

NORTH YORKSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

11 November 2015

CARE AND INDEPENDENCE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

CHAIRMAN'S STATEMENT

Stronger Communities and Living Well

1. Faced with delivering further significant savings by 2020, the Council recognises that there will be services it has traditionally provided that will no longer be available or will need to be delivered in a different way and in partnership with others - such as libraries transitioning to become community managed. This means a shift from the provision of universal services to targeted prevention and programmes to manage future demand on social care budgets. Making that change work well will depend, at least in part, on the success of the Stronger Communities and Living Well Programmes. This is clearly something in which the committee must take an interest. As a starting point, we reviewed the relationship between the two teams and the differences and the inter-dependencies between them.
2. The key characteristic of the delivery of the Stronger Communities Programme, as distinct from the Living Well Service, is it works with communities whereas the focus of the Living Well Service is with individuals.
3. Stronger Communities has set out to work with local organisations, community groups and other partners from the public and private sectors across North Yorkshire, identifying opportunities to co-produce a range of local support and services aimed at improving the well-being of people of all ages.
4. As part of its wider prevention programme - Independence with Support When I Need It - the Council has invested in a new Living Well Service which aims to improve the health, well-being and independence of individuals and in doing so prevent, reduce or delay their need for long-term health and social care support.
5. Whereas the focus for the Stronger Communities programme is to support voluntary and community groups, services and facilities, the Living Well team are working with individuals (and their carers) who are on the cusp of becoming regular users of health and social care services by helping them access local community organisations and supporting them in finding their own solutions to their health and wellbeing goals.
6. The two programmes are therefore inter-dependent and are evidently working together effectively. We asked to be kept informed of the progress of a shared outcomes framework which is being developed to measure future performance so

that when we review the topic again, probably in a year's time, we can properly gauge what has been achieved.

Local Account 2014/2015

7. Given that the Local Account must be an honest assessment of social care performance, it was important that, before it is published, the Committee had an opportunity to review, pass comment and make suggestions for any amendments. As in previous years, we found the document well written and accessible. It passed what for us is perhaps the pivotal test: it is not self-congratulatory.
8. Each year we look at how the Account is published, where it is "on deposit", to whom it is sent - how people can get to see it and comment if they wish. Again this year, it will be published in electronic format only. The cost benefits might speak for themselves, but we received the reassurances we were looking for about the document's continued accessibility. Because hard copies would still be available for those that want and/or need it, and it is intended to continue to spread the word through existing networks, we remain comfortable with this streamlined approach.

North Yorkshire Safeguarding Board's report for 2015/16

9. Since his appointment as the first Independent Chair of the North Yorkshire Adults Safeguarding Board, scrutiny members have enjoyed a warm and professional relationship with Jonathan Phillips. Having now decided to retire, Jonathan presented his final Annual Report to our committee. Jonathan personifies the advantages of having Independent Chairing – transparency, objectivity, mediation, challenge and scrutiny.
10. The evidence in its report for 2015/16 suggests the Board is in a healthy state - governance arrangements are sound; work on community prevention and awareness is robust, and strategic links with other partnerships in localities is good.
11. Responding to questions, Jonathan agreed that putting the Board on a statutory footing has ensured that agencies are more easily accountable and has clarified responsibilities to ensure participation, in ways that guidance, differentially binding on the partners, was not able to. The coming into force of the Care Act is also significant in that it sets out a clear legal framework for how local authorities and other parts of the health and care system should protect adults at risk of abuse or neglect. This gives the board a clear basis in law.
12. When asked for his thoughts on safeguarding training for councillors, Jonathan agreed that the importance of raising elected member awareness to help keep adults at risk safe does not diminish. Councillor Clare Wood agreed wholeheartedly and said she would discuss options with the Corporate Director for Health and Adult Services.

New Horizons

13. The Council awarded contracts to DISC (Developing Initiatives Supporting Communities) and Lifeline in May 2014 for the provision of an integrated, adult substance misuse service for North Yorkshire. DISC was awarded the contract for the Treatment Service, and Lifeline was awarded the contract for the Recovery and Mentoring Service. The committee was optimistic about the initiative's prospects of success when we met the two providers at the start of the contract last year. A year later into the contract, we talked to them again about progress.
14. The services developed include:
 - Supporting 33 GP practices to deliver a drug treatment service, and over 20 pharmacies to deliver a needle exchange service.
 - Supervised consumption service from over 30 pharmacies
15. There have been many impressive achievements:
 - 2618 service users have engaged with the service since October 2014.
 - The Single Point of Contact service (SPOC) consistently received over 1000 calls per week in the initial months of operation, and it continues to receive in excess of 6,000 calls per month.
 - The number of community based 'Meet and Greet' and 'Recovery' groups across North Yorkshire has expanded to over 40. North Yorkshire Horizons inherited only a couple from previous service providers. Groups operate in all localities across North Yorkshire.
 - 262 individuals have 'successfully completed treatment' between October 2014 and 30th June 2015 and no longer require support from the North Yorkshire Horizons Treatment Service.
16. These results and achievements are to be commended. It shows that many people are receiving the support they need to turn their lives around. We will turn to this subject again in a years' time.

COUNTY COUNCILLOR PATRICK MULLIGAN

Chairman, Care and Independence Overview and Scrutiny Committee
County Hall,
NORTHALLERTON

November 2015

Background Documents - Nil.