

NORTH YORKSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

13 November 2013

**STATEMENT OF THE ADULT SOCIAL CARE AND HEALTH INTEGRATION
PORTFOLIO HOLDER COUNTY COUNCILLOR CLARE WOOD****Consultation on Eligibility for Adult Social Care**

At the last County Council meeting there was much debate about the proposed changes to the eligibility threshold for adult social care and charging arrangements. The need for a robust and thorough consultation was a recurring theme so I am pleased to be able to update the Council on the consultation process which began on 2nd September 2013 and closes on 25th November 2013. The consultation document was sent to over 5500 people including all those who are recorded as having moderate level needs and a representative cross section of all other service users. To date more than 1000 questionnaires have been returned. 15 consultation meetings for service users and their carers are being held across the county, as well as meetings with Partnership Boards and provider organisations. Around 400 people have attended these meetings and a dedicated helpline has also been established to answer queries. The proposals have also been scrutinised by the Care and Independence Scrutiny Committee. At the close of the consultation period a detailed analysis of all comments made through the different routes will be made and this will inform the final report to the Executive in February 2014

Capital Developments

In July 2011 the Executive approved a £7.7m capital investment in services for people with learning disabilities. We are now approaching the conclusion of this programme. A 5 bed respite service in Skipton, Jubilee House, was opened earlier in the year and Scarborough's Elders Street refurbishment has been concluded and renamed Castle House. The remodelling of Selby Day Centre is also on track and will be ready for use in the New Year.

Use of 15 Minute visits in Domiciliary Care North Yorkshire

The Directorate has long recognised that it is not appropriate for certain personal care tasks to be only allocated 15 minutes for completion. As this is an issue that has had a high profile in the national press over recent weeks I am pleased to report that in North Yorkshire we have undertaken work over the past year to reduce the use of 15 minute visits for multiple care tasks.

The Directorate has developed a joint protocol with providers and the Independent Care Group on which individual tasks can be undertaken in shorter visits and which tasks or groups of tasks require a longer time frame. The protocol recognises that in some circumstances, short 15 minute visits can be appropriate, often when taken in the context of other longer visits that a person receives during a day.

We will continue to review its use of 15 minute visits and will ensure that personal care tasks are always allocated the appropriate amount of time to enable them to be carried out safely and with dignity. Our Assistant Director Mike Webster spoke very positively of our work on Radio York recently.

Care and Support Bill and Funding Reforms

The Directorate is preparing for the implementation of the Care Bill that is currently going through Parliament. The Bill replaces 37 pieces of legislation implemented over the last 60 years. It includes major changes to the way in which care is funded and responds to the Dilnot report by setting a lifetime cap on the amount people will contribute to their care costs. This is a highly complex issue and full details are still being consulted on nationally before implementation in 2016. A Member seminar will be arranged in the New Year on this topic.

Health Integration

As I noted in my last statement closer working with the NHS is a national priority. The Government has now issued guidance about funding to support this –the Integration and Transformation Fund. There is £3.8 billion nationally in 2015/16. The North Yorkshire allocation is expected to be around £38 million. The fund is intended to create a pooled budget which will be used to begin the transformation of local systems to improve quality, and support the growing numbers of frail older people and people with long term conditions to have more choices and control and be supported to receive services at or near to home.

The full details have yet to be published. However it appears that around half of this fund is a continuation of existing money and the other half will be created by the NHS moving resources from acute care to primary care, community care and social care. Half of the money will be subject to the delivery of performance targets. The Health and Well Being Board is required to sign off plans in February 2014 before submission to NHS England

Officers are working with Clinical Commissioning Groups to develop 5 high level plans, one for each main CCG footprint, which they will aggregate into a sixth, County-wide plan.

The key themes emerging are: integration of services to reable and rehabilitate people and care for them out of a hospital setting, support to improve the quality of care in residential and nursing homes, increased investment in mental health services for people in acute hospitals and developing more community health and social care services to avoid admissions.

Local Account

The 2012/13 Local Account was presented to the Care and Independence Overview and Scrutiny meeting on the 3rd October and is now available on the NYCC website. Hard copies of the Account have been printed and will be available for Members at the meeting. They will also be distributed to libraries and we are developing a summary version, as well as taking the opportunity to ask how members would prefer to receive future editions as part of our continued drive to make savings.

CLARE WOOD