

North Yorkshire County Council

Care and Independence Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 28 June 2018 at 10.30am at County Hall, Northallerton.

Present:-

County Councillor Helen Grant in the Chair

County Councillors: Philip Broadbank. Eric Broadbent. Mike Chambers MBE, Caroline Goodrick, David Jeffels, Andrew Jenkinson, Cliff Lunn (as substitute for Jon Ennis), Stanley Lumley, John Mann, Stuart Martin MBE and Karin Sedgwick.

Voluntary and Community Sector: Jill Quinn (Dementia Forward).

In attendance:

County Councillors Caroline Dickinson (Executive Member for Adult Social Care).

Officers: Ray Busby (Scrutiny Support Officer), Kathy Clark, Assistant Director Commissioning, Health and Adult Services, Avril Hunter, Locality Head of Commissioning Craven and Harrogate, Commissioning (HAS), Louise Wallace (AD Health and Integration, Commissioning (HAS))

Apologies:

County Councillor Nicola Wilson

Independent Sector: Mike Padgham (Independent Care Group)

Copies of all documents considered are in the Minute Book

158. Minutes

Resolved –

That, the Minutes of the meeting held on 22 March 2018 having been printed and circulated, be taken as read and be confirmed and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

159. Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest to note.

160. Public Questions or Statements

The committee was advised that no notice had been received of any public questions or statements to be made at the meeting.

161. Annual Older Peoples Champion Briefing

Considered –

Cllr Karin Sedgwick reported for the first time on her role as Older People's Champion.

Cllr Sedgwick said she had found that often the best way of getting to grips with a very complex subject like social care is to understand it through local activity.

Being on both Care and Independence and Scrutiny of Health Committees has helped, but she recognised that the role should not be limited to social care and health needs. Her intention was to focus on the broad range of needs that an older person may have, such as access to transport, housing and adult education and learning. Linking closely with the new Area Constituency Committees should help in this.

A member expressed support when Cllr Sedgwick said she intended to take an interest in end of life care provision. Where the last remaining care home establishment in an area had closed, people had found arranging end of life care arrangements that met the expectations and wishes of the person concerned and their families, both challenging and upsetting.

Member commented on the relationship between limited access to rural transport and the isolation and loneliness encountered by many people in rural communities

162. Financial Assistance for People Receiving Housing Support

Considered -

Report by the Assistant Director, Health and Adult Services outlining the process of coming to a difficult decision regarding the withdrawal of financial assistance for people receiving housing support, which was one of the HAS2020 proposals to realise £250,000 of savings.

Resolved -

That the report be noted.

163. Supported Housing Consultations

Considered –

Report by the Assistant Director, Health and Adult Services outlining a recent consultation on the complex funding for supported housing which helps thousands of vulnerable people in the County – from the elderly, homeless and victims of domestic violence, to those living with disabilities, mental ill-health or addiction.

Members commented that supported housing can be a key link for those who need it between hospital and independence, helping them get back on their feet. It is also an important investment which brings savings to other parts of the public sector, such as health and social care.

For the committee, the key points were:

- Government must ensure sufficient funding is provided to meet current needs, guarantee the ring fence in the long term, and should consider five year settlements.
- Local authorities must have sufficient flexibility to develop the commissioning and oversight arrangements to meet their local needs, and increasingly bring housing and the commissioning of supported housing into tandem with arrangements for health and social care.

Resolved -

- a) That the report be noted.
- b) Members were pleased that NYCC had submitted such a detailed and well-thought through joint response with District Councils.

164. Wellbeing and Prevention Services Review

Considered –

Report by the Assistant Director, Health and Adult Services giving background on the new commissioning model for Health and Adult Services investment into delivery of Wellbeing and Prevention support, to help people to stay well and independent in communities

Kathy Clark explained that the focus in new contracts will be on three core functions: information, advice and signposting; social inclusion/social activities; and low level practical support, integrated with the work of Stronger Communities and Living Well (particularly the approach of utilising community assets as part of early intervention and prevention), and with Public Health services and programmes.

Resolved –

Members supported the rationale that these form part of the Council's overall investment in 'targeted' prevention, which supports people at risk to avoid developing problems needing long-term support from statutory care services.

165. Community Support Mental Health: Future Commissioning

Considered –

Report by the Assistant Director, Health and Adult Services giving background on the new commissioning model for delivery of mental health community support.

Kathy Clark explained that the review work to date has informed the development proposals for future investment into voluntary and community sector organisations to deliver mental health support on its' behalf. A consultation took place on these proposals from the 22nd January to the 19th February 2018. The consultation feedback is currently being reviewed to finalise the future commissioning plans and procurement documentation for the procurement planned to be launched in early April.

Members commented that there was a need for mental health prevention across North Yorkshire, to help people avoid developing mental health issues and prevent the escalation of need in those who have existing mental health issues.

Members recognised that a fairer, more targeted distribution of resources like this, although more reflective of countywide need, can result in some areas receiving relatively less. This is the case here, particularly with regard to Harrogate. However, members expressed satisfaction that this was being handled appropriately, with arrangements being put in place to manage the change.

Resolved –

- a) That the report be noted.
- b) Members agreed that the two commissioning exercises reported - **Wellbeing and Prevention Services Review** and the **Community Support Mental Health: Future Commissioning** demonstrated that the Health and Adult Services Directorate was taking the opportunity presented by the expiry of contracts to improve and develop services that promote independent living.
- c) The underlying rationale behind both commissioning approaches was, as far as members were concerned, consistent with the stated commitment to wellbeing, prevention and targeting of support.

166. Work Programme

Considered -

The report of the Scrutiny Team Leader on the Work Programme.

Resolved -

- a) That “Client Contributions” be taken at the next meeting:
- b) That the following matters be added to the work programme
 - strategic arrangements in relation to housing for people who need support, and the work being done by Public Health on the role that housing plays in sustaining good health, helping people to live independently, and keeping them out of hospital
 - A workshop type meeting be arranged to consider the preparation of a response to the LGA Green Paper “The lives we want to lead”.