

NORTH YORKSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

15 February 2017

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

I am delighted to announce that our housing partners have been successful in obtaining a grant award from the Homes and Communities Agency. The monies have been allocated from the Government's Shared Ownership and Affordable Homes Programme which is administered by the Homes and Communities Agency and should enable over 150 new homes to be built. The successful providers are Housing and Care 21 and Home Group and officers in Health & Adult Services will now work very closely with them to ensure that the Extra Care schemes are developed across the County as soon as is practicable.

Rural Arts

I am pleased to report that, as a result of an innovative partnership, Thirsk-based Rural Arts is now undertaking a programme of arts activities with residents of Extra Care schemes across the County. We hope that this programme will be fun for residents and, also, ensure their voices are heard, in the running of the schemes and in how we plan services for the future. This is a major step forward in ensuring that we can build inclusive communities and reduce social isolation within our Extra Care Schemes and enable people the opportunity to develop new friendships and live independent lives.

Income Maximisation Team

The Income Maximisation Team continues to thrive, providing an income and benefits check for individuals not yet in receipt of formal Council services, but potentially on the cusp of care needs. Results for the first two years of operation show that the seven staff in the team enabled 2,987 benefits applications to be made, generating £970k in backdated lump sums and £6.3m of additional income every year for North Yorkshire residents. People receiving care services also have an income and benefits check as part of the financial assessment process. I am sure Members will also want to join me in congratulating the team on winning an award in the Council's recent Innovation Awards scheme.

Learning Disability Strategy

I am pleased to report that we agreed a joint strategy with the NHS at the Health and Wellbeing Board in January. The Strategy, "Live Well, Live Longer" continues our commitment to enabling people with a learning disability to lead fulfilling lives and builds on previous successes in offering more personalised support, more people living in their own homes and more people in employment and being part of the life of their communities. It particularly prioritises work to improve people's health and to support carers. As ever, value for money and service quality will be important considerations.

Innovation Fund

The Innovation Fund was set up several years ago, with funding from both the Public Health Grant and the Supporting People programme. Its aim was to provide the opportunity for the voluntary sector to try new ideas and approaches to help vulnerable people improve their

health and wellbeing. We have worked closely with Your Consortium, a social enterprise based in Knaresborough, who have managed the scheme for us.

In January we announced new funding through this initiative, for 8 schemes, most of which are aiming to support older people, carers and people with mental health or learning disabilities to be less isolated, more active and feel supported to deal with changes in their lives.

This is the final round for the current version of the Fund – in future, it will be part of the Stronger Communities programme, where we also have the opportunity to support new ideas and offer start-up funding. We will still support innovation, but in a more joined up way.

Social Care Mental Health Services

On the 31st October 2016. Social Care Mental Health services were brought back into the direct management of the County Council, albeit continuing to work in joint teams with NHS colleagues. An initial review of the service is now underway and NYCC staff are clearly saying that they feel more valued and are better able to carry out their social care responsibilities to the public. The new structure is also enabling the Council to work in partnership with the Department of Health and Leeds University to develop a stronger prevention and recovery approach for North Yorkshire residents who have a mental illness.

Care & Support Re-structure

This significant programme of change, part of the Council's 2020 plan, is on track for implementation on 3 April 2017. This change will enable the Council to further strengthen prevention services and to develop our reablement service to support people to be as independent as possible and to maximise their own abilities to achieve a high level of wellbeing. The early phase of implementation including the Care & Support Team in the Customer Resolution Centre has already identified an increase in the timeliness of responses through providing professional advice and information when it really matters. I would like to thank all staff and managers who are involved in this major change, and people who use services, who have helped us to develop the proposals.

Winter Pressures

As ever at this time of year, there has been a major focus nationally and locally on managing Winter pressures and ensuring that people can be discharged from hospital in a timely manner. Members will be aware that the national state of the care market makes this a challenging situation. We continue to operate at Winter levels and I can report that during December and January, the daily number of delays ranged from 12 to 30, with the average being under 20 people, out of a total number of approximately 1500 acute hospitals beds serving the County. I would like to thank all staff and managers, both within NYCC and partner agencies, who are involved in supporting people who are being discharged from hospital.

Paul Cresswell

I would like to thank Paul Cresswell, Assistant Director, Strategic Resources, as he relocates to Gloucestershire to care for his partner who is unwell. Paul has contributed significantly to local government in several councils across the County and I am sure you will join me in wishing him all the best.

Clare Wood