

NORTH YORKSHIRE HEALTH AND WELLBEING BOARD

**IMPROVING HEALTH AND CARE FOR VULNERABLE OLDER PEOPLE IN
NORTH YORKSHIRE**

29 NOVEMBER 2013

1. Introduction

- 1.1 It has been proposed that the Health and Wellbeing Board might use thematic discussions in some of its meetings to consider key strategic issues. The issue of Vulnerable Older People has been chosen for the first of these thematic discussions.
- 1.2 There will be short presentations from NYCC, Public Health, the CCGs and the District Councils of an aspect of current work for vulnerable older people in North Yorkshire, before an opportunity for the Board to consider the presentations and what some of the key priority areas for further development would be.

2. Background

- 2.1 People in the UK are living longer but not necessarily healthier, lives. The proportion of people who are very old is growing fastest: there are currently three million people over 80 and this number is expected to double by 2030.
- 2.2 Contrary to popular belief ageing is not inevitably associated with failing health but varies individually. For a significant number of older people, however, advancing age is associated with frailty which is not a diagnosis but a commonly used term that describes the loss of function that can arise from having a number of long term conditions with exacerbations by acute illnesses.
- 2.3 As we age we tend to use health and social services more. The majority of patients in hospital and people using health and social care services in the community are over 75.
- 2.4 Improving health and care for vulnerable older people is therefore one of the key strategic issues for the Health and Wellbeing Board, especially given the context of the financial challenges facing public services. The challenge has been summarised as getting the right services and skills in the right place at the right time.

2.5 Appended to this report is a slide from the Kings Fund which suggests that there are 10 aspects of integrated services to provide person centred care and may be a helpful framework for considering the presentations and next steps for vulnerable older people in North Yorkshire.

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