

NORTH YORKSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL**18 May 2016****STATEMENT OF THE ADULT SOCIAL CARE AND HEALTH INTEGRATION
PORTFOLIO HOLDER COUNTY COUNCILLOR CLARE WOOD****Extra Care**

I am delighted to be able to report that another of our new Extra Care schemes has been opened formally. Limestone View in Settle had its official launch on 14 April, which sadly I was unable to attend, but I am very grateful to Councillor Jeffels for undertaking the formalities. I understand the day went very well.

Progress continues with the new scheme in Leyburn. Although the bad weather has delayed the completion of the building work a little, we fully expect people to be able to start moving in by the end of the summer.

I remain fully committed to our ambitious and exciting programme. I have asked that we support and influence in any way we can the government's review of the proposals to change the rules for social housing rents and the Local Housing Allowance. These have, I believe, had unforeseen consequences in respect of the costs for supported housing and extra care. The Government has agreed to delay the introduction of the planned changes for supported housing schemes whilst the review is undertaken. However, with the help of our local MPs, we are lobbying Government Ministers to put in place measures which will restore investor confidence.

NHS Sustainability and Transformation Plans

I am very grateful to Councillor Jim Clark for his letter to NHS England pointing out the challenges for the County Council in the development of three NHS Sustainability and Transformation Plans for our North Yorkshire health communities. Councillor Clark has quite rightly highlighted our concerns that the areas covered in these plans will give priority to the needs of Leeds, Hull and Teesside and represent a missed opportunity for addressing health issues in rural and coastal areas.

Regardless of these challenges, I am pleased to report that, as a County Council, we have developed clear plans which we have shared with our Clinical Commissioning Groups, setting out how we will be working on the local priorities to deliver the outcomes we have agreed for the County, in line with the Health and Wellbeing Strategy and our 2020 vision for Health and Adult Services. My intention is that we retain a clear and consistent North Yorkshire approach, but with real regard to the local needs and opportunities.

Better Care Fund

As Council papers went to press, negotiations were continuing for the transfer of funding from the NHS to maintain and protect social care. Like many other large counties, with multiple NHS partners, this year's Better Care Fund negotiations have been a real challenge and I hope that we will be able to find a solution soon.

HealthWatch

I would like to acknowledge the work of Sir Michael Carlisle, who is retiring as Chairman of Healthwatch, and a member of the Health and Well-being Board, at the end of June. Sir Michael has been HealthWatch Chairman during a challenging eighteen months for that organisation and has overseen some necessary changes to strengthen the role and voice of the public in health and social care issues.

Assessment and Reablement Services

As part of the 2020 Programme, we are undertaking significant changes within adult social care assessment and reablement services, to help us to keep more people independent for longer and to prevent, reduce and delay the need for long term care wherever possible. A three month consultation has just been launched with the 1500 staff who provide these services including social workers, occupational therapists, reablement and home care staff.

Likewise, we are also consulting with our social care mental health staff, who are currently managed by NHS Mental Health Trusts, to restore the direct line management link with the County Council, so that people with mental health issues are able to get the same kind of support from local government that older and disabled people access already.

Safe Places

Earlier this month, we celebrated the official launch of the North Yorkshire Safe Places scheme, which offers help to people with a disability, dementia or a mental health problem if they are out and about and are feeling unwell, or anxious, or are a victim of bullying or harassment. Already 120 venues across the County are designated as 'Safe Places', with specially trained staff and links to a call centre which can get in contact with family and friends. Our local scheme has been developed by people who use services, alongside the County Council, North Yorkshire Police and the voluntary sector. Current 'Safe Places' include libraries, leisure centres, pharmacies and railway stations. Allerton Court Hotel has just become our first hospitality sector partner and we are hopeful of signing up a number of High Street names.

Clare Wood