

NORTH YORKSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

24 February 2016

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

Flooding

Adult Social Care services played a significant role in contributing to the County Council's efforts to support communities affected by the floods over the Christmas period. From Boxing Day onwards, many staff were called off their holidays to work through the day and late into the night ensuring that people received care, support and assistance. Alongside colleagues, in the independent and voluntary sectors, we delivered our services by a range of traditional and less traditional ways, including making visits on a tractor. I would like to thank HAS staff for their contribution to the fantastic response made by all County Council employees.

Extra Care

I was very pleased to attend the opening of Meadowfields, the new Extra Care scheme in Thirsk on 4 December. The scheme is ideally placed in the centre of town, offers excellent accommodation with support, with 52 self-contained, one and two-bedroom apartments for rent, shared ownership and outright sale. The scheme provides new community facilities including the co- location of the library, as well as the space for a hair salon and bistro. One of the residents spoke at the opening about how well he and his wife had settled in and about the positive impact of the move on their wellbeing.

The next stage in the programme to select providers for the first phase of the new schemes will be a series of 'mini competitions', starting with Boroughbridge this month and Gargrave in the late Spring.

Joint Health & Wellbeing Strategy

The North Yorkshire Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy sets out our ambitions for improving the health of people across North Yorkshire and how we will work with the NHS and other partners to achieve these ambitions. The Health and Wellbeing Board considered a final version of the Strategy at its meeting on 27 November 2015. The updated document reflects the feedback received from partners and the public during the consultation and focuses on five themes: Connected Communities, Start Well, Live Well, Age Well and Dying Well. The Board recognises the importance of measuring the outcomes set out in the Strategy and held a development session on 14 December 2015 to start to consider how we can do so -work is now underway to develop a performance framework which will support the implementation of the Strategy. The Strategy was approved by the County Council's Executive on 2 February and is being presented to the full County Council for approval today.

Working with the NHS

The North Yorkshire Better Care Fund was established in 2015 and has been used to support a range of new and existing health and social care services across North Yorkshire. All schemes are now fully operational and regular reporting is in place through the Health and Wellbeing Board and to NHS England. Evaluation is taking place in localities.

Final Better Care Fund guidance and allocations for 2016/17 are due to be published imminently.

The County Council has raised concerns nationally and with NHS England regionally about the levels of Better Care Fund allocations and about national NHS proposals for 5 year plans which take little account of the geography and specific needs of the County. We will continue to take a tough line in advocating for our communities and for protecting social care funding. We will be particularly mindful of these issues as we assess the Government's intention, set out in the Comprehensive Spending Review, for full integration of health and social care by 2020.

On a positive note, this month sees the launch of the first pilot site for integrated working as part of the Harrogate New Care Models 'Vanguard': starting with services in Knaresborough, Green Hammerton and Boroughbridge.

New Services: Living Well and Customer Centre Care and Support

I am pleased to say that the Living Well service, which has been in place since October, is achieving positive outcomes. More than 200 people have been supported by the service to keep themselves as independent and well as possible and to prevent or delay their need for more intensive social care support. As the service develops, the team will work with GP practices, the voluntary sector and local communities to support more people. The team has supported people in different ways, for example to arrange improvements to their home, join local social groups, or become a volunteer.

As from December, we have started piloting a small, specialist social care team within the County Council's Customer Centre. This team is already resolving more problems for people at their first point of contact with NYCC.

These new services are a prelude to more fundamental changes which will take place between now and Summer 2017 to re-structure adult social care services so that there is even more focus on prevention and reablement.

Autism Strategy Launch

On the 1st of December 2015 we launched the all age Autism Strategy which has been developed across Children and Young People Services, Health and Adult Services. A more detailed implementation plan will be published in the Spring.

Equipment Service

The County Council and its partners in the Clinical Commissioning Groups, have recently launched a process to select the provider of Equipment Services for people who have a disability. A county-wide consultation exercise has sought the views of service users, professionals and potential providers of the service.

The specification for the new service will be agreed by all the partners and will take account of consultation responses. The timetable for the new service to commence is December 2016.

Cllr Clare Wood