

NORTH YORKSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL**18 FEBRUARY 2015****CARE AND INDEPENDENCE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE****CHAIRMAN'S STATEMENT**Care and Support Where I Live Strategy

1. In my previous statement I reported the Committee's support for the Care and Support Where I Live Strategy consultation. At our last meeting we assessed the results before the Executive reaches a decision, which I now understand will be in March.
2. It was encouraging that questionnaires were received from various people from across the whole county, the highest number from the Scarborough area, the majority from people aged 65 to 74, and the lowest from those aged 18 to 24. Like many, I expected the majority of people would agree to the ambition to help people to live independently in their homes, but it's the size of the majority, 94%, which demonstrates conclusively that people's priorities are as thought: they want services provided in their own homes with good quality home care; they want help with home adaptations; they want access to good quality information advice, and they want telecare equipment to keep them safe.
3. There was less support for the replacement of care homes - a majority are in favour of replacement - but the proposal that the Council's elderly person's homes be closed, understandably attracted some concern.
4. Community hubs, which enable people to remain in their own homes, were supported. People are looking for social activities, meeting rooms and cafes, being held in schemes near to where they live. There was also a strong message that community transport helps people access services that are not available locally.
5. The Committee was reassured to learn that changes to the strategy will be made to reflect concerns that arose during the consultation. Revisions being looked at include:
 - Affordability for individuals and for organisations;
 - Ensure a care and support model that can meet changing needs;
 - The need for quality care homes alongside extra care;
 - Developing the options and opportunities for community facilities within schemes; and

- Working closely with partners in health, housing and the voluntary sector to make the best use of expertise and assets.
6. In summary, the evidence suggests that the consultation was successful in eliciting areas where changes can be made to reflect the wishes of people and communities, and by bringing forward views in support of the proposals. The Care and Support Where I Live Strategy will, therefore, have our full support when it is before the Executive.

Annual Report of the Older People's Champion

7. In her 15th Annual Report, County Councillor Shelagh Marshall gave a sobering reminder of the demographic challenge before us; by 2030 it is estimated that there will be approximately 1 million people over 90 in the UK, approximately 15,000 of whom will be in North Yorkshire. This is a national increase of 109% for 2014 but a 122% increase for North Yorkshire.
8. Shelagh's report details the priorities she pursues, for example the campaign for loneliness and isolation. But she also highlighted some of the key activities and initiatives in local communities which successfully contribute to older people's health and wellbeing and which will be crucial if we are to meet that demographic challenge, and the NYCC 2020 programme. I agree wholeheartedly with her statement that, as a local authority with responsibility for public health, we have a key responsibility to ensure opportunities for physical, social and educational activities so that social care is delayed and social isolation prevented.
9. Like other Chairmen of this Committee before me, I cannot praise Shelagh's dynamism and energy highly enough. We are indeed fortunate to have such a respected ambassador for North Yorkshire older peoples' interests.

Winterbourne Concordat Review

10. In 2011, a Panorama programme exposed evidence of abuse of some individuals with learning disabilities who were living in Winterbourne View. After the Inquiry, the Department of Health published the Winterbourne Concordat Programme of Action. The Committee sought assurance that the key points laid out in that action plan – milestones to transform services for people with learning disabilities or autism and mental health conditions or behaviour described as challenging – are being met. We also reviewed how each organisation is fulfilling its commitment to take forward the agenda.
11. We were pleased see good and substantial progress in each of the Concordat areas: partnership working is effective; there is clear evidence of agency

commitment; case management and placements are being reviewed effectively and, most importantly, safeguarding obligations are being observed. Prevention and crisis response is improving with more facilities around Section 136, Place of Safety. The overriding principle that people are appropriately placed with the right care and support in their local communities, near their families and friends, has our support. In summary, the Committee was greatly reassured that the aims outlined in the Winterbourne Concordat are a high priority for health, social services and their partner agencies.

12. Bearing in mind how the Directorate manages these 'complex cases' is one of the 2020 savings areas, the Committee will return to this subject later in the year.

Challenges Ahead

13. How the Directorate meets those 2020 savings challenges featured strongly in a wide-ranging presentation from Richard Webb. He gave an overview of national issues, for example in relation to winter pressures and crisis, and also spoke about the implications of the direction of health and social care, particularly integration.
14. Much of what Richard covered now forms the core of our work programme: an examination of our preparedness for the requirements of the Care Act; implementation of Better Care funding proposals; and the NHS five year model. The Directorate's requirements around 2020 savings are already on our agenda, including: extra care procurement; future of provider services; domiciliary care - others will be programmed in during the course of the year. When we do look at progress in these savings areas, I believe the Committee could usefully review how the Directorate is positively managing their impact of on service users.

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Chairman, Care and Independence Overview and Scrutiny Committee

County Hall,
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February 2015