

**North Yorkshire County Council  
Executive  
20 February 2018**

**Response to Motion to County Council on 8 November 2017 on  
mental health services  
Report of Democratic Services and Scrutiny Manager**

**Purpose of Report**

This report details the response of the Scrutiny of Health Committee and the Area Committees for Harrogate, Hambleton and Richmondshire to the Notice of Motion on mental health in-patient services that was put before County Council on 8 November 2017.

The recommendation is that the Scrutiny of Health Committee continues to lead the scrutiny of proposals for changes to mental health services in the county and reports back to Council as appropriate.

**Background**

A Notice of Motion was put before County Council on 8 November 2017 by Cllr John Blackie and supported by Cllr Geoff Webber, regarding mental health in-patient services in Northallerton and Harrogate. The County Council decided that the motion was to be considered by the Scrutiny of Health Committee and those Area Committees directly affected (Harrogate, Hambleton and Richmondshire).

The Scrutiny of Health Committee met on 15 December 2017 and discussed the Notice of Motion, taking into account the views of the Area Committees and a statement by Cllr Geoff Webber.

**Notice of Motion**

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

“North Yorkshire County Council deplores 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.”

**Scrutiny of Health Committee meeting on 15 December 2017**

Ahead of the meeting on 15 December 2018, the committee received feedback from the Area Committees for Harrogate, Hambleton and Richmondshire, as summarised below.

Regarding the closure of the in-patient wards at the Friarage:

- Concerns raised about the apparently low level of public engagement in the consultation
- Concerns raised about the apparent lack of detail as to the development of the community hub at the Friarage
- A query was raised about the financial assumptions made by Tees Esk and Wear Valleys NHS Foundation Trust (TEWV)
- Further work required on transport and travel options for patients and carers.

Regarding services in Harrogate:

- Consensus that the Brierley Wing at Harrogate Hospital is not able to provide a modern standard of care for patients
- 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 Clinical Commissioning Group and TEWV
- 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.

Cllr Geoff Webber also attended the meeting to speak to the committee and raised the following issues about services in Harrogate:

- There was an inherent bias towards change and a move away from the status quo
- Concerns were raised that mental health in-patient services in Harrogate could be closed and that in-patient care would be transferred to York, which would impact upon carers and relatives.

Executive Members will be aware that issues relating to the quality, range, development and accessibility of mental health services in the county are of particular interest to the Scrutiny of Health Committee and regularly feature on the committee work programme. The Scrutiny of Health Committee continues to scrutinise the:

- plans that have been developed and consulted on for the closure of the mental health in-patients beds at the Friarage in Northallerton and the transition to more community-based services
- public engagement on the development of mental health services in Harrogate and the surrounding area and any proposals for service reconfiguration
- provision of mental health services in Craven
- vision for mental health services in the county and what efforts are being made to adopt a system-wide approach to the development of services.

The Chair, Vice Chair and political spokespersons are also in regular contact, outside of formal committee meetings, with mental health commissioners, providers and service users.

In light of the evidence put before it and the discussions that were held, the committee resolved:

- a) That the concerns raised by the Councillors who proposed the Notice of Motion and the issues raised by the Members of the three Area Committee were considered.
- b) Regarding the Notice of Motion, recommend to Executive that the North Yorkshire Scrutiny of Health Committee continues to lead the scrutiny of proposals for changes to mental health services in the county and reports back to Council as appropriate.
- c) The committee to hold an internal workshop at 10am on Friday 23 February 2018 to review a blueprint of what you would expect mental health services to look like in the county, if you were to start from scratch based upon levels and of need and best practice models for delivery.

A copy of the draft minutes of the meeting of the Scrutiny of Health Committee on 15 December 2017 is available as follows -

<http://democracy.northyorks.gov.uk/committees.aspx?commid=23&meetid=3687>

#### **Recommendation**

The recommendation is that the Scrutiny of Health Committee continues to lead the scrutiny of proposals for changes to mental health services in the county and report back to Council as appropriate.

Cllr Jim Clark  
Chairman of the Scrutiny of Health Committee

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