

NORTH YORKSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL**20 July 2016****STATEMENT FROM PORTFOLIO HOLDER FOR STRONGER COMMUNITIES,
PUBLIC HEALTH, LEGAL AND DEMOCRATIC SERVICES
AND THE ROLE OF AREA COMMITTEES****COUNTY COUNCILLOR DAVID CHANCE****STRONGER COMMUNITIES**

The main focus of the Stronger Communities programme for 2016/17 is to support the final stages of the library service reconfiguration programme. The twenty-six community and hybrid library management groups will be supported to complete a business plan, recruit and train volunteers and develop their operating models prior to the hand over in April 2017.

The first quarter of 2016/17 has seen the Stronger Communities programme build on the success of its first full year of operation. 36 groups were supported in the first three months of 2016/17 with investment of circa £195k. Twenty-five voluntary and community sector groups were given help to expand or extend their existing provision and to build organisational capacity. Six new library management groups were assisted with start up support and costs. Five new groups were also established providing activities and support to both adults and children and young people across the county.

Libraries – Supporting community and hybrid libraries

All Expressions of Interest have been submitted from community library management committees. Work is progressing with newly formed groups to obtain charitable status and to prepare their formal business plans. As of 30 June, fourteen community and hybrid libraries have submitted constitutions to the Charity Commission and it is expected that the remaining twelve will be submitted by the end of July. Six business plans have been evaluated with the remaining business plans to be seen by the evaluation panel between July and September.

The Stronger Communities team have carried out a range of development activities with new and emerging groups including community visioning events to explore potential partners and future service options for community libraries, options appraisals, trustee recruitment and skills audits and preparation of constitutions. Four learning and advisory seminars for all management committees are planned for July and August.

Services for Older People and Vulnerable Adults

The focus for 2016/17 is to utilise local experience and intelligence from within the established Stronger Communities Team and Living Well service coupled with emerging national research to inform a more targeted approach to reduce, prevent or delay demand for statutory services.

This will be achieved through a number of internal projects such as identifying and mapping demand for services and the creation of an officer sub-group of the Stronger Communities Programme Board to take a strategic lead on this issue within the County Council. This work will then inform and prioritise investment in the voluntary and community sector.

Community Transport

The emphasis of support continues to be strengthening the existing community transport offer in light of the reduction in bus subsidies and changes to Integrated Passenger Transport to ensure access to services and connectivity across the County.

In order to seek to build the customer base for community transport providers and help make them more sustainable, a marketing brief was prepared and advertised externally for quotations to carry out a piece of work to establish a North Yorkshire community transport brand; re-positioning community transport as a universal service rather than one that is associated with either people on low incomes or for health services.

The evaluation of these quotes is underway and it is expected that a provider will be in place to deliver this work by the end of July.

Services for Children, Young People and Families

Building on the work with the Prevention Service and North Yorkshire Youth last year, 2016/17 will see the rollout of a further five Youth Provider Networks in market towns while continuing to support the development of new volunteer led groups/activities for children and young people across the county. In addition Stronger Communities will continue to support the implementation of the 0-5 Early Years Strategy 2016/17 in conjunction with Children and Young Peoples Services.

PUBLIC HEALTH

Duncan Selbie visit

The Chief Executive of Public Health England (PHE) visited the Council on 4 July 2016. We discussed some of the public health challenges we face as a large rural shire county with an ageing population and a complex health and social care system. It was also an opportunity to showcase some of the work we are doing in partnership with the NHS, districts and voluntary sector to address issues like loneliness and isolation, obesity and health inequalities. Our Public Health team work with colleagues from PHE on a wide range of topics such as our planning and response to health protection incidents.

Healthy Child Programme 0-5

We assumed responsibility for the 0-5 Healthy Child Programme in October 2015 and have successfully managed the transfer from the NHS. We have now re-commissioned that service and a new contract has been awarded to Harrogate District Foundation Trust (HDFT) who were the incumbent providers and also the providers of the 5-19 Healthy Child Programme. The new service will commence in October 2016. Work is ongoing with HDFT to mobilise the contract and to implement new structures between the CYPS Prevention Service and Healthy Child Programme to facilitate integration and develop a 'one team' approach.

The data for North Yorkshire suggests that childhood injuries are an area of particular concern. Many of these injuries are preventable. In the North Yorkshire Child Health Profile (March 2016), hospital admissions caused by injuries in children was one of the few areas in which North Yorkshire performed significantly worse than the England average. An estimated 10% reduction in admissions equivalent to Two hundred and twenty-two admissions avoided would bring our performance in line with the England average and result in a £300,000 savings to acute health care spending.

The Healthy Child Programme is central to the prevention of accidents and injuries in children and over the last few months our Public Health team have worked collaboratively with Harrogate and District Foundation Trust and CYPS Prevention Service to develop a multi-agency pathway aimed at reducing the number of unintentional injuries and hospital admissions across the county. The pathway creates a standardised and systematic approach for professionals involved with all children 0-19 and will support local decision making. This pathway will be supported by the development in an injury minimisation toolkit. The toolkit, primarily developed by health visitors, will provide a systematic evidence based tool to assess and reduce risk in and around the home.

Alcohol Strategy

In January 2015 the Council with our partners published a joint alcohol strategy. The strategy aimed to galvanise partners to collectively reduce the harms from alcohol and identified three outcome areas: to establish responsible and sensible drinking as

the norm, to identify and support those who need help into treatment through recovery, and to reduce alcohol related crime and disorder.

We continue to support public health campaigns such as Dry January and have financially invested in Personal, Social and Health Education (PSHE) in schools to help raise awareness of sensible drinking. We commissioned access to Alcohol Identification and Brief Advice (IBA) training for non-specialists and have increased provision for IBA interventions in primary care. The Public Health team has worked with professionals to develop a treatment pathway to ensure that people can access the appropriate treatment to support recovery from alcohol misuse. Alcohol profiles have also been developed to support districts in making alcohol licencing decisions. The Care Quality Commission (CQC) inspected the clinical arm of North Yorkshire Horizons in February 2016. The report noted that “The flexibility of the service allowed staff to engage with clients with a chaotic lifestyle and support them through recovery” and praised this as an area of outstanding practice. The majority of new referrals to North Yorkshire Horizons are for people with alcohol misuse problems. This shift in the adult drug and alcohol service was one of the key achievements of the strategy in its first year.

NHS sustainability and transformation plans (STPs)

There are three STPs covering the North Yorkshire footprint which highlights the complexity we face in working with the NHS. STPs are meant to focus on three gaps in each STP area: health and wellbeing, quality and financial. The Public Health team have been working with our Clinical Commissioning Groups (CCGs) to develop responses to the health and wellbeing challenge and to provide public health advice on prevention.

LEGAL AND DEMOCRATIC SERVICES

As part of the better together project with Selby District Council, the legal teams from both authorities have been exploring collaborative working. The teams shared a joint trainee solicitor who has now qualified successfully and has been retained by the County Council. In addition a member of Selby’s legal team covered maternity leave for one of the County’s senior solicitors. Again this proved a highly beneficial arrangement for both authorities. The County legal team while continuing to maintain their links with Selby, including winning a successful joint bid to appear on the panel for Merseyside Fire Authority are now involved in another collaborative project, but this time with City of York Council (CYC). A joint trainee solicitor has been appointed by York and North Yorkshire while a senior solicitor from County has gone into CYC legal team to support their commercial team.