

## NORTH YORKSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

15 February 2012

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

#### **Care White Paper**

Members should be aware that 2012 will be a critical year for Adult Social Care Services. We are expecting the publication of the Care White Paper this April. We understand that the White Paper will set out the Government's view on the future of Social Care funding in England. This will provide the Government's response to the much publicised recommendations from the Dilnot Commission on Funding Care and Support. It is also expected that the White Paper will herald wide-ranging changes to the Adult Social Care legal framework incorporating the recommendations from the Law Commission's review. Other key areas may include personalisation and integrating services with Health.

#### **Local Account**

I am delighted to announce the publication of North Yorkshire's first ever Local Account. The Local Account replaces the annual assessments of Councils' adult social care services by the Care Quality Commission. It provides an in-depth look at the provision of adult services. It is seen as a key way in which people and local communities hold local authorities to account and demonstrate how services have improved.

The 'Local Account' describes how the County Council has performed in delivering adult social care to the people of North Yorkshire in 2010/11 and what its priorities are for 2011/12 and beyond. The Local Account will become an annual statement produced by every council which provides social care services. The document also explains how the Council spends its money and how the Government is changing the role of the Council as a result of reforms in the National Health Service.

I would welcome views regarding the contents of the Local Account which would help us to develop future versions. The Local Account can be read and downloaded from the Council's webpage and copies are available from the Council's libraries.

#### **Hotspots**

I am pleased to confirm that the Health and Adult Services Directorate has been awarded £48,000 by the Department of Health's 'Warm Homes, Healthy People Fund'. As I write this it is snowing heavily, and although it has been a relatively mild winter when compared with previous years, the money will help to deliver a campaign called 'Hotspots' which aims to reduce deaths caused by cold weather and cold housing across North Yorkshire.

Hotspots is an innovative, long term partnership scheme involving 19 statutory, community and voluntary organisations all working together to help local people to stay warm and safe in their homes.

The scheme will support initiatives which include: benefits entitlement checks; energy efficiency advice; and eligibility assessments for home improvement schemes.

### **Health Integration**

The Government has provided a formal response to the NHS Future Forum's second report. This forum is providing critical policy recommendations that will feed into the forthcoming Health and Social Care Bill. The Government has accepted that the lack of integrated health and social care services for people is a key emerging concern. It has indicated that it will ensure that there will be a stronger duty on the NHS Commissioning Board, Clinical Commissioning Groups (CCGs), Health and Wellbeing Boards and the Monitor (the independent regulator of NHS Foundation Trusts) to encourage integrated working at all levels.

### **Dignity Action Day**

Members will be aware of the increasing number of national news items regarding dignity and respect of the elderly. I am sure we all accept that it is a fundamental principle that people receiving health and adult social services are treated with sensitivity and care regardless of their age or needs.

The National Dignity Action Day on 1 February 2012 provided an excellent opportunity to raise awareness of the campaign and ensured that dignity and respect are everyone's business. Staff held events in a number of libraries across the county to encourage people to sign up as Dignity Champions and many care establishments held activities with people who access support as well as their family and friends, to celebrate Dignity in Care and 'give the gift of time'.

**CLARE WOOD**