

## NORTH YORKSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

15 May 2019

**STATEMENT OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH, PREVENTION & SUPPORTED HOUSING  
PORTFOLIO HOLDER COUNTY COUNCILLOR CAROLINE DICKINSON****Smoking**

Since 2013, we have seen development of a range of public health services supported by strategies to improve the health of residents and reduce inequalities in outcomes across the county. Several service contracts are now up for review and as we move forward we need to consider how we continue to support people to live healthy and long lives against the backdrop of reducing funding for services.

The Council opted to directly provide smoking cessation services working in an integrated way with GPs and pharmacies. From the 1st April, the new stop smoking service 'Living Well Smokefree' has been established. The service will work closely with GPs, pharmacists, NHS trusts and other partners to support people across the County to stop smoking. Smoking is a serious public health concern and this is a much needed service.

**NY Horizons**

The Council awarded the contract for the next phase of the North Yorkshire Horizons service in March. The existing service was originally commissioned in 2014 and has demonstrated [improved outcomes and value for money](#). The contract is for an initial 5 year term, with the facility to extend for an additional period of up to 5 years, and will commence on 1st October 2019. The Council and our co-commissioner the Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner for North Yorkshire are committed to continuing to work in partnership with the providers of North Yorkshire Horizons, and the broader systems in which the service operates, to give individuals the best chance of achieving and maintaining recovery from drug and alcohol misuse, and promoting harm reduction. The clinical aspect of the service was recently one of the first community substance misuse services to be inspected by the CQC under the new 'rated review' process, and we're delighted that they received an 'outstanding' rating across all key lines of enquiry. I was honoured to attend their celebration event in Northallerton in March.

Provision of high quality services is only part of our approach to addressing substance misuse. The North Yorkshire Drug and Alcohol Partnership Group is a multi-agency group chaired by the Director of Public Health that brings together the relevant organisations that play a role in preventing or managing substance misuse in children and adults, such as the Police, Probation Service, Job Centre, North Yorkshire Horizons and Compass REACH drug and alcohol Services, Healthy Child Teams, Safeguarding Board representatives etc. The group focuses on a key theme at each meeting (supply and enforcement, prevention and services and interventions), and is in the process of developing a partnership plan. The group heard from a range of partners in November, including North Yorkshire Police's Director of Intelligence and Head of Organised Crime, who discussed the emergence of ['County Lines'](#) (drug dealing networks targeting rural shires led by serious organised crime gangs) and how agencies can work with the police to reduce the risk and safeguard vulnerable children and adults. The February meeting included discussion on the opportunities presented by the sport and physical activity offer across North Yorkshire to build resilience for people at risk of, or recovering from substance misuse issues. The next meeting will raise the profile of the range of services and interventions that are commissioned and in place to support individuals with drug and alcohol misuse, and will focus on reducing harm and maximising opportunities for achieving and maintaining recovery from addiction.

## Sexual Health

It is the Council's intention to re-procure an Integrated Sexual Health Service for North Yorkshire. The current service contract commenced on 1 July 2015 and is due to end on 31 March 2020. The provider is York Teaching Hospital NHS Foundation Trust who deliver the service under the 'YorSexual Health' (YSH) brand.

An integrated model aims to improve sexual health by providing non-judgemental and confidential services through open access, where the majority of sexual health and contraceptive needs can be met at one site, often by one health professional, in services with extended opening hours and locations which are accessible by public transport.

In addition to YorSexual Health, we also contract with GP surgeries and pharmacies to ensure access to comprehensive contraceptive services to reduce unwanted pregnancies and maintain the fall in teenage conceptions.

## Healthy Weight Healthy Lives 2<sup>nd</sup> annual report

November 2016 saw the launch of the Healthy Weight, Healthy Lives: Tackling overweight and obesity in North Yorkshire 2016-2026 strategy. The Strategy details the issues of obesity in North Yorkshire, describes why and where action is needed and explores how different stakeholders can contribute to tackling this agenda.

Since the publication of the first annual report in January 2017 a multi-agency Healthy Weight, Healthy Lives Steering Group has been established, which monitors the development against key actions within the Strategy. Two years on since the launch of the Strategy tackling overweight and obesity continues to be complex and prevalence rates nationally and locally remain concerning. However, the formation of the Steering Group has highlighted that a large number of programmes, interventions, and policy development is taking place to address this challenge, locally. The Steering Group has encouraged better cross-sector working and demonstration of a whole-system approach to addressing obesity.

The second annual progress report has now been published and provides an update on the patterns and trends of obesity, nationally and locally, and reports activity within each priority area of the Strategy. The report also provides information on planned action moving forward into year three of the Strategy implementation. The report can be accessed on the North Yorkshire Partnership website <http://www.nypartnerships.org.uk/healthyweight>

## Healthy Child Programme

The Healthy Child Programme (HCP) is a universal preventative child and family health promotion programme delivered by Health Visitors and School Nurses. It is available to all children aged 0-19 and aims to ensure that every child gets the good start they need to lay the foundations of a healthy life. It is a local authority mandated programme.

The Programme continues to perform above national averages. Child Health Outcomes in North Yorkshire (NY) are good overall in comparison with other areas and NY is a regional leader. However, we are looking for other ways of measuring success that can add greater value than the current national metrics. A number of targeted services (e.g. Healthy Lifestyle Service, Young People Drug and Alcohol Service, Healthy Schools Award and School Zone Project) are helping to measure success in different ways.

The current HCP contract ends in March 2020, and work is underway to change the focus of the current programme and service specification, to create a single 0-19 service across the health and care system. The aim, through the *Childhood Futures Programme* is to integrate children and young people (CYP) preventative services across the County. The proposal presents the opportunity to transform services and for service providers to maximise the resources available within an integrated service. To use the universal touch points to build an in-depth understanding of the strengths and needs of CYP and their families and to promote universal health, wellbeing and safe and secure development particularly in the early years.

This will be supported by collaborative and more joined up commissioning and delivery of services. The initial key development areas include School Readiness, Emotional and Mental Wellbeing and Adolescent Risky Behaviour.

### **Age Friendly Communities**

North Yorkshire County Council has been successful in our bid to become a member of the UK network for Age-friendly communities. The UK network is part of a global initiative led by the World Health Organisation. The aim of the Age-friendly communities network is to foster healthy and active ageing, making it possible for people to continue to stay in their homes, participate in the activities that they value, and contribute to their communities, for as long as possible.

To become a member of the network, the Council had to demonstrate that we are committed to working towards becoming a full member of the Global Network for Age Friendly Cities and Communities by implementing strategies and work programmes that support older people through community initiatives.

Becoming an accredited member of the Age-friendly communities network complements the Council and our partners - the North Yorkshire Forum for Older People, Age UK, Community First Yorkshire and the District and Borough Councils – in what they are doing to support older people to age well and continue to enjoy life in their local community. The next steps will be to engage with stakeholders and produce an action plan based on priorities identified.

### **Supported Employment**

The Supported Employment service was reviewed as part of the 2020 transformation programme and a new structure and approach went live in April 2019.

The new structure introduces Care Act eligibility to the specialist Supported Employment service, with Supported Employment Coordinators supporting people to meet the outcomes identified in support plans. Following a review of case lists and action planning to signpost people to the most appropriate support, the team are currently supporting 110 working aged adults to seek and maintain employment – with the aim to increase numbers throughout the year. Training on the new supported employment pathway is being rolled out to Planned Care teams in April/May.

Living Well support people without eligible needs with employment outcomes as part of the Living Well Agreement.

### **Safe and Connected**

North Yorkshire County Council was delighted to take part in the Safe and Connected trial, which ran for 6 months up to the end of March 2019. This innovative scheme was part of the Government's Loneliness Strategy, and involved working closely with the government and Royal Mail. An independent evaluation of the trial will inform future decisions about the potential for the scheme to be rolled out further.

The trial saw Royal Mail postmen and postwomen call on people on their rounds. The responses to the questions they asked were passed back to North Yorkshire County Council's Living Well team to assist as necessary.

Customers are very satisfied with the experience, with many receiving advice, reassurance and help with GP appointments, practical tasks and connections to local voluntary services.