

NORTH YORKSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

12 November 2014

**STATEMENT OF THE ADULT SOCIAL CARE AND HEALTH INTEGRATION PORTFOLIO
HOLDER COUNTY COUNCILLOR CLARE WOOD**

Dementia Support

I was very pleased to attend the official launch of the Dementia Support Services, which took place in Harrogate on 13 October. Over the last few weeks other local launches have taken place across the county for these vital new services. Funded by both the County Council and the County's NHS Clinical Commissioning Groups, they are already helping people newly diagnosed and living with dementia with personalised advice and information. They are also a resource to help people link with support in their local area.

Two organisations will provide the services: Making Space will be working in Craven, Hambleton, Richmond and Whitby and Scarborough and Ryedale; Dementia Forward will be working in the Harrogate and Rural District and the Vale of York areas. Alongside the dementia navigator support, the two organisations will help to develop dementia awareness and dementia friendly communities by offering advice and training to community and voluntary groups.

Extra Care

I am pleased to confirm that the application and allocation process is under way for the Limestone View, the new Extra Care scheme in Settle. It is expected that residents will start to move in during the week beginning 10 November. A successful "open day" was held on 24 October.

The Jazz Court development in Eastfield is on course to open in early December when residents will move from Braeburn House Elderly Persons Home. There has been some exciting historical finds on the Extra Care site in Leyburn. A small section of the site was found to contain two skeletons (possibly from the Bronze Age) and a stone structure thought to be a small chapel. Leyburn schools are being invited to visit the site as part of their study of local history. The finds are not likely to delay the building work on the Extra Care scheme.

The consultation on our Care and Support Where I Live Strategy concludes on 17 November. The strategy proposes the further development of our Extra Care programme, with the ambitious aim of an Extra Care scheme in every major town in the County. Older people have consistently told us that they want to be able to stay in homes of their own with the care and support they need, rather than move into a care home. The expansion of the Extra Care programme will be a crucial part of achieving this objective. The procurement of framework partners has been agreed by the Executive and will commence at the end of December.

Deprivation of Liberty Safeguards

The law on the Deprivation of Liberty Safeguards is one of the ways in which vulnerable people can be protected when they do not have the mental capacity to make decisions for themselves. Anybody without capacity who is subject to care which could be considered to

deprive them of their liberty has to be fully assessed and the deprivation authorised by the Council. Changes in the legal interpretation of the safeguards have been introduced following what is known as the Cheshire West judgment. The impact of this legal judgment, nationally and locally, means that many more people require specialist assessments and authorisations. Like all local authorities this is a challenge, but every effort is being made to ensure that resources are found to address the increase and to follow advice from the Association of Directors of Adult Social Services (ADASS). We are working to address the situation locally and to work with other councils, ADASS and the Local Government Association to ensure that the Government has accurate information about the impact of this legal judgment in terms of people's lives and costs to the public purse.

Monitoring of Care Services

The Directorate has a responsibility to ensure that the services it commissions are of a high quality. In most instances this is the case and our contract monitoring team play an essential role in this. However on occasions we do need to take action and as a result a care home in the Harrogate District has recently closed. I would like to thank the families concerned, our staff and NHS colleagues, for their part in handling this difficult situation. This situation also strengthens the need for us to actively manage the provider market which will be a requirement of the Care Act. Regular updates are being provided to members of the Care & Independence Scrutiny Committee on these matters.

The Better Care Fund

I am delighted to announce that North Yorkshire's plan for the Better Care Fund has been approved by the Government. We have been awarded 'approved with support' status, which is a very positive outcome: only five councils were approved without support and a number have either had their plans approved with conditions or have not had approval. We therefore move into the implementation phase of the plan, which will involve further investment in community health services, intermediate care and reablement, mental health liaison services and money identified for the protection of adult social care and for the Care Act. I would like to thank Health and Well-being Board members, County Council and NHS partners for their work on this plan.

Health Integration

I am pleased to let you know that our joint entry to the "Health Service Journal" Awards 2014 with Hambleton, Richmondshire and Whitby Clinical Commissioning Group, which highlights partnership working on the integration of health and social care, has been shortlisted for an award.

The Care Act

The Government has just published the regulations for the Care Act. Further work is taking place locally as to what these requirements mean for North Yorkshire. A Members' Seminar on this important issue will take place in the New Year.

Clare Wood