

NORTH YORKSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL**19 FEBRUARY 2014****CARE AND INDEPENDENCE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE****CHAIRMAN'S STATEMENT**"Making Difficult Decisions in Adult Social Care"

1. By being so thorough, in October last year, when reviewing "Making Difficult Decisions in Adult Social Care, I believe the Committee was well placed at its last meeting to consider the results of this consultation.
2. The consultation process had indeed been carried out in the way it was described to us at our October meeting. It was rigorous and fair, with people having many and appropriate opportunities to contribute. The results have been thoroughly and properly assessed and were presented to us in a transparent and objective way. The rationale of Directorate thinking has been openly documented and the conclusions, in our view, have been properly arrived at.
3. We supported all the proposals except one: the possibility of a charge being introduced for two care workers, where this is needed. It seemed to the Committee that a relatively small number of people would be bearing a disproportionately high burden. For that reason, should there be financial leeway to exercise discretion in respect of any of the proposals, then such discretion should be exercised here. I am pleased that the Executive shared this view.
4. The responses show just how much people support a greater focus on prevention. As a Committee, we always intended to review service areas that form part of a preventative approach – Telecare, Reablement, Support for Carers and so on – but it is important that scrutiny is directly involved in the consultation on the imminent Prevention Strategy, and once introduced, that the Committee plays a key role in its monitoring and assessment.

Older People's Champion

5. County Councillor Shelagh Marshall reports to us once a year on the things that really matter to older people and her tireless efforts to protect their interests. We are fortunate to have such a well-respected ambassador for older people. In what was her 14th report to Committee, Shelagh reiterated her commitment to engagement, and her determination to promote the

campaign to reduce loneliness so that it is on everyone's agenda – ours especially.

County Councillor Patrick Mulligan
Chairman
Care and Independence Overview and Scrutiny Committee

County Hall,
NORTHALLERTON

7 February 2014