

NORTH YORKSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL**14 November 2018****SCRUTINY BOARD – STATEMENT BY THE CHAIRMAN**

Members will be aware that Scrutiny Board brings together the Chairs of the five thematic overview and scrutiny committees at the Council and the Older Peoples' and Young People's Champions. It provides an opportunity for a whole council view of scrutiny activity, which avoids gaps and overlaps and helps establish a lead committee for areas of joint interest. It also provides a forum in which the key performance issues for the Council can be reviewed and items for further scrutiny identified.

Scrutiny Board last met on 10 August 2018. At that meeting there was an in-depth review of the 'The lives we want to lead', the Local Government Association green paper for the long term funding of adult social care. Members of Scrutiny Board identified the following issues, which were fed into the Council's response to the consultation:

- There is a need to review the local government funding formula so that it takes into account the particular pressures faced by rural local authorities, like North Yorkshire, in delivering adult social care services in sparsely populated areas, where older people live longer and typically have one or more long term condition
- There were concerns raised about the fragility of the private care market and the need to ensure that the Council is in a position whereby it is able to continue to pay a fair price for care
- It was noted that the Better Care Fund monies are passported directly from the NHS locally and that they currently fill a £3m to £4m shortfall in the social care budget. If the Better Care Fund is not renewed after 2020, then this will be a significant additional pressure upon the adult social care budget.

Members of Scrutiny Board attended the Executive Performance Monitoring meeting on 14 August 2018. The issues below were identified for follow up with the Executive:

- What more can be done to ensure that there are a range of vocational training options available to school children (particularly those who are not suited to an academic approach to education) that are linked to local businesses and industry and so have a good prospect of a job
- Whether more could be done to encourage the government to invest in road and rail networks in the county, particularly the east to west routes and connections
- Why are the number of long term placements for older people above NYCC rates increasing
- What action is being taken to reduce the projected end of year overspend in Children and Young People's Services of £11m
- Why are both fixed term and permanent exclusions rising so significantly
- The Council and other public sector organisations are increasingly reliant on the use of volunteers. What is being done to ensure that we support our volunteers in such a way that we retain them in the long term.

Members of Scrutiny Board also met with the Chairs and Vice Chairs of the Area Constituency Committees on 15 October 2018 to review the work programmes for

the 5 thematic Overview and Scrutiny Committees and the 6 Area Constituency Committees. This was to ensure that the scrutiny work undertaken at a local level and a county level is co-ordinated and that opportunities for joint work and mutually beneficial work are realised. The intention is to hold more of these joint meetings.

The next meeting of Scrutiny Board is on 16 November 2018. In addition to scrutinising council-wide performance, the meeting will review:

- Government guidance on local authority overview and scrutiny
- NHS 10 year plan
- Scrutiny of draft budget - discussion
- Area Constituency Committees and co-ordination of work.

Chairman
County Councillor Jim Clark
23 October 2018.