

# NORTH YORKSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

17 FEBRUARY 2021

## STATEMENT OF COUNTY COUNCILLOR MICHAEL HARRISON

The pandemic continues to impact the Health & Adult Services directorate, and I want to express my gratitude again to the whole team for their hard work throughout this incredibly challenging time.

### **Care Settings**

There continues to be high numbers of care home outbreaks and we need to do all we can to protect our care home residents. We continue to have daily contact with all care homes to ensure risks are proactively identified, targeting support to the highest risk localities, and are working very closely with the NHS, Public Health partners and the Care Quality Commission to provide oversight and support which includes infection prevention control guidance, training and support from our Quality Improvement Team. This has included providing immediate, round the clock staffing support where required and support for the roll out of testing and vaccinations.

### **Vaccination Programme**

The directorate is supporting the Covid-19 vaccination programme for residents, colleagues and carers by helping oversee planning and providing ongoing support. The different vaccination processes at each vaccination hub have been mapped, and we are doing everything we can to ensure we can provide a clear picture of what is required in each locality and maximise the booking of available vaccination slots for those in the current priority groups.

### **Support for hospitals**

There are still higher numbers of people with a positive Covid 19 diagnosis within acute sites than during the first peak in 2020. We are seeing trends that people are remaining in hospital for longer than usual, and discharges are more complex and multi-faceted, but our support remains high and there remains a considerable focus on facilitating smooth and timely discharges for people into the most appropriate setting. We have ensured additional capacity is available through the introduction of extra residential and nursing beds across the County to support covid positive, covid negative and covid 'contact' types – where people who may have come into contact with a covid positive person but don't have a test result can be accommodated.

### **Integrated Care – next steps for the NHS**

Towards the end of 2020, NHS England and Improvement published proposals for changes in how the NHS is organised. This would establish Integrated Care Systems on a statutory footing (in time, replacing Clinical Commissioning Groups); strengthening place-based partnerships between the NHS, councils and other local agencies; and encouraging provider collaboratives between NHS Foundation Trusts and other providers. We are represented at a number of levels within our two Integrated Care Systems (Humber, Coast and Vale ICS and West Yorkshire and Harrogate ICS), and the council has welcomed these proposals in principle, noting that our two Integrated Care Systems are committed to the devolution of

decision-making where appropriate to local footprints for North Yorkshire and York, and Craven and Bradford, with reciprocal arrangements between both.

### **Extra Care**

Despite being impacted by the pandemic the extra care programme continues to progress. There are schemes in Bedale, Whitby, Harrogate and Catterick at either a proposal or planning stage; schemes in Skipton, Bentham and Filey at development stage; and Scarborough and Great Ayton newly opened - the latter already being fully occupied.

### **Adult Social Care Operating Model**

We are currently consulting with staff for a proposed new operating model and associated ways of working to support the continued Covid 19 response, through winter and beyond into 2021, working towards a new operating model by April 2022. The proposals are designed to maximise opportunities to improve the current service offering whilst minimising further disruption and significant change. The proposals were influenced by over 1400 pieces of feedback, and I hope that colleagues will respond to the consultation so they can continue to influence how we operate in the future.

COUNTY COUNCILLOR MICHAEL HARRISON