

NORTH YORKSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL**19 February 2014****STATEMENT OF THE PORTFOLIO HOLDER FOR
PUBLIC HEALTH AND PREVENTION
COUNTY COUNCILLOR DON MACKENZIE****Prevention Strategy**

Responses to the recently concluded consultation on the eligibility threshold for adult social care have shown very positive attitudes towards preventative services. Respondents believe that appropriate advice and guidance would help people to maintain their independence, and would reduce or even remove the need for formal adult social care support services. More than 80% of those who responded felt that it was important that preventative services should be designed to help them stay in their own homes.

The Public Health Team has conducted a review of preventative services delivered by the Council and has drafted a robust Prevention Strategy designed to continue to support more and more people to live at home for as long as possible.

Investment in community-based prevention is estimated to give a five-fold return over a period of five years. Consequently, the Directorate intends to place additional resources into communities. Contributions will be made from the public health grant to support work with third sector organisations to ensure that community resilience and preventative services can be effectively delivered on a local basis across the county.

The Prevention Strategy and its operational framework will encourage joint working with partners, thereby maintaining existing, and introducing new preventative initiatives. It will facilitate closer integration of health and social care, in partnership with voluntary and community organisations and other service providers.

Public Health Advice Service to CCGs

The County Council has a statutory duty to provide public health advice to our clinical commissioning groups (CCGs) in order to support their commissioning of healthcare services for our residents. The Public Health team has supported the Directorate and CCGs with public health advice in the preparation of the North Yorkshire Better Care Fund submission. The Team has helped to ensure that the proposals focus on prevention and target specific health outcomes as priorities for integration of health and social services across the county.

Health inequalities

The 2013 North Yorkshire Wider Partnership Conference had as its main theme the reduction of health inequalities. Delegates had a choice of six workshops covering the themes of children and young people, physical activity, rural health, the economy, housing, and health and social care.

Feedback from the Conference has been collated and will contribute to the draft North Yorkshire Community Plan 2014-17, which will identify the following three priorities:

- development of key housing and employment sites across the county
- enabling our communities to have greater capacity to shape and deliver the services they need and to enhance their resilience in a changing world
- Reduction of health inequalities between the most affluent and the most deprived communities

Healthy Child Programme

Responsibility for commissioning the Healthy Child Programme (HCP) for children and young people aged 5-19 was one of the public health responsibilities, which transferred to the Council in April 2013. The 0-5 year component of the Programme is expected to transfer to 2015.

The HCP is defined as good practice guidance for prevention and early intervention services for children and young people. Their health and wellbeing are not just about physical needs. The HCP stresses also the importance of their emotional and mental health. There is an expectation that clear, structured, and integrated pathways will be identified, and that preventative services to those at risk of having poor health outcomes will be provided.

The Public Health team is working closely with colleagues in CYPS to review the delivery of the HCP and to ensure that opportunities for closer integration between the two directorates are maximised to the benefit of our most vulnerable children and young people.

Health Protection

Finally, I wish to highlight the work of the Public Health team, in collaboration with Public Health England and this council's Emergency Planning Unit, to ensure that systems are in place, which allow us to respond to health threats arising from infections or environmental hazards. Public health advice plays a vital role in managing incidents such as the recent fire at the tyre dump in Sherburn-in-Elmet.

DON MACKENZIE