

## North Yorkshire County Council

### Care and Independence Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Minutes of the virtual meeting held on Thursday 10 March 2022 at 10am.

#### **Present:-**

County Councillor Karin Sedgwick in the Chair.

County Councillors: Mike Chambers MBE, Caroline Goodrick, Helen Grant, Stanley Lumley, Cliff Trotter and Robert Windass.

#### In attendance:

Caroline Dickinson (Older Peoples Champion)

Officers: Ray Busby (Principal Scrutiny Support Officer), Karen Siennecki () and Louise Wallace (Director of Public Health)

#### Apologies:

County Councillors: Eric Broadbent, John Ennis, David Jeffels, Andrew Jenkinson, John Mann and Roberta Swiers.

Co-opted Members: Jill Quinn (Dementia Forward) and Mike Padgham (Co-opted Member - Independent Care Group)

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### Copies of all documents considered are in the Minute Book

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#### **271. Minutes**

##### **Resolved –**

That the Minutes of the meeting held on 2 December 2021 having been printed and circulated, be taken as read and be confirmed and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

#### **272. Declarations of Interest**

There were no declarations of interest to note.

#### **273. Public Questions or Statements**

The committee was advised that no notice had been received of any public questions or statements to be made at the meeting.

#### **274. Chairman's Remarks**

The chair thanks everybody who had served on this committee. The support was most appreciated. Under the most challenging of circumstances over the last two years, the level, range and quality of scrutiny of all matters relating to adult social care was something to be proud of.

## **275. Director of Public Health Annual Report 2020**

### **Considered-**

Covering report by the Scrutiny Team Leader introducing the Director of Public Health Annual Report 2020.

Since the public health function returned to Local Government, this Scrutiny Committee has reviewed every Director of Public Health Annual Report, showing a particular interest in where public health activity helps achieve social care objectives.

Louise explained that during one of the most difficult periods, partners and organisations had clearly come together and brought creative thinking and resources to address problems. There is every reason to believe, as Louise put it, that "...this will carry us through as we continue to respond and rebuild for a healthy future.

### **Resolved –**

- a) That the report be noted
- b) Members found the 2021 report strong in all of the following areas:
  - Progress on past recommendations and priorities
  - Health In North Yorkshire
  - North Yorkshire's COVID-19 response
  - Protecting and Improving the health and wellbeing of the North Yorkshire population
  - North Yorkshire Public Health priorities for 2021- 2025

## **276. Local Account of Health and Adult Services**

### **Considered –**

Louise Wallace, Director of Public Health introduced the Health and Adult Services Draft Local Account shown as Appendix 1 attached to a cover report by the Scrutiny Team Leader.

The time period covered for this Local Account is the 1st April 2020-31st March 2021

### **Resolved –**

That the report be noted.

## **277. All Age Autism Strategy - Recap and Update**

### **Considered –**

Presentation from Karen Siennecki providing an update on the All Age Autism Strategy and implementation within Health and Adult Services.

Members were advised that it had been over a year since the committee first looked at the intentions and objectives of the All Age Autism Strategy. Although, inevitably,

the pandemic has affected implementation, Karen explained that much had still been achieved.

Karen reminded the meeting about what we understand about autism. Having autism can mean:-

- You find it hard to communicate and interact with other people
- You find it hard to understand how other people think or feel
- You find things like bright lights or loud noises overwhelming, stressful or uncomfortable
- You get anxious or upset in unfamiliar situations and social events
- You take longer to understand and process information
- You do or think the same things over and over

Autism is much more common than many people think. There are around 700,000 people on the autism spectrum in the UK – that is more than 1 in 100. If you include their families, autism is a part of daily life for 3 million people.

While autism is not a learning disability, around 4 in 10 autistic people have a learning disability. Three times as many males as females are diagnosed with autism. However, it is believed to be under-diagnosed in females.

Locally, solid progress against the strategy objectives can be found, especially in staff investment and training. However, perhaps the most pleasing aspect for members was that NYCC were the first Local Authority to have all of its Adult services accredited in the UK in 2016. Seventeen services were accredited; all are being re-inspected in 2023.

#### **Resolved –**

- c) That the report be noted.
- d) The committee suggested that members return to this topic towards the end of this year with input from Children and Families Services to gain a full picture of how we have progressed.

#### **278. Work Programme**

##### **Considered –**

The report of the Scrutiny Team Leader on the Work Programme.

Ray Busby explained that in setting out plans for the forward work programme, group spokespersons had been mindful that after the elections there would be new faces and increased numbers round the table. In proposing a revamped work programme, it was suggested that each item to be considered should have a strong overview perspective to help new members grasp the broader context. As Covid pressures change, affecting “business as usual” and service development activity, the suggested timing of items will inevitably need to be revised.

##### **Resolved -**

That the work programme be agreed.

The meeting finished at 12.05pm