

NORTH YORKSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

20 February 2013

SCRUTINY BOARD

STATEMENT BY THE CHAIRMAN

1. Our meeting on 13 February 2013 will focus mainly on a report from Dr Lincoln Sargeant, Director of Public for North Yorkshire. The report highlights the County Council's new public health responsibilities which are transferring to the Council from NHS North Yorkshire and York primary care trust. As we know under the Health and Social Care Act 2012 all primary care trusts will be abolished from 31 March 2013.
2. The responsibilities cover the three domains of public health – health improvement, health protection and healthcare public health.
3. A national public health outcomes framework has been published with the aim to improve 2 main outcomes:
 - Increased healthy life expectancy, and
 - Reducing differences in life expectancy and healthy life expectancy between communities.
4. The health of a population is influenced by a wide range of factors from personal biological and behavioural factors to “wider determinants” such as education, economy, communications/transportation, natural environment, housing and social cohesion. These wider determinants relate directly to or are heavily influenced by the work of local authorities so the new responsibilities for public health will complement that work.
5. My personal view is that this new responsibility will give each overview and scrutiny committee and individual councillors an opportunity to promote public health in their local communities.
6. I will report verbally to County Council on any additional points coming out from Scrutiny Board.

County Councillor John Blackburn
Chairman: Scrutiny Board

7 February 2013