

**NORTH YORKSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL**

10 October 2012

**STATEMENT OF THE HEALTH AND ADULT SOCIAL CARE SERVICES  
PORTFOLIO HOLDER COUNTY COUNCILLOR CLARE WOOD****Heath and Adult Services Emergency Response to the Floods**

Our local communities have witnessed some of the worst floods in living memory during this last week. I would like to take this opportunity to thank all those staff who have been willing to provide support out of hours and often, at short notice. They have worked tirelessly with the Emergency services to ensure that the most vulnerable were kept safe during this very difficult time. Over the week, staff from the Health and Adult Services Directorate helped to evacuate and re-house residents from a sheltered housing scheme in Richmondshire and established two Rest Centres for residents forced out of their homes as a result of the severe flooding.

**Major Incident Response team**

I was pleased to attend the 21<sup>st</sup> birthday celebrations of the County Council's Major Incident Response Team last month. The team was called upon to establish two rest centres in the recent flood emergency which is highlighted above. The Major Incident Response team consists of volunteers who are drawn from health and voluntary sectors, local authority social care workers, police welfare, mental health and people with crisis helpline experience such as the Samaritans. The team provides crucial round-the-clock support in the event of a major incident in the county. We were the first authority in the country to set up such a team following a Government report in 1991 which recommended that there should be a coordinated public sector response to support anyone caught up in major traumatic events. This is an excellent example of volunteering at its best where people give up their time to provide crucial practical support in traumatic situations alongside the emergency services.

**NHS North Yorkshire and York Cluster Financial Deficit**

Members will be aware of the recent announcement made by the NHS North Yorkshire and York Cluster Board last week concerning their deficit. The Board set out proposals to make short-term cost savings of £10M before the end of March. The Council has grave concerns regarding the impact of the financial savings on our local communities. Whilst it is recognised that we must all live within our means and the importance of our health partners achieving financial balance, the historic under funding must now be addressed. I am acutely aware that the national funding formula does not adequately meet the additional costs of running health services for our increasing ageing population in North Yorkshire's large rural geography. We are making representations to the Department of Health to encourage the development of long-term sustainable solutions in partnership with the Council, in particular investment in Community Health Services. In my view the new GP-led Clinical Commissioning Groups would then be better placed to address the financial problem that they will inherit in a more acceptable way.

**Health and Well Being Strategy**

I am pleased to inform Members that following the publication of the Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (JSNA) in June, the shadow Health and Wellbeing Board is now developing North Yorkshire's first Health and Wellbeing Strategy. The strategy will explain the priorities that have been identified by partners for joint action to make a real impact on people's lives. The strategy in turn will inform the commissioning plans produced by the Council as well as the county's Clinical Commissioning Groups. We held an event to discuss the draft strategy in Harrogate which was well attended by 140 people. The Health and Wellbeing Board will consider the feedback in October and will agree the final document at its meeting in November.

### **Lower Greenfoot Extra Care Housing Scheme**

I am delighted to announce that work has commenced at North Yorkshire's newest Extra Care housing scheme at Lower Greenfoot, Settle. A drop-in event will be held at Settle library on Tuesday 9 October 2012. Local people will be able to find out more about the scheme and discuss any thoughts and ideas they have about the types of services to be provided at the scheme. I will be attending a ground breaking ceremony on 1st November 2012. It is proposed that construction work on the new building will start in January 2013, with a proposed completion date of July 2014. This scheme is yet another excellent example of how the County Council is working with its District Council partners, housing associations and building contractors to meet the care needs of older people in our communities.

### **Voluntary Sector Innovation Fund Event**

I attended a Voluntary Sector Innovation Fund event on 2<sup>nd</sup> August where I was pleased to meet voluntary organisations and local groups which had developed some excellent proposals to support individuals and communities. Members will recall that the Council established a £1.5m Voluntary Sector Innovation Fund. This fund has been established to support our partners in the voluntary sector to develop innovative local services for the most vulnerable in order for them to live independent and healthy lives in our communities. I was really impressed by the huge response to the Innovation Fund bidding process. This is a marvellous example of how collaboration between the County Council and the voluntary sector is producing imaginative and innovative ways of making a real difference to people's lives.

### **Local Account**

North Yorkshire's second Local Account has now been published. It is a key part of the Government's sector-led improvement initiative which replaced the annual assessments of Councils' adult social care services by the Care Quality Commission. The Local Account reports back on our achievements over the last year and looks forward to our priorities and challenges for the future. I believe that the Local Account provides a robust review of our performance and highlights those areas where we could do better but also, quite rightly, celebrates our considerable achievements. The Local Account can be read and downloaded from the Council's webpage and copies are available from the Council's libraries.

**CLARE WOOD**