

NORTH YORKSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL**23 July 2014****STATEMENT OF THE ADULT SOCIAL CARE AND HEALTH INTEGRATION
PORTFOLIO HOLDER COUNTY COUNCILLOR CLARE WOOD
NORTH YORKSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL****Provision of care during the Tour de France**

The Tour de France provided a great opportunity to showcase North Yorkshire. However, it also provided a significant logistical challenge for the provision of care services both during the race and in the run-up to it. I am pleased to say that all care visits continued to be undertaken, as planned, by both County Council and Independent Sector staff during the period when many roads were closed. This achievement is testimony to the dedication and hard work of staff involved in both the planning and delivery of services and I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone involved and to congratulate the County on a very successful Grand Depart.

Extra Care

The Extra Care programme is continuing to be developed across the County. In the past month, phase 1 of the development in Thirsk has opened and former residents of Cherry Garth elderly persons' have moved in. The schemes in Settle and Eastfield in Scarborough are also due to open before the end of the year. The Council's Executive will be receiving a report regarding a new development in Ingleton and Bentham along with proposals to deliver the Extra Care programme over the next five years at its meetings on 29 July and 19 August.

Health Integration

Work has been progressing with our Health and District partners on preparing to deliver our plans for the Better Care Fund. We are however awaiting further details about changes recently announced by the Government which will increase the emphasis on the reduction of avoidable emergency hospital admissions and change the framework for performance payments.

With our partners in Hambleton, Richmondshire and Whitby Clinical Commissioning Group, we have submitted an entry to the "Health Service Journal" Awards 2014 highlighting our partnership working on the integration of health and social care. The work that has been cited in the submission includes re-ablement services, public health lifestyle services, the "Fit 4 the Future" public engagement and the integrated night service in Hambleton and Richmondshire which supports people in the own homes and reduces hospital admissions.

National Carers Week

I was delighted to visit the Carers' Resource Centre in Northallerton as part of National Carers' Week which took place between 9 and 15 June this year and included a range of awareness-raising and practical events across the County. North Yorkshire has over 60,000 carers and the County Council plays an important role in

supporting many people with advice and information, grants and short breaks. Supporting Carers is, and will continue to be, a major priority for the County Council.

Care Act

The Department of Health is running a consultation on the draft Regulations and Guidance for those elements of the Care Act that will come into effect from April 2015. This includes new duties around carers, providing information and advice (including financial advice that is independent from the Local Authority), and greater emphasis on integration between social care and partners including health and housing.

We are looking at the requirements of the Regulations and Guidance against our current policies and procedures and identifying where changes will need to be made. We will respond to the consultation before it ends on 15th August. The Department of Health is then expected to issue the final Regulations and Guidance in October.

The financial reforms that respond to the Dilnot report (such as the introduction of the Care Cap and Care Account and the revised financial threshold for financial assistance) will come into effect from April 2016. The draft Regulations and Guidance for these elements are expected at the end of the year.

We are continuing to work regionally and nationally with colleagues to influence the development of a national modelling tool for all authorities to complete, which will help consistently forecast the financial and workload implications of the different elements of the Act. It is hoped that this tool will be available late summer/early Autumn. In the meantime, it is not possible to accurately predict the costs to North Yorkshire County Council but, for us, as with other councils, they are likely to be substantial.

We will brief Members in more detail at a Members Seminar in the autumn.

Birthday Honours for County Councillor Shelagh Marshall OBE and Town Councillor Gavin Harding MBE

I would like to congratulate County Councillor Shelagh Marshall for being honoured with an OBE in the Queen's Birthday Honours. As we all know, Shelagh is a very active Older People's Champion for North Yorkshire, working locally, regionally and nationally to make a difference and, in particular, to address concerns about loneliness and isolation. This award is a very fitting acknowledgement of her hard work.

I would also like to congratulate Selby Town Councillor, Gavin Harding, for being honoured with an MBE in the same Honours List. Gavin has a learning disability himself and has an influential role nationally and within the County on behalf of people with learning disabilities. These accolades are a positive recognition of Gavin's energy and commitment both to people with a learning disability and the wider community.

I am sure that colleagues from across the County Council will join me in sending our congratulations to both Shelagh and Gavin.

CLARE WOOD