

Michael Harrison – November 2019 County Council Statement

Harrogate and Rural Alliance Launch

As previously advised to members, the Harrogate and Rural Alliance has been developed to integrate teams across primary care, community health and social care. The Alliance was formally launched at the beginning of October and teams are now working closely together, co-located across different organisation premises under a single management structure.

I will keep members informed of progress and I am convinced that this initiative will result in a much better service for our residents who are in need of care and support, and will be a model that eventually can be rolled out across the county. Both the working arrangements and financial agreements have been approved by all partners.

Robotics and Assistive Technology

As part of the digital work that the Health & Wellbeing Board is sponsoring we are exploring how we use technology to support people to stay in their own homes.

Some of the ideas that we are looking at are:

- New and innovative approaches such as the use of robotic pets and the positive impact these can have on people who are distressed or display challenging behaviour.
- Use of consumer technology such as Amazon Echo / Google Home and how we can make use of technology that people already have.
- Using data to predict who may be at most risk of an adverse event (falls etc.) and targeting activity to prevent this happening.

We are developing a partnership with Sheffield University who have an advanced manufacturing and robotics division where we hope to shape the agenda and focus research on key issues for Health and Adult Services.

Flooding Response

Members will be only to aware of the floods that hit the dales late afternoon on 30th July. Our Health & Adult Services incident management plans were invoked and we quickly completed vulnerability assessments of residents and carried out welfare checks. Our staff worked under extremely challenging circumstances and all returned home safely.

We assisted the Major Incident Response Team and worked closely with Richmond District Council in looking at supporting people in the worst affected areas with potential rehousing solutions. It is clear that people who live and work in the dales demonstrate enormous resilience and are totally dedicated to servicing their local communities.

Transfers of Care Coordinators

Our Delayed Transfer of Care targets continue to be met, and to support this we are trialling Transfers of Care Coordinators across the County. We have located 11 colleagues in York, Airedale, Harrogate, Friarage, South Tees and Scarborough

Hospitals and their roles will strengthen partner relationships and act as a direct point of contact helping to deliver timely assessments to ensure discharge delays are kept to a minimum.

We will test and evaluate the success of these working practices over the next 12 months.

Safeguarding

New multi-agency safeguarding arrangements were introduced on 1st October by the North Yorkshire Safeguarding Adults Board. Health & Adult Services is the lead agency for safeguarding, although the new arrangements will affect all partners we work with including Health, Police, Borough/District Councils, voluntary and independent sectors.

Safeguarding is a key part of our work and the new process focuses heavily on the assessment of risk and what outcome the person wants.

Training has been provided for colleagues and more information is available for partners here:

www.northyorks.gov.uk/safeguarding-vulnerable-adults

www.safeguardingadults.co.uk