

NORTH YORKSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

20 July 2017

CARE AND INDEPENDENCE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

CHAIRMAN'S STATEMENT

1. Changes to social care are being driven by: major reductions in local government budgets; an increase in demand for care services brought about by demographic growth of the older people and learning disability populations; and an increased need for organisations to work together. What we heard at our last meeting on 29 June 2017, gives grounds for being confident that these challenges are being responded to by new ways of delivering services, joined up working and effective collaboration.
2. Considering the “newness” of the membership and the committee’s very broad remit, it was helpful that Richard Webb set out the key issues facing social care. That way, we were able to explore the big question: "Is the current social care system sustainable? How far can we be confident that we will have fair and sustainable funding settlements that take account of rising demand for social care and increasing complexity of people’s needs?" North Yorkshire's offer in this regard falls into a number of areas, notably:
 - A stable test-bed for policy and service innovation, with a strong-track record of delivery.
 - Scarborough project with Primary Care.
 - An extensive Extra Care Programme.
 - Strong commitment to prevention.
3. At our request, Richard also concentrated on the state of the social care market. High-quality, personalised care and support can only be achieved where there is a vibrant, responsive market of service providers. But current market pressures can be clearly seen: we are seeing care home providers withdrawing from the market either for financial or quality issues, CQC inspections are much tougher, domiciliary care remains an issue in much of the county.
4. We were encouraged by some of the draft proposals for addressing this instability:
 - The possibility of market supplements for domiciliary care providers.
 - Quality Improvement team to work with failing care providers.
 - Centre of Excellence for recruitment.
 - Enhanced quality monitoring.
 - A focus on recruitment and retention.

- Capital grants.
 - Employee benefits scheme for smaller businesses?
5. We will monitor progress in these areas, but in terms of focussed scrutiny later in the year we will also look at how we can be reassured that care providers, particularly those who operate residential establishments, are satisfactorily meeting appropriate quality standards and requirements.

Independence and Reablement

6. As part of the committee's work under the theme Resource Management and Social Care we examined that part of the operating model that is Independence and Reablement. The key features of which, outlined below, we supported:
- A single dedicated point of access for the public, an initial point of contact for professionals into adult social care in North Yorkshire and, where possible, maximising opportunities to respond to enquiries at this point
 - The focus on supporting individuals to maximise their independence, including preventing unnecessary hospital admission and premature admission to long term residential care, providing early well planned safe discharge from hospital and a rapid response to urgent need. This can include a period of reablement for those who are identified as having reablement potential.
 - Planned Care and Support - supporting people with long term social care and support needs as well as supporting their carers through better care co-ordination, support interventions and through commissioned services.
7. We heard about the development of strengths-based assessments - an approach to care, support and inclusion which says let's look first at what people can do with their skills and their resources and what can the people around them do in their relationships and their communities. Bearing in mind how critical the developments of these assessments has become, and the aim to embed them in all our processes, the committee has decided to revisit, later in the year, progress and performance in this area specifically.

Dementia Strategy

8. Over the past 10 years dementia has risen steadily up the agenda of both health and social care as the numbers of people living with dementia has continued to rise. Present estimates state that approximately 850,000 people are living with dementia in the UK and this figure is set to rise to over 2 million by 2050.

9. As is often the case the demographics of North Yorkshire mean that the county faces a greater than average challenge in terms of providing the care and support that people with dementia and their carers require. Around 10,000 people are believed to be living with dementia in North Yorkshire which equates to 0.98% of the overall population, significantly higher than the national figure of 0.74%.
10. We liked the emphasis on using the experiences of people living with dementia to help shape the approach to dementia in North Yorkshire through the lifetime of the strategy. We also applaud the stated aim for a clearer, simpler and more person centred system of support and information for people living with dementia and their carers.
11. The Health and Well Being Board has, therefore, been advised that the strategy has this committee's wholehearted support.
12. Finally, I would like to place on record my thanks to my predecessor, Cllr Patrick Mulligan, for all his hard work, his guidance and his leadership. He leaves the committee well placed in terms of its programme of work to provide the right balance of challenge and support.

JOHN ENNIS

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6 June 2017

Background Documents - Nil.