

**NORTH YORKSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL**

**19 FEBRUARY 2020**

**STATEMENT OF THE PORTFOLIO HOLDER FOR PUBLIC HEALTH, PREVENTION AND SUPPORTED HOUSING**

COUNTY COUNCILLOR CAROLINE DICKINSON

**Working together to thrive in Scarborough**

In early December I attended an event hosted by the YMCA in Scarborough which brought together 76 participants representing partners across the local authorities including the Public Health and Stronger Communities teams, clinical commissioning group and the voluntary and community sector to explore working differently for the benefit of Scarborough Borough in relation to tackling poverty and inequalities. Notwithstanding the breadth of work being done in the Borough it was acknowledged that more progress is needed to increase healthy life expectancy in these communities.

The event was about working together to better understand the factors that influence health so we can focus on what really matters in designing, planning and delivering services that can benefit people facing multiple disadvantages and poverty. Equal partnership with residents of the targeted neighbourhoods is also important if solutions are going to endure and develop without being overly reliant on public sector funding.

The event consisted of presentations, workshops and an opportunity to map local services/opportunities. We heard from inspiring speakers including local residents who shared their personal stories about living with mental health problems and the support that help them to maintain their personal resilience. There was a workshop addressing the issue of loneliness in the Borough that emphasised how loneliness can affect anyone, and probably will at some point in their life. Each person has a role to play in helping themselves and helping each other and we discussed how this can also be a particular, creative topic to engage the talents of young people in the area.

**Hepatitis A in Ripon**

North Yorkshire County Council and wider partners were involved in the management of a large outbreak of Hepatitis A virus in Ripon in summer 2019. In total, there were 32 confirmed cases of Hepatitis A between mid-May and mid-July. The majority of cases were associated with a single school, although around a third of cases occurred in people who lived in or ate in Ripon, or who were contacts of school-associated cases.

An Outbreak Control Team was set up by Public Health England to manage the outbreak, which included County and District Council staff alongside CCG colleagues and wider partners. Groups of people identified as being at higher risk of infection were offered vaccination, arranged and delivered by the PHE screening and immunisation team and the School Nursing Service. In total 942 children and staff were vaccinated in 4 schools and one mop up session. In addition, communications teams in PHE, NHS England and NYCC worked together to deliver a public information campaign based around hand washing, and were also able to deliver united messages on the outbreak and the ongoing response.

A debrief session was held in January, where it was formally noted that the efforts partners had pre-emptively put in to outbreak response, particularly through the production of the North Yorkshire Mass Treatment and Vaccination Plan, had meant that organisations were able to function with greater confidence as a system to manage the outbreak.

## **Workplace Wellbeing Champions**

Since the North Yorkshire Workplace Wellbeing Award was launched in March 2019 we have 36 organisations signed up including one of our hospitals with 8,500 staff. There has also been good take up by schools, with 21 individual schools and 1 Multi Academy Trust covering 7 schools. One of the objectives of the Award is to develop capacity and capability within local organisations and businesses who have made a public commitment to improving the health and wellbeing of their staff through signing up to the award. This includes identifying workplace health and wellbeing champions to undertake induction training.

The induction outlines the importance of good physical and mental health in the workplace and the role of champions in promoting health and wellbeing. The sessions are practical in focus and include Making Every Contact Count training. This enables champions to provide brief opportunistic advice on key health and lifestyle issues to their colleagues on an informal basis. A total of 29 Workplace Wellbeing Champions have been trained to date.

## **Warm and Well**

The Warm and Well service provides a single point of contact for North Yorkshire residents living in or at risk of a cold home, fuel poverty, struggling to afford their energy bills, or worried about winter. The service has been run by Citizens Advice Mid North Yorkshire since September 2017. The service also includes co-ordinating wider activities around winter health, for example drafting funding bids, organising partnership events, and running awareness campaigns to communicate messages around keeping warm in winter. Training has also been provided for professionals on identifying vulnerable groups who may be at risk of living in fuel poverty, and highlight the support available to them so that agencies can make easy referrals into the contact centre.

A key success of the Warm and Well programme has been to help secure over 1 million pounds of additional funding to support the winter health partnership. This has included over £300,000 from the British Gas Energy Trust to provide follow up assistance for households in North Yorkshire, for example on energy efficiency measures, debt advice and a hardship fund for households in need. Further funding has included £1,280,000 from the Warm Homes Fund for first time gas central heating systems or air source heat pumps for vulnerable residents, plus additional money from the Big Energy Saving Network to provide training and information campaigns giving good energy advice.

## **Strong and Steady**

Strong and Steady is a 12-week exercise programme that improves strength, flexibility and mobility in people aged 65 and over who have had, or are at risk of having, a fall. The programme operates in 20 locations across North Yorkshire, delivering exercise in the heart of communities. 600 people have benefitted from the programme to date with improvements across a range of well-being indicators, including people's ability to carry out everyday tasks and getting out of a chair and moving around. Ultimately this contributes towards someone's ability to continue to live independently in their own home.

As well as the exercise there is a strong focus on social interaction, with every session offering a cup of tea and a chat at the end which helps to foster a sense of belonging, reducing loneliness and isolation and creating friendships, as well as the opportunity to signpost to other local services such as Warm and Well. The funding also enables the promotion of a more universal service in order for people to step up and step down. This includes supporting local groups to set up age appropriate activities in the community.

For more information visit <https://www.northyorkshiresport.co.uk/strong-and-steady> or watch one of North Yorkshire Sport's videos:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Pdepgq3EW74>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CJ1qMTX0nxw>

### **Living Well Smokefree**

Living Well Smokefree completed its service restructure on October 1<sup>st</sup> 2019 with all staff now working under North Yorkshire County Council terms and conditions and locality based. There were 3 vacancies and following a successful period of recruitment all posts will be filled by February 2020.

With the full stop smoking service now up and running across North Yorkshire, in community clinics and throughout Primary Care, the focus is moving into the next development phase. This phase is prioritising referral routes into the service, through the Customer Service Centre and online options for both individuals and referral partners. This will make the service more resilient and accessible for the people in North Yorkshire. In addition, there are projects ongoing to move aspects of internal and external training online, developing a data and performance dashboard and to distribute our newly developed branding and communications across the county.

In the first 6 months of 2019 (April-September) since the service was brought in-house, 469 people have set a quit date and 287 have managed to quit at 4 weeks which is 61% - a high success rate. This has provided a solid foundation to build on in the future.

### **Living Well**

The Living Well team continue to support a wide range of people to build their confidence and reduce their loneliness and social isolation. In October 2019, the service celebrated its fourth year of practice and there have been 10,000 referrals in that time. 94% of people say that the service they have received has been successful and 85% say that they would definitely recommend the service to others.

Increasingly Living Well referrals are received direct from health (42% during 2019). Living Well has developed very positive partnerships with GPs and other health professionals and is currently in contract negotiations with 5 Primary Care Networks to deliver social prescribing link workers in Selby and Harrogate. The link workers will be based in GP practices and work directly with patients; particularly people who visit the practice frequently; isolated or frail patients and individuals with low level mental health issues. In Harrogate, this work will be in addition to the work in GP practices funded through the Improved Better Care Fund.