

NORTH YORKSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

9 November 2016

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

Better Care Fund

We are awaiting final sign-off of North Yorkshire's Better Care Fund Plan as a result of NHS England undertaking a national audit of the level of protection of adult social care in each area's plans. Our position remains the same as was agreed at the national escalation panel in June 2016, with £13.4m being transferred from the NHS to NYCC for the protection of adult social care services in 2016/17.

Scarborough and Ryedale Integrated Community Services

The County Council is working closely with Scarborough and Ryedale Clinical Commissioning Group and local GPs to develop proposals for an integrated model of community health and social care services based around GP practices. The aim is to have a proposed model ready by December 2016, for implementation from Autumn 2017, subject to agreement by the County Council and the CCG.

Supported Housing announcements

Further to our recent lobbying, Government has just made a series of announcements about future funding arrangements for extra care and supported housing. So far we have received the outline proposals which will see some protection for supported housing in respect of the Local Housing Cap, through local ring fenced funding. More details on how the funding will work is expected soon, when the Government issues a consultation paper. Officers are currently studying the implications of the proposals and I will advise Members when we have a clearer view of what they mean for people in North Yorkshire.

Autism Accreditation

I recently met with County Council staff who have completed their autism accreditation, via the National Autistic Society. North Yorkshire County Council is the first Council in the country to have all its provider services accredited in this way and it is a major step forward in ensuring greater awareness of the needs of people with autism. I am sure Members will want to join me in congratulating the frontline staff and managers who have worked hard to achieve this result.

Wider Partnership Conference

On 21st October I attended the Wider Partnership Conference with our voluntary and community sector, and other partners. I was delighted to be able to address the conference as Chairman of the Health and Wellbeing Board, and to recognise the wonderful work the sector is currently doing and to listen to the ideas and commitment from our partners to make the ambitions within the strategy a reality.

The conference provided an excellent opportunity to discuss the opportunities to work together to make a real impact in the delivery of our Health and Wellbeing Strategy and to help our communities to stay strong, people stay independent for longer and children to have the best start in life.

Living Well Service

I was delighted to be able to meet staff from the Living Well service to mark its first anniversary and to hear first-hand about the work that has been undertaken to help people become more independent so that they do not need to use care services on a long term basis.

Social Care Mental Health Services

Implementation has taken place of a new local authority management structure to improve mental health services. For a number of years, County Council mental health staff have been managed by the NHS. The new arrangements are intended to strengthen their social care practice and to ensure the service is directly accountable to NYCC. Staff will continue to work in joint teams with NHS colleagues, with more time and attention being given to the quality of the social care service as well as to NHS treatment. This approach will support people with mental ill health to achieve and then sustain recovery and reduce the need for crisis and clinical responses.

Dementia Congress

Supporting people with dementia, and their carers, is a major priority for the County Council. I was therefore very pleased to be able to attend and open our Dementia Congress, in Harrogate, which was held on 31 October and which showcased good practice across the voluntary sector, the NHS and the County Council and also highlighted where people with dementia and their carers want us all to make improvements. We were able to hear uplifting examples of how people can be helped to live well even after having a diagnosis of dementia, but also to review the key messages which will shape our dementia strategy for the next five years. I am committed to ensuring that the strategy, which will be considered by the Health and Wellbeing Board early next year, is driven by what matters to people who are living with dementia.

Coffee Cart at County Hall

As Members will be aware, there will a new catering provider is coming into place at County Hall and we are negotiating with them to provide supported employment opportunities for people with disabilities and/or mental health issues. We had encouraged Creative Support, provider of the Coffee Cart service, to partner with the new catering service but Creative Support as a charity do not tend to take part in broader commercial contracting arrangements and so, sadly, their role at County Hall has come to an end. I would like to take this opportunity to thank them for the work that they have done with us, to say that all current trainees have moved on to new work placements and to congratulate them wholeheartedly on their achievements.

Wendy Balmain

I would like to thank Wendy Balmain, who has been on secondment with us from the Department of Health for the last 18 months and has worked closely with Members and officers and partner agencies to develop the work of the Health and Well-being Board and to improve joint working with the NHS. This task is a challenging one and I would like to acknowledge her hard work and to wish her well as she takes up a substantive post as an NHS director in Harrogate. We are interviewing next week for a successor to Wendy and, in the meantime, Amanda Reynolds, who has worked extensively with counties in the East of England, and for the Department of Health, has joined us to cover these areas of responsibility.

Clare Wood