

## NORTH YORKSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

23 JULY 2014

### STATEMENT OF THE PORTFOLIO HOLDER FOR PUBLIC HEALTH AND PREVENTION COUNTY COUNCILLOR DON MACKENZIE

#### **Substance misuse service contract awarded**

The Council has now awarded contracts following completion of the tender for a new adult substance misuse service. The successful bidders are DISC and Lifeline Project, both charitable organisations. The new integrated service, which commences on 1st October 2014, will provide professional help to drug users and harmful drinkers to achieve their recovery goals. The Public Health Team are having regular meetings with both new providers during the transition period to ensure an effective transfer of care for users of the services.

#### **Public health service performance**

The Council is responsible for the commissioning or delivery of several public health services. We have been monitoring the activity and quality of services under the large public health contracts, which were transferred last year to the Council from the NHS.

During 2013/14 we invited 30,613 people aged 40-74 for a Health Check. Almost half (14,319) had a check with their GP. These checks resulted in 1,031 people being identified as high risk for cardiovascular disease and receiving appropriate treatment to help prevent heart attacks, strokes and diabetes.

Over the same period our service providers received 9,234 visits for diagnosis and treatment of a sexually transmitted infections, and 4,456 visits for contraceptive and sexual health advice. Sexual health service providers and GPs fitted over 8000 Long Acting Reversible Contraception (LARC) devices for women, thereby reducing the risk of unplanned pregnancies.

We continue to study closely trends in childhood obesity through the National Child Measurement Programme. So far, the results show that one in five children at reception class age is overweight or obese and that, by year 6, this increases to almost one in three.

I briefed colleagues in my last statement that the Council would be procuring services for the 5-19 Healthy Child Programme, including weight management, to commence in April next year.

#### **Lifestyle service launch in Hambleton**

I was delighted to take part in the launch of the Hambleton lifestyle service in June. This diverse service for over-18s is a collaboration between NYCC, the district council and local CCG, and aims to encourage lasting behaviour change on the part of residents, focusing on increasing physical activity and improved diet.

Our aim is to expand this lifestyle service throughout the county, delivered by the district councils and jointly funded by the Public Health Grant and the local CCG.

## **Innovation Fund**

Members will be aware of this fund, which was first launched in 2011. A total fund value of £1.58m, topped up with contributions from the Supporting People budget, was made available to the voluntary sector to pay for effective community-based projects in areas of priority identified by North Yorkshire County Council.

Up to now, £934,000 has been distributed to 20 projects supported by diverse organisations in all parts of the county, including Age UK, Alzheimer's Society, Autism Plus, Disability Action Yorkshire, and the North Yorkshire Centre for Independent Living.

Last month, I attended a meeting in Thirsk at which the next round of funding worth almost £500,000 was launched in the presence of some 140 delegates from community and voluntary groups. Prevention lies at the heart of the aims of the Fund, and the groups bidding for funding will be required to target three main themes: loneliness and isolation, preventing falls, and supporting people to remain in their own homes.

## **Tour de France legacy**

The Tour de France visited North Yorkshire two weeks ago, and although the riders have left, our roads have reopened and visitors from around the world have departed, we are anxious to ensure that the legacy of the race lives on. The event provides a unique opportunity to improve the fitness and health of our residents.

The Council is supporting the 'Slow Tour of Yorkshire', a project promoted by Sustrans and inspired by the Tour de France, which highlights family friendly cycle routes in the area, and provides maps and information to enable people to enjoy 21 of the best of Yorkshire's cycling routes on the National Cycle Network.

You can download the "Ride the Yorkshire Routes" smartphone app created by the City of York, which has contributions from North Yorkshire County Council and provides information on how to ride the Tour routes safely.

North Yorkshire Sport is coordinating various Tour de France legacy initiatives throughout the region. The organisation, which recently gave a joint presentation together with representatives of our two national parks to the Health and Wellbeing Board, has introduced Schools Games events, workplace challenges, and various district-based activities.

I watched the Grand Depart on the big screens on the Stray in Harrogate, surrounded by tens of thousands of people, who had arrived on foot and by bike. I was able to witness at first hand the excitement of the crowd as the riders approached the town, and I was amazed at the enthusiasm of everyone, young and old.

We have every reason to be confident that this sporting occasion, the greatest spectator event in the world, will have a positive legacy by encouraging our residents to get on their bikes and to lead healthier lives.

DON MACKENZIE