended the Yorkshire and Humber Scrutiny Network on Friday, 2 December 2011 in York for elected members and scrutiny support officers. It focussed on the Health and Social Care Bill and the Localism Bill and how they will impact on scrutiny. Echoing my comments above, the event highlighted how there will be new challenges and opportunities for overview and scrutiny committees as initiatives gather pace to involve the community and voluntary sector in direct service delivery and GPs take on the commissioning of healthcare services.

County Councillor John Blackburn
Chairman of Scrutiny Board

6 December 2011