

**North Yorkshire County Council
Scrutiny of Health Committee
15 December 2017**

Response to Motion to County Council on 8 November 2017 on mental health services

Purpose of Report

This report provides Members with an opportunity to discuss the Motion that was put to County Council on 8 November 2017, taking into account the views of the Area Committees and then to agree a recommendation to Executive to consider at their meeting on 16 January 2018, ahead of a referral back to the meeting of County Council in February 2018.

Motion

The following Motion was put to County Council on 8 November 2017 by Cllr John Blackie and supported by Cllr Geoff Webber:

“North Yorkshire County Council deplors the recent decision of the Hambleton, Richmondshire and Whitby Clinical Commissioning Group, supported by the Tees, Esk and Wear Valley Mental Health Trust, to relocate in-patient mental health provision away from the Friarage Hospital, without any genuine public approval, and calls upon them both to reconsider. The County Council further notes the decision not to proceed with development on a site previously purchased in Harrogate to replace facilities in the Briary Wing of Harrogate Hospital, and calls upon the relevant Health Authorities to maintain existing in-patient facilities in the Harrogate area.”

The County Council decided that the motion was to be considered by the Scrutiny of Health Committee and the appropriate Area Committees.

Area Committee perspective and views

The Motion contains two distinct elements:

1. The decision by the Hambleton, Richmondshire and Whitby Clinical Commissioning Group (HRW CCG), supported by the Tees, Esk and Wear Valleys NHS Foundation Trust (TEWV) to close the existing mental health in-patient beds at the Friarage Hospital in Northallerton and move patients to Roseberry Park in Middlesbrough, once planned refurbishment work there has been completed.
2. The decision by Harrogate and Rural District Clinical Commissioning Group (HRD CCG), supported by the Tees, Esk and Wear Valleys NHS Foundation Trust to pause the planned building of a new in-patient mental health facility at Cardale Park in Harrogate and engage with local people, services users and stakeholders on what sustainable mental health services could look like in the area.

A view on the first part of the Motion, referring to the Friarage in Northallerton, was sought by email from the members of the County Committee for Hambleton and the Richmondshire Area Committee.

A view on the second part of the Motion, relating to the pause on the build of a new in-patient mental health facility in Harrogate, was sought by email from the members of the County Area Committee for the Harrogate District.

Those comments that have been received are summarised as below:

Closure of mental health in-patient wards at the Friarage

Concerns raised about the apparently low level of public engagement in the consultation on the future of mental health services at the Friarage Hospital in Northallerton.

Concerns raised about the apparent lack of detail as to the following:

- what the proposed community hub would deliver and how future demand for in-patient services would be managed
- whether patients in Middlesbrough would be transferred back to community services based at the Friarage, how quickly this would happen and what support people would receive.

A query was raised about the financial arrangements. If the refurbishment of in-patients facilities at Middlesbrough is going to delay the transfer of patients by 12 to 18 months, then costs will rise and the business cost base will move upwards and possibly become too expensive. If this is the case, then will there need to be another public consultation event of what options there are instead?

It was noted that all patients need family support whilst in hospital. There is a duty to ensure that families can provide this at a low cost to themselves or have options available to provide assistance with costs. As such, further work needs to be done to look at travel options.

Services in Harrogate

There is a consensus that the Brierley Wing at Harrogate Hospital is not able to provide a modern standard of care for patients, as it has mixed sex wards and not individual, ensuite rooms which is now the norm for mental health in-patients.

There is a concern that the delay in developing the Cardale Park site may have an impact upon the County Council's social care services.

Concerns were raised about the quality of the planning processes used by both the CCG and TEWV, in particular why appropriate funding for the Cardale Park build and site development was not secured from the outset.

A query was raised as to whether the review will mean that no in-patient mental health services are provided in Harrogate and the surrounding area.

Recommendation

That the committee:

1. Considers the concerns raised by the Councillors who proposed the motion and the issues raised by the members of the three Area Committees
2. Proposes to Executive at their meeting on 16 January 2018 that the Scrutiny of Health Committee continues to review the situation and reports back to Council, as appropriate.

Daniel Harry
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North Yorkshire County Council
4 December 2017