

NORTH YORKSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

23 JULY 2014

CARE AND INDEPENDENCE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

CHAIRMAN'S STATEMENT

Better care Funding

1. We are seeing increasing signs of overlap as the boundary between health and care provision becomes less distinct. This is reflected in the Government's creation of a £3.8bn pooled budget for 2015-16, intended to help move care out of hospital and into the community and improve working and integration between health and social care.
2. The Committee learned that there is little in terms of a national definition in the way this integration should happen, although there are nationally set conditions that must be met. The Committee understands that, together with health partners, the North Yorkshire Plan sets out our three main priorities: 1) to improve health, self-help and independence for North Yorkshire people; 2) to invest in primary care and community services; and 3) to create a sustainable system. Ministerial signoff of the Plan has yet to be given, but the Committee was reassured that absence of that approval will not delay activity on the key objectives of the plan.
3. The Committee intends on reviewing what further work is undertaken to deliver the stated ambition.

The Care Act

4. For some time the Committee has taken a keen interest in the Government's reaction to the proposals in the Dilnot Commission on the way people fund residential care. The detail can now be found in the Care Act. But the planned reforms that the Care Act brings are more radical in scope in that they provide a whole new legal framework for adult social care, to the funding system and the wider duties of local authorities and rights of those in need of social care. We recognised that the potential impact on finances and working practices is enormous.
5. The agenda facing the Directorate is a challenging one, but most observers would agree the changes are progressive, particularly the new duty for authorities to promote physical, mental and emotional wellbeing in all decisions regarding an individual's care needs. The greater emphasis than ever before on prevention, particularly around advice and information, will no

doubt receive wide support. The demands upon local authorities are not insignificant, however. There is, for example, a new duty to facilitate a vibrant, diverse and sustainable market for high quality care and support for the population, regardless of how services are funded.

6. We will examine most of the Act's other proposals - greater support for carers, a duty of local authorities to co-operate and to map out the process for assessment charging, entitlements and care planning – as part of our regular scrutiny work. We routinely review the Annual Safeguarding Board Report so were especially pleased to see that Adult Safeguarding responsibilities will now be put on a statutory footing for the first time.

Care Quality Commission Consultation on Inspection Methodology to be implemented by March 2016

7. When we looked at proposed changes to how the Care Quality Commission (CQC) regulates, inspects and rates health and social care services this gave us an opportunity to review how HAS currently monitors the quality of services provided at 164 care homes, 70 care homes with nursing and the 120 domiciliary care providers. The outcomes from last year's assessments demonstrated to us that an effective service is in place to protect the public and ensure that residential care and domiciliary care services are of a quality that people would expect.
8. During discussion of the topic, Members expressed interest in being more closely involved in the work of the HAS Inspectorate and Monitoring Team - perhaps accompanying staff, where appropriate, on certain inspections and visits. When we think about the elected member role in promoting stronger communities, there might be real advantages to this, but first and foremost we need to acknowledge the sensitivities about going into what is, after all, someone's home. Equally, we need to understand just how manageable any such arrangement would be and also ask ourselves, objectively, how Members can contribute positively.

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

County Hall,
NORTHALLERTON

11 July 2014