

NORTH YORKSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL**14 DECEMBER 2011****SCRUTINY OF HEALTH COMMITTEE – STATEMENT BY THE CHAIRMAN**

The work of the Scrutiny of Health Committee and its involvement in health care developments across North Yorkshire that I would like to highlight since the last County Council are set out below.

1. North Yorkshire Review of Health Services 2011

Following my letter of 22 September 2011 to Bill McCarthy, the then Chief Executive of NHS Yorkshire and Humber, I received a reply from Alan Wittrick, Director of Finance in which he gave an undertaking that the Scrutiny of Health Committee will be kept updated on developments. Since receiving that letter Alan has been appointed as the Project Lead to take forward the review. Work is now taking place to look at the overall management and governance of the project including the role of both North Yorkshire and York Shadow Health and Wellbeing Boards.

2. Review of Children's Congenital Heart Services in England

The Royal Brompton Hospital in London has been successful in seeking a judicial review into the review's consultation process. The Yorkshire and Humber Joint Scrutiny Committee in its response also expressed deep concerns about the process and that no decision should be taken on children's cardiac surgery until the proposals for adults heart surgery can be taken into account - a consultation on which is imminent.

If the Royal Brompton ruling is upheld, the consultation will almost certainly have to be carried out again.

3. Establishing a North Yorkshire Health and Wellbeing Board

At our Committee meeting on 18 November 2011 we were very supportive of plans to establish of a Shadow Health & Wellbeing Board (H&WB) for North Yorkshire. In particular we agreed that the Board should have a strategic role and that it was more likely to be successful if its overall size was tightly controlled. Notwithstanding this there were comments that the community/voluntary sector should be represented. We felt that consideration should be given to allocating seats on the Board to more than just one District Leader and Chief Executive. We also felt that whether or not acute providers should be included on the Board would need careful thought. We noted that an Adult Partnership reporting to the Board is being planned and we agreed that this would provide an appropriate forum for providers to influence developments.

4. **Substance Misuse Tender in Scarborough, Whitby & Ryedale**

NHS North Yorkshire and York has launched a tendering exercise to procure a new provider for this service. We heard how the main driver behind this decision was the fact that the existing service, involving a number of providers, is too fragmented. Consequently it is difficult to establish the overall level of quality of the service being provided. Members also highlighted how the biggest problem in North Yorkshire was alcohol misuse not drugs.

The closing date for tenders was 1 December and we look forward to receiving further updates on how, with a new provider, the service is developing.

5. **Development of a Strategy for Healthcare Services In Whitby**

The Locality Director, Hambleton, Richmondshire and Whitby, NHS North Yorkshire & York summarised work taking place, involving the GP Clinical Commissioning Group, to develop a long term sustainable plan for the future of Whitby Hospital. A key element of this work is to consider the future role of the theatres for day case surgery. With this in mind work is currently taking place with both the Scarborough and York NHS Trusts to establish the level of demand for such procedures. This work will be completed in January 2012.

The future of the hospital is inextricably linked to the Review of Healthcare Services across North Yorkshire - the work that Alan Wittrick is now leading.

The Locality Director has given an undertaking to return to the Committee at its meeting on 27 January 2011 to provide update on progress.

6. **Bradford District NHS Care Trust And The Yorkshire Ambulance Service Applications For Foundation Status**

We felt strongly that in both consultations there was insufficient representation from local authorities on their proposed Council of Governors. In the case of the Bradford District Care Trust we felt that in addition to a councillor from Craven District Council the County Council should be represented as indeed the Trust proposed in its original consultation on this matter in 2009.

In the case of the Yorkshire Ambulance Service which covers 22 local authorities, out of 24 governors, only 2 will be from local authorities. As part of its governance arrangements the Trust is proposing to have 4 public constituencies – North Yorkshire, West Yorkshire, East Yorkshire and South Yorkshire from which members of the public appointed to the board will be drawn. We felt that there should be a local authority representative from each of these constituencies and in the case of the North Yorkshire constituency the local authority representative should come from the County Council. We did acknowledge that if the Trust were to adopt this proposal it would probably need to increase the total number of governors beyond their current proposal of 24 members.

7. Accident and Emergency at Pontefract Hospital

In October 2011 the Mid Yorkshire Trust Board agreed the recommendation from senior clinicians to temporarily close the Pontefract Emergency Department overnight for patient safety reasons due to a shortage of experienced emergency doctors.

At our meeting on 27 January 2012, which is being held in Selby, we will be hearing from the Trust on its plan for restoring a full 24-7 service and also on their Five-Year Clinical Services Strategy which will give an insight to the long term plans for all services at the hospital.

8. Access to Health Services in Ryedale

A report recently published by Ryedale Voluntary Action and Ryedale Community Transport highlighted an urgent need to improve transport to health appointments in this rural area.

One of the recommendations in the report was that our Committee be made aware of the report. Consequently it was discussed at our meeting on 18 November.

A survey is currently being undertaken to establish how many people have been unable to attend GP appointments due to transport problems. When the results of that work are known a task group drawn from the Committee will meet with representatives of RVA and RCT to explore how we might be able to contribute to the project by for instance, looking at best practice in other parts of the County.

County Councillor Jim Clark

Chairman: North Yorkshire County Council Scrutiny of Health Committee

5 December 2011