

**NORTH YORKSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL**

**16 May 2018**

**CARE AND INDEPENDENCE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**

**CHAIRMAN'S STATEMENT**

**Health and Social Care Integration: Joint Task Group**

1. A national policy objective over many years has been the integration of health, social care and related services. Whilst there is a general acceptance at a national and local level that the integration of services is a good thing which will lead to improvements in service delivery, many aspects of what integration means remain unclear, often with little detail about what should be integrated and why.
2. The theory goes that by bringing health and social care services closer together, it will be possible to support more people in their local communities, rather than in hospital, and that this will mean they receive better care. Furthermore, integration may possibly be the only viable way to release some of the extreme pressure on our health and social care system. But just how successful has the move to integration services been thus far? Not completely according to the National Audit Office (NAO). In February 2017, Amyas Morse, head of the NAO said:

*"Integrating the health and social care sectors is a significant challenge in normal times, let alone times when both sectors are under such severe pressure. So far, benefits have fallen far short of plans, despite much effort"*
3. What does the picture in North Yorkshire look like? At our last meeting we heard about some of the developments, underway or in train, towards local integration of health with community health services. This has teed up some intended, high-level scrutiny work. The joint members' task group that, under Cllr Jim Clark's chairmanship, reported so decisively on workforce shortages, will now turn its attention to the wider aspects of integration. The group will seek to:
  - Understand what services are being delivered, what is planned, and what the impact of these services has or will be upon patient/service user outcomes.
  - Establish whether the potential benefits are being realised in the integrated services are currently delivered.
  - Assess whether the current approaches to integrated health and social care services being developed, trialled and implemented are the most appropriate

4. Work on this will have started by the time the council meets. The task group intends to seek a range of information from stakeholders and user group representative bodies, after which we will hold a formal session to consider evidence from a chosen range of organisations and individuals. A report outlining conclusions and recommendations will then be agreed for publication later this year.

### **Strength Based Assessments**

5. A strengths-based approach to care, support and inclusion 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. Our review of the local approach pointed to good progress in all areas - not just the fact that Strength Based Assessments are contributing to 2020 savings requirements.
6. These assessments are supporting our responsibility to promote wellbeing and independence and reduce dependency. They are helping us achieve our requirement to prevent, reduce or delay needs. They are used across our entire pathway. And, perhaps most importantly, they are putting people at the centre of what we do.

### **Looking ahead**

7. Much of our upcoming committee work is closely aligned to directorate activity, for example items on Supported Housing, the Public Health Grant, and Short Breaks.
8. At a more thematic level, the Government is working on a Green Paper about older people, and also on a strategy for working age adults. There is also a Parliamentary Select Committee review of long term funding of adult social care. All big issues for NYCC in terms of demographics, quality and cost. I would like these three major elements to feature in a broad ranging committee session later in the year, ideally when the Government's intentions around the Green Paper become clearer.

### **JOHN ENNIS**

Chairman, Care and Independence Overview and Scrutiny Committee

County Hall,  
NORTHALLERTON

30 April 2018

Background Documents - Nil