

## North Yorkshire County Council

### Scarborough and Whitby Area Constituency Committee

Minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 26 September 2018 at 10.00 am at Sneaton Castle Centre, Castle Road, Whitby.

**Present:-**

County Councillors Eric Broadbent, David Chance, Janet Jefferson, Andrew Jenkinson, Clive Pearson (Vice Chairman), Joe Plant (Chairman), Tony Randerson, and Roberta Swiers.

Officers: Daniel Harry (Democratic Services and Scrutiny Manager), Richard Webb (Health and Adult Services), Claire Robinson (Public Health), Richard Marr (Highways), and Alice Gill (Business Support).

In attendance: County Councillors Carl Les and Michael Harrison. Also in attendance was the Rt Hon Robert Goodwill MP.

Apologies for absence: County Councillors Derek Bastiman, Liz Colling, David Jeffels and Callum Walsh.

**9. Minutes of the meeting of the Yorkshire Coast and Moors County Area Committee held on 20 June 2018**

**Resolved -**

That the Minutes be noted.

**10. Declarations of Interest**

There were no declarations of interest.

**11. Public Questions or Statements**

The following question was submitted by Whitby Town Councillor Linda Wild:

“Whilst we are aware that the Park & Ride on the A171 Guisborough Road does have an impact on the reduction of traffic into the Town, there is no such relief for traffic using the A171 Stainsacre Lane from Scarborough. Has the County Council any plans to expand its park and ride service to alleviate the number of cars coming into the Town Centre Car parks or would they consider installing digital parking signs to direct visitors to the existing Park and Ride or Abbey Car Park before entering the Town Centre?”

The question was answered at the meeting by Richard Marr of NYCC Highways, as follows:

Currently NYCC has no proposals to construct a new Park and Ride facility to the south of Whitby. These facilities are expensive to construct and we have no identifiable capital funding available for the project. However, we are mindful of the request and will consider it should any appropriate funding stream become available.

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Similarly for the electronic signing, we have submitted funding bids for such signs for Whitby but have, to date, been unsuccessful. Again, we are ready to resubmit our bid should a funding opportunity become available.

Whitby Town Councillor Linda Wild asked a supplementary question, querying the need to close Whitby Swing Bridge on busy tourist days.

The supplementary question was answered at the meeting by Richard Marr of NYCC Highways, as follows:

The sheer number of pedestrian tourists on the bridge creates hold ups for vehicles. This results in vehicles being unable to clear the bridge under the green light. This leads to the traffic from the opposite direction setting off and meeting to oncoming vehicles in amongst the large number of pedestrians. Apart from the road safety issues this presents, it can lead to vehicles taking to the footway to get past. The edge beams of the swing bridge are vulnerable under excessing loading and vehicles driving on the footway can lead to unacceptable loadings on these edge beams. Therefore we take the proactive step of closing the bridge.

## 12. Green Paper and Fairer Funding for Local Government

Considered -

The report of Richard Webb the Director of Health and Adult Services at North Yorkshire County Council providing an overview of adult social care funding and provision in the committee area and also the likely approach of the government to the adult social care funding Green Paper.

Cllr Michael Harrison introduced the paper summarising the current position, as below:

- Adult Social Care is the largest single service and budget area (excluding schools) for the County Council
- The average hourly rate paid to providers for domiciliary care is 15% higher in super rural areas compared with the rate in urban areas
- Key adult social care workers in the county spend 45 minutes on average as “downtime” – for each visit in rural areas. This compares with 20 minutes in urban areas
- The Improved Better Care Fund is due to cease in March 2020, with no government plans as yet for its continuation
- Prevention and early intervention is important with over 200 people in the constituency referred to the Living Well service
- The County Council works with 71 residential and nursing homes and home care providers in the area
- National research suggests that county councils will face a funding gap of £1.6bn in social care by 2020/21
- Local Government Association has launched a consultation on a Green Paper of its own called “The lives we want to lead”. This outlines possible solutions for paying for adult social care in the long-term.

Richard Webb said that the current consultations by the Local Government Association (LGA) and the County Councils Network (CCN), on the funding of adult social care, offered an opportunity to influence some of the thinking around the Green Paper.

Richard Webb said that the Council had responded to the challenges that arose from the delivery of adult social care services in the county by investing in prevention and early intervention and moving towards a strength-based model of assessment. Some

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structural issues persisted, such as recruitment to social care posts in Whitby and the surrounding area. Work was underway, however, to promote social care as a viable, long term employment option and career. Richard Webb referred members to the Council's 'Make Care Matter' website - <http://www.makecarematter.co.uk/>

Richard Webb said that there was early, anecdotal evidence that some care workers from Eastern European countries were leaving jobs in the care sector in the county. This could be in response to concerns about the UK exit from the EU. Richard Webb said that the situation was being monitored.

Cllr Michael Harrison said that the provision of high quality adult social care services costs money. Also, that further work needed to be done to support the care provider market that enabled them to invest in their services and infrastructure. An option could be for the Council to build modern care homes that could then be rented back to the care provider.

Richard Webb noted that other pressures within the system included the need to invest in mental health care and also to look at new ways of working with young adults with disabilities who are living longer.

Richard Webb said that the LGA consultation 'The lives we want to lead' suggests the following ways in which the increasing costs associated with adult social care could be paid:

- Means-testing universal benefits – savings could be invested in adult social care. For example, means testing the winter fuel payment could raise up to £1.9 billion a year in 2024/25
- Social care premium – a contribution, such as an addition to National Insurance or another mechanism, paid by employers and people over 40, including over 65s
- 1 per cent on Income Tax – on the basic rate of tax (those earning £11,851 to £46,350), this would raise £4.4 billion in 2024/25
- 1 per cent on National Insurance – this would raise £10.4 billion in 2024/25
- 1 per cent on council tax – this would raise another £285 million in 2024/25
- Charging for accommodation costs - would raise £200 million a year.

Cllr Michael Harrison said that the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care, the Rt Hon Matt Hancock MP, was keen to see responses to the LGA and CCN consultations as these would help shape some of his thinking about the Green Paper.

Cllr Joe Plant raised his concerns about the future of the Improved Better Care Fund after the current funding ends in 2020.

Cllr Michael Harrison said that the Better Care Fund monies are passported directly from the NHS locally and that they currently fill a £3m to £4m shortfall in the social care budget. If the Better Care Fund is not renewed after 2020, then this will be a significant additional pressure upon the adult social care budget.

Cllr David Chance raised concerns about the additional costs associated with delivering social care services in rural areas and the apparent rise in the number of older people living in remote villages.

The Rt Hon Robert Goodwill MP said that the government had been reviewing current planning laws, particularly regarding building in rural areas. He noted that once the Potash mine was up and running, there would be a need for more housing in the immediate vicinity.

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Richard Webb said that the County Council was beginning to work with the District and Borough Councils on a review of the total housing stock in a given area and whether it met the needs of the local community. This is particularly important when considering the future needs of an ageing population.

Cllr Eric Broadbent said that there needed to be a long term, sustainable solution for the funding of adult social care.

The Rt Hon Robert Goodwill MP said that there was a need to come up with a funding solution that was fair and which recognised the different financial positions that people were in in later life. He identified three different groups of people: those living in rented accommodation, on limited means and with a state pension; those who own their house but have little disposable income; and those who own their house and have a private pension. The question was how people could contribute some of their capital, whilst still protecting their legacy.

The Rt Hon Robert Goodwill said that people were now openly discussing the possibility of changing National Insurance and linking it to social care provision. The key will be to build a cross party consensus that enables new ideas to be explored.

The Rt Hon Robert Goodwill MP noted that North Yorkshire is perceived at Westminster to be a healthy and prosperous county. It is recognised, however, that the current levels of funding do not take into account the issues associated with delivering services in rural areas nor do they take into account the ageing population and the multiple long term health conditions that people often have.

Richard Webb said that there was a need to develop a settlement that created stability in the care provider market and which also provided clarity for people about the costs that they are likely to face for care and so what plans they needed to put in place to fund it.

Cllr Tony Randerson stated that the government policy of austerity had not helped the situation of the poor and vulnerable in the county.

The Rt Hon Robert Goodwill replied that this was a political question but that the government was spending more than ever, when taken as a proportion of National Income. He said that there was a need to live within our means and control government finances.

Cllr Michael Harrison said that austerity had forced the Council to look at new ways of delivering services, particularly prevention and early intervention.

The Rt Hon Robert Goodwill MP raised his concerns about the pressures being faced by children and young people's social care services. Whilst the Council provided outstanding services the associated costs were rising as there was greater demand for services for children with SEND.

Cllr Carl Les said that the North Yorkshire MPs were all helping the Council raise its concerns about funding and that the Rt Hon Rishi Sunak MP was leading the fairer funding review. He said that his immediate concern was the need for the BCF to continue beyond 2020 and for its administration to be reviewed so that there was a fairer allocation of funding between the NHS and the Council.

Cllr Janet Jefferson said that she had concerns about the transition between children and young people's services and adult services.

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The Rt Hon Robert Goodwill MP said that more could be done to use technology to assist with the delivery of health and social care services in rural areas, reducing the demands upon the workforce and also upon acute services. This could include greater use of Skype, AI diagnosis and robotics.

The Rt Hon Robert Goodwill MP raised his concerns about mental health and the need to boost resources in community mental health services. Also, he raised concerns about the impact that Botton Village was having, as it attracted people from out of area and meant that the Council would, eventually, be responsible for their care.

Richard Webb said that the 'ordinary residence rule' did mean that after a period of time the responsibility for people's care at the Botton Village site transferred from their home authority to North Yorkshire County Council. He confirmed that the Council is working with Trust to develop a new model of delivery.

Cllr David Chance stated that the investment in prevention, through programmes like 'Living Well', had been successful and that technology was increasingly being adopted to help people live independently for longer. He referred to the work being done with residents of Sleights village.

Cllr Tony Randerson said that there was a need to build more social and affordable housing, as in the Borough there were 3,000 people in temporary accommodation awaiting places in social housing.

Richard Webb responded to the comment by Cllr David Chance and said that the work on prevention had arrested the growth in referrals to adult social care services. Also, that the Sleights project had used technology to enable people to take greater control of their own lives and also to keep people connected and involved in their community.

Claire Robinson said that the Council's Public Health team and Technology and Change service were working together to see how technology could be used as an enabler to promote good health and independence.

## **Resolved -**

- (i) Thank Cllr Michael Harrison and Richard Webb for attending
- (ii) Maintain a watching brief on the developments with adult social care funding, particularly the Better Care Fund.

## **13. Overview of activity to reduce suicide in the area**

Considered – the report of the Claire Robinson to provide the Area Constituency Committee with an overview of the current activity to reduce suicides in Scarborough and Whitby.

Claire Robinson presented the report and the key points are summarised as below:

- A county-wide and multi-agency Suicide Prevention Strategic Group (SPSG) was created in 2014
- Annual suicide audits conducted for the periods 2015 and 2016 have been carried out, which led to a refresh of the North Yorkshire Suicide and Self-harm Prevention Strategic Plan 2018-2023
- The rate of suicides in North Yorkshire (10.1 per 100,000) is lower than that observed regionally (10.4 per 100,000) but slightly higher than the national average (9.9 per 100,000)

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- Craven and Scarborough districts have the highest rate of suicide (11.5 per 100,000) in the county
- The majority of suicides are committed by men, aged 40 to 49 years and involve alcohol, albeit not the explicit cause of death
- There has been investment into the Council's Stronger Communities team and Living Well programme to identify and support vulnerable people in the community
- Applied Suicide Intervention Training (ASIST) and Mental Health First Aid training (MHFA) have been undertaken
- Signage put up along the coast and on Spa Bridge in Scarborough.

Claire Robinson said that a surveillance group has been established to ensure that the work undertaken by the Suicide Prevention Strategic Group is effective.

Claire Robinson said that the North Yorkshire Suicide and Self-harm Prevention Strategic Plan 2018-2023 had 7 priorities, as below:

1. Reducing the risk of suicide in high risk groups;
2. Tailoring approaches to improve mental health in specific groups;
3. Reducing access to means of suicide;
4. Providing better information and support to those bereaved or affected by suicide;
5. Supporting the media in delivering sensitive approaches to suicide and suicidal behaviour;
6. Supporting research, data collection and monitoring; and
7. Reducing rates of self-harm as a key indicator of suicide risk

Claire Robinson said that there were opportunities to access new funding for suicide prevention through the three Sustainability and Transformation Partnerships that cover the county.

Cllr David Chance asked whether there were any clusters of incidence of suicide in the area.

In response, Claire Robinson said that, to date, the only pattern had been a spate of suicides in caravan parks.

Cllr David Chance queried whether more could be done to identify people at risk of suicide. He said that he had heard of cases of older people who had made detailed preparations for what would happen to their property and belongings before committing suicide. Surely there were points at which the alarm could have been sounded.

Claire Robinson said that a multi-agency group is reviewing a cohort of people who have been assessed to be at high risk of suicide. These are mostly people with chaotic lifestyles who are in regular contact with the Police and/or mental health services.

Cllr Eric Broadbent said that he was concerned about the increasing pressures faced by young people as they grow up and how this could increase their risk of self-harm and suicide.

Claire Robinson replied that work is done in schools to raise awareness about mental wellbeing and also to encourage children to talk to people about their feelings and the stresses that they experienced.

Cllr Tony Randerson queried whether steel netting and cages could be put along and over the Spa Bridge in Scarborough to prevent people committing suicide there.

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Richard Marr said that barriers could not be added to the existing structure of the bridge due to its design and age.

Cllr David Chance asked whether the mental health first aid training had been given to library staff and volunteers.

Claire Robinson said that she did not know but would find out and report back. The Rt Hon Robert Goodwill MP said that he would not want to see the Valley Bridge and the Spa Bridge in Scarborough become a focal point for suicides.

Claire Robinson said that the signage that was put in place was discrete, had positive messages and assistance and was located where there had previously been a suicide.

## **Resolved -**

- (i) Thank Claire Robinson for attending
- (ii) Note the information in the report
- (iii) Support the work of the Suicide Prevention Strategic Group
- (iv) Raise awareness of this agenda.

## **14. Attendance of Rt Hon Robert Goodwill MP for Scarborough and Whitby**

Cllr Joe Plant noted that the Rt Hon Robert Goodwill MP had been actively involved in the committee discussions and asked whether there was anything else that he would like to draw to the attention of the committee.

The Rt Hon Robert Goodwill MP said that he had concerns about the quality of secondary school education in the Borough and that he felt that, despite a great deal of effort and resources going in, 2 key schools were still not performing at the level that they should.

The Rt Hon Robert Goodwill MP said that, at present, there were not enough children in Whitby to support the schools there. This meant that the schools competed for children. The schools that were not able to keep the numbers up faced significant budgetary pressures. He noted that the expansion of housing in and around Whitby and the opening of the Potash mine would both help the situation in the medium term.

## **Resolved -**

- (i) Thank Rt Hon Robert Goodwill MP for attending
- (ii) Invite the MP to attend a future meeting of the committee.

## **15. Scarborough and Whitby Area Constituency Committee Draft Work Programme**

Considered -

The report of the Assistant Chief Executive (Legal and Democratic Services) asking Members to review the draft Work Programme, taking into account the outcome of discussions on previous agenda items and any other developments taking place across the area.

## **Resolved -**

- (i) The draft agenda for the next meeting of the committee on 12 December 2018 is confirmed as below:

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Railway – Scarborough to York and Scarborough to Hull  
Roads – A64 and A69 – Highways England to attend  
Rural bus services and community transport.

(ii) To add in the following to the meeting of the committee on 20 March 2019:

Educational outcomes and the progression from level 2 to level 3.

**16. Other business which the Chairman agrees should be considered as a matter of urgency because of special circumstances**

The Chairman requested that a letter of thanks be written to the staff of the Sneaton Castle Centre for hosting the committee so well over the past years (the centre is due to close and the meeting yesterday was the last one that will be held there).

The meeting concluded at 12noon

DH