

NORTH YORKSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

19 February 2020

STATEMENT OF CHAIRMAN OF SCRUTINY BOARD

Members will be aware that Scrutiny Board brings together the Chairs of the five thematic overview and scrutiny committees at the Council and the Older Peoples' and Young People's Champions. It provides an opportunity for a whole council view of scrutiny activity, which avoids gaps and overlaps and helps establish a lead committee for areas of joint interest. It also provides a forum in which the key performance issues for the Council can be reviewed and items for further scrutiny identified.

There have been two meetings of Scrutiny Board since my last statement to Council. The first was on 22 November 2020. At that meeting the following matters relating to the delivery of overview and scrutiny at the Council were discussed:

- Update on the work of the Older People's and Young People's Champions and the links with overview and scrutiny
- How overview and scrutiny could work with Healthwatch North Yorkshire and the data, information and analysis that they are able to provide
- Executive Q2 Performance Report
- Overview and scrutiny practice and whether it was timely to conduct a self-assessment.

The second meeting of the Board was on 7 January 2020. At that meeting members started an informal self-assessment of overview and scrutiny practice at the Council. During the discussions a number of areas were identified for further investigation over the coming months. The issues identified to date are ones that relate to the day-to-day running of the Council's overview and scrutiny function and have no implications for the Constitution. For example, training for committee chairs and vice chairs and a new approach to setting the committee work programme.

Members of Scrutiny Board attended the Executive Q2 Performance Management meeting on 26 November 2019, to raise questions regarding key areas of the Council's performance under the heading of 'Health and independent living'. This included clarifying:

- Whether it will be possible to maintain good performance in adult social care services as the demand for services increases and the challenges around community care provision and residential care provision continue?
- Are there any lessons that can be learned from other local authorities about the management of the care market and the way in which to respond to the challenge of permanent care placements above approved rates?
- Whether the reductions in Delayed Transfers of Care has been achieved through discharge to the 'right' placement or discharge to any placement as an interim measure and then putting the 'right' package of care in place?
- What impact the current budgetary pressures faced by Health and Adult Services will have upon its ability to meet its objectives and service standards?

Members of Scrutiny Board also raised a number of issues with the Executive relating to education and children and young people's social care, including:

- Whether the increase in the number of Electively Home Educated pupils was an indicator with a fall in satisfaction with some North Yorkshire schools and general financial stress within the education system?
- Why it was that a small number of Looked After Children experience multiple placements in a relatively short period of time?
- What lessons have been learned locally, regionally and nationally from the response to the July 2019 flash floods.

Members will be aware that scrutiny was created to act as a check and balance on the executive and is a statutory requirement for all authorities operating executive arrangements.

COUNTY COUNCILLOR DEREK BASTIMAN
Chairman of Scrutiny Board
21 January 2020