

North Yorkshire County Council**18 July 2012****Statement of the Health and Adults Services Portfolio Holder
County Councillor Clare Wood****White Paper on Care and Support**

A White Paper is expected to be published on Wednesday 11th July. At the time of writing my statement, early indications are that it will set out the Government's vision for adult social care. The key themes predicted to be in the White Paper are personalisation and the further development of personal budgets, supported housing, the development of a national eligibility criteria and integrating health and social care services. The White Paper may also be accompanied by a progress report on the recommendations set out in the Dilnot Commission's review of long-term care funding for the elderly.

Shadow Health and Well Being Board

Members will be aware that the Shadow Health and Well Being Board is set to play a vital role in the Council's approach to health care reforms and improve the health and wellbeing of the population of North Yorkshire. The Shadow Health and Well Being Board is a strategic forum which brings together key partners including the Council, GP-led Clinical Commissioning Groups and the voluntary sector. I have met with a number of local GPs to seek their views on the health reforms and the Board's key role in developing a Joint Health and Well-being Strategy. This will set out an agreement with local partners on the priorities to be addressed across the system, and how best to use the collective resources to achieve them.

Croft House

I had the pleasure of attending a "Topping Out" ceremony of Croft House on 25th June which marked the completion of the roof of the building. Following consultation with people who use the current respite service, the new building will be known as Jubilee Lodge.

Croft House is a new respite service in Craven designed to replace our current service at Gargrave Road. The new, purpose-built respite unit is part of a significant investment to modernise learning disabilities services agreed by the Executive on 26th July 2011. The new respite unit will have a range of facilities including five accessible bedrooms with en-suite bathrooms and a private garden area. Members will be aware of the vital role that respite services play in allowing carers and vulnerable people that they care for to have a break or provide emergency cover. It is anticipated that the unit, which is next to Ashfield, our Elderly Persons Home in Skipton, will open its doors to people who use respite services before the end of the year.

Update on the Appointment of the Director of Public Health

As I reported last time, the County Council will take over statutory responsibility for public health functions from NHS North Yorkshire and York from the 1st April 2013. I can confirm that the position of Director of Public Health for North Yorkshire is being re-advertised and the closing date for applications was the 8 July. Interviews for the post will be held on the 26th and 27th of July in partnership with the NHS North Yorkshire and York and the Faculty

of Public Health. This will be a critical appointment for the County Council in light of the County Council's new health and wellbeing responsibilities. Consultation has commenced with the Public Health team with regard to the proposed North Yorkshire structure.

Carers' Consultation

Members may have read in the local press about the joint public consultation exercise involving the County Council and health partners which will help to shape the North Yorkshire Joint Carers' Strategy (2012-15). The Carers Strategy Consultation commenced on the 16th April 2012 and is due to end in July. We have worked closely with health partners and our colleagues in Children and Young People's services to engage with carers of all ages. We have conducted a number of focus groups with Carers across the county and worked very closely with voluntary sector providers to ensure that the consultation has reached all carers across the county.

Innovation Fund Event

Members will recall that at previous meetings of the full County Council, I have reported on the £1.5M Voluntary Sector Innovation Fund. I am pleased to confirm that to date £900k has been invested in the voluntary sector to support a wide range of innovative schemes including increasing day activities, supported employment initiatives and social enterprises. This fund has been established to support our partners in the voluntary sector to develop innovative local services for the most vulnerable to live independent and healthy lives in our communities. The projects encourage volunteers to give up their own time for the benefit of their local communities. I am pleased to confirm that an Innovation Fund event will be held on 2nd August at Burn Hall, Huby. Successful bidders from the two rounds will present their schemes to each other and relevant staff to share best practice. Voluntary sector providers will explain the scope of their projects and report on progress to date.

Dementia Champions

On 28th June I attended the launch of the new Dementia Champions event for North Yorkshire. I was delighted to present certificates to 68 members of staff from the Health and Adult Services Directorate from across the county who have completed the nationally accredited level 3 award in Dementia Awareness and have become Dementia Champions.

Our Dementia Champions will be the key point of contact for people who are living with dementia, family members and carers as well as our staff. They will also play an important role in developing the skills of the whole workforce with the aim of improving the experience of people with dementia and their carers when they seek help from public services.

CLARE WOOD