

NORTH YORKSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

15 May 2019

CARE AND INDEPENDENCE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

CHAIRMAN'S STATEMENT

Respite and Short Breaks

1. Caring for someone can be very rewarding, but it can also be physically and emotionally tiring. In the Carers UK State of Caring 2017 survey 40% of carers said they hadn't had a day off for more than a year and 25% of carers said they hadn't had a day off from caring for more than five years.
2. Our NYCC Carers Strategy emphasises the importance of carers being enabled to have a life outside of their caring role, but the current offer is quite traditional with NYCC offering in excess of 70% of respite services through their in house provision.
3. Members were pleased, therefore, to be informed of early directorate thinking on how to improve respite and short breaks. NYCC currently manages respite at 5 settings across the county, with the option of individual beds in our Elderly Persons Homes when they are available. Day services are provided at 7 locations.
4. In answer to the question: have we got our offer right? the intended review has some important issues to address:
 - Availability of appropriate respite can be an issue particularly for young people transitioning into adulthood
 - There is a lack of respite generally available from the market due in part to the high costs of delivery
 - Currently we offer a very traditional respite service, focussed mainly for people with a Learning Disability
 - There are gaps in the market particularly around people transitioning into adulthood and people with a dementia
 - We do have emergency respite available at our in-house services across the county – this will always be costly to provide
5. Even at this early stage, members had some clear ideas, borne out of both personal and professional experience, about what ought to be part of this exercise: the role of volunteers; the gap in dementia respite provision; and the advantages of a brokerage arrangement whereby the authority purchases guaranteed places in the private and voluntary sector.
6. The directorate's ambition is to engage fully with communities in order to identify a proposed model beyond 2020. The committee intends to be involved.

User Engagement

7. The committee had previously agreed to look at service user participation. We wanted to know how confident we can be that our services are person centred, are locally appropriate and have been planned with individuals to put them and their carers in control. Rather than see this as a task group project, group spokespersons and other committee members attended and participated in user-led meetings of service users - North Yorkshire Learning Disability Partnership Board, the North Yorkshire Disability Forum, and the Scarborough Dementia alliance.
8. As a piece of scrutiny work, it gave members a good opportunity to see whether the engagement principles under which the directorate says it works appeared to operate in practice.
9. The conclusions of those members include:
 - **Value each person as an individual - treat with dignity and compassion.** Arrangements at meetings are designed to make them as accessible as possible. Sensitive and appropriate techniques were employed which work for people with different experiences, abilities and perspectives
 - **Support people to make choices in their own lives** – Members found there was a clear ambition to stretch up the ladder of participation as much as possible whilst respecting and understanding peoples abilities and choices. It was pleasing that the numbers of people with a learning disability who can self-advocate is growing.
 - **Be accountable to people, listening to what they have to say and involving them in decision about their health and social care** – At the North Yorkshire Disability Forum the recent - and contentious - issue of Care Charging was opened up in such a way that prompted a full, frank and open discussion with people feeling freed up, in a safe space, to offer their views. This was not the only example members saw of accessible, timely information is being made available to help individuals and groups make choices.
10. The message scrutiny members brought back was that the directorate is committed to involving people in the designing, monitoring and improvement of services.

Joint Task Group on Health and Social Care Integration.

11. Having largely concluded its series of in-depth conversations with leaders of health and care services in the North Yorkshire area, the task group is now nearing the finish line. Carrying out an assessment of such a huge and complex topic was always going to be challenge. A significant body of information has been assembled to help us arrive at some strategic level concluding thoughts. Those will be presented

in full to the June meetings of the two parent committees - Care and Independence and Scrutiny of Health.

12. As a taster, I can advise that our overriding view was that whilst there is a common interest in integration, there are different interpretations of what it means in practice. There is a sense that health partners and providers have not reached a common understanding of what integration means. So despite efforts to integrate, and many examples of excellent practice, there is still a good deal of experimenting with ways to join up. With so many different health partners operating to complex boundaries in North Yorkshire, co-ordination on a wide scale will remain an ever-present challenge.

Looking ahead

13. At the next meeting the committee will review:

- The support provided to adult carers of adults in North Yorkshire - specifically to provide an objective view of these services and whether they provide value for money.
- Learning disabilities: what has been the authority's contribution to the Live well, live longer – Learning Disabilities Strategy for North Yorkshire 2017-2022.. Essentially “Are we where we want to be?”
- How NYCC uses Assistive Technology to enable people to live more independent lives for longer. What is the current delivery model?

14. This will be my last Statement as Chairman of the Care and Independence Overview and Scrutiny Committee. I would like to thank Helen Grant who has been my Vice-Chairman on the committee throughout my tenure as its Chairman. She has been an immense source of support, advice and enthusiasm. Her passion for personalised, quality social care services has been invaluable. I am also grateful for the unstinting support I have received from the other group spokespersons and all the members of the committee, and to Ray Busby for his professionalism and dedication as committee secretary.

15. I wish my successor as Chairman the very best for the future.

JOHN ENNIS

Chairman, Care and Independence Overview and Scrutiny Committee

County Hall,
NORTHALLERTON
30 April 2019

Background Documents - Nil