

North Yorkshire County Council

Harrogate and Knaresborough Area Constituency Committee

Minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 21 March 2019 at 9.30 am at the Cairn Hotel, Ripon Road, Harrogate

Present:-

Members:-

County Councillor John Mann (in the Chair); County Councillors Philip Broadbank, Jim Clark, John Ennis, David Goode, Michael Harrison, Paul Haslam, Don Mackenzie, Zoe Metcalfe, Geoff Webber and Robert Windass

In Attendance:-

County Councillors Mike Chambers MBE and Stuart Martin MBE (Members of the Skipton and Ripon Area Constituency Committee)

County Council Officers:- Jane Le Sage (Assistant Director Inclusion, Children and Young People's Services), Andrew Dixon (Strategic Planning Manager, Children and Young Peoples' Services), Daniel Harry (Democratic Services and Scrutiny Manager) and Ruth Gladstone (Principal Democratic Services Officer)

Three members of the press and public

Apology for Absence:-

An apology for absence was received from County Councillor Richard Cooper.

Copies of all documents considered are in the Minute Book

26. Chairman's Announcements

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting, particularly Members of the Skipton and Ripon Area Constituency Committee who were present for the two items of business recorded at Minutes 28 and 29 below.

27. Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

28. Briefing on Changes to Mental Health Services in Harrogate and the Surrounding Area

Considered –

The report of the Democratic Services and Scrutiny Manager which set out an update on changes to mental health services in Harrogate and the surrounding area and invited Members to identify any issues of particular concern which they wished to feed into the Scrutiny of Health Committee.

The report, in summary, advised that Tees, Esk and Wear Valleys NHS Foundation Trust (TEWV) had announced that they had no option but: to not go ahead with a proposal to build a new, mental health in-patient unit the Cardale Park in Harrogate; to look at closing, in the longer term, the current in-patient beds at the Briary Wing at Harrogate District Hospital; and to look at re-provisioning in-patient care elsewhere and invest in community services. The County Council's Scrutiny of Health Committee had raised various questions and concerns. Subsequently a joint committee had met, comprising councillors from North Yorkshire County Council, City of York Council and Leeds City Council, and a number of issues had been clarified. A further meeting of the joint committee would be convened once a public engagement process by TEWV, HRD CCG and Leeds Clinical Commissioning Group had been completed and further information on the shape and form of community services and so the level of need for in-patient services was available. In the interim, the County Council's Scrutiny of Health Committee would continue to receive updates.

Members, including Members of the Skipton and Ripon Area Constituency Committee, discussed the situation and made the following comments:-

- Concern was expressed that the current level of total spend on mental health services in the county was approximately 9% of total health spend, as opposed to 12% in the Tees Valley.
- Concern was expressed that information was not available regarding what the model of enhanced community mental health care would be, what the demand for in-patient beds would be, and how the transition between in-patient care and enhanced community care would be managed.
- Concern was expressed that there were significant gaps in community-based service provision in the county when compared to what was available in neighbouring areas. Members commented that there should be no pretence that community based services existed when they did not. It was highlighted that proper investment in community based services was needed and that such services must be properly developed.
- Members recognised that it was unlikely that beds would be available, for people from Harrogate and the surrounding area, within the new 72 bed, mental health in-patient hospital currently under construction at Haxby Road in York. Consequently, people from Harrogate and the surrounding area were likely to be sent, for in-patient treatment, to Scarborough, Darlington or Middlesbrough which, Members felt, was too far away.
- Concern was expressed regarding the impact of longer journey times on individuals who were reliant on public or community transport, in particular for friends and relatives of mental health in-patients. Transport was a major issue in North Yorkshire, including parts of Harrogate, Ripon and the surrounding area.
- Concern was expressed about the impact on Yorkshire Ambulance Service as more and more services were centralised and provided out of area.
- Concern was expressed that both the commissioner and the provider appeared to have overlooked the needs of the Wetherby population.
- Members highlighted that there should be no differentiation between mental health and physical health. Both were manifestations of something going wrong with the body and both must be treated.

- Disappointment was expressed that residents' expectations had been raised, then dashed, of having a new, mental health in-patient unit built at Cardale Park.
- The County Council's Scrutiny of Health Committee was congratulated on the work it had done, and continued to do, in scrutinising the development of mental health services in Harrogate and the surrounding area. Particular thanks were expressed to County Councillor Jim Clark (Chairman of the Scrutiny of Health Committee) for all he had done. Members felt that County Councillors had worked very effectively cross-party and also with other local authorities. Liberal Democrat Members expressed the hope that that would continue.
- Members described as "excellent" the work of the joint committee which comprised councillors from North Yorkshire County Council, City of York Council and City of Leeds Council. It was felt that a better outcome would be achieved by this joint scrutiny.
- Members suggested that the County Council should make more noise about the concerns about mental health service provision in Harrogate and the surrounding area, and seek more support from the local Members of Parliament. *(Arising from this discussion, the Committee agreed a resolution which is recorded at paragraph (b) of the following Resolution.)*

Resolved –

- (a) That the Committee's comments, as recorded in the preamble to this Minute, be noted and referred to the Scrutiny of Health Committee as appropriate.
- (b) That, subject to consultation with the Chairman of the Scrutiny of Health Committee, a letter, signed by the Chairman and Vice-Chairman of this Committee and the Ripon Members of the Ripon and Skipton Area Constituency Committee, be sent to the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care, to express councillors' concern about mental health service provision in Harrogate and the surrounding area, that the letter be copied to the MPs for the two constituency areas, and that the County Council's Communications Unit issue a press release regarding councillors' concerns.

29. Briefing on Changes to Hyper Acute Stroke Services for Harrogate and the Surrounding Area

Considered –

The report of the Democratic Services and Scrutiny Manager which provided an update on changes to the provision of hyper acute stroke services for Harrogate and the surrounding area, and invited Members to identify any issues of specific, local concern that they wished to refer to the Scrutiny of Health Committee.

The report, in summary, advised that hyper acute stroke services would move from Harrogate District Hospital to York and Leeds with effect from April 2019. The County Council's Scrutiny of Health Committee supported this change based on the evidence submitted, in particular because about 300 people per year had received hyper acute stroke services at Harrogate District Hospital, which was significantly below the clinical minimum of 600 for such a service. The new model for the provision of hyper acute stroke services to the population of Harrogate and the surrounding area included the following:- suspected strokes would be transported by Yorkshire Ambulance Service to either York Teaching Hospital or Leeds Teaching Hospital, bypassing Harrogate District Hospital; any patients who self-presented with suspected stroke at Harrogate District Hospital would be taken to Leeds Teaching Hospital; Leeds Teaching Hospital

would take on an additional 210 confirmed strokes and 100 mimics per year; York Teaching Hospital would take on an additional 80 confirmed strokes and 40 mimics per year; patients would be transferred back to Harrogate District Hospital as soon as possible and most likely within 72 hours; patients would receive rehabilitation through the existing rehabilitation services at Harrogate District Hospital or go straight home and receive community-based rehabilitation support. The Scrutiny of Health Committee would be assessing the performance of the new service model on a six monthly basis for the first 18 months.

Daniel Harry (Democratic Services and Scrutiny Manager) introduced the report.

Members, including Members of the Skipton and Ripon Area Constituency Committee, expressed support for the change, although expressed concern regarding:- (i) the capacity of Yorkshire Ambulance Service; and (ii) the length of time it would take ambulances to reach Leeds Teaching Hospital during peak traffic with a patient during their “golden hour” of the onset of symptoms.

Members asked for reports to be submitted to this Committee, on an appropriate periodic basis during the forthcoming two years, to monitor implementation of this change in service provision.

Resolved –

- (a) That the Committee’s comments, as recorded in the preamble to this Minute, be noted and referred to the Scrutiny of Health Committee as appropriate.
- (b) That reports be submitted to this Committee, on an appropriate periodic basis during the forthcoming two years, to monitor implementation of this change in the provision of hyper acute stroke services for Harrogate and the surrounding area.

30. Minutes

Resolved –

That the Minutes of the meeting held on 8 November 2018, having been printed and circulated, be taken as read and be confirmed and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

31. Public Questions or Statements

There were no questions or statements from members of the public.

32. Schools, Educational Achievement and Finance

Considered –

The report of the Corporate Director – Children and Young People’s Services which described the local educational landscape, educational achievement, and the financial challenges which affected schools in the Harrogate and Knaresborough constituency area.

The report, in summary, set out the following information in respect of schools within the Harrogate and Knaresborough constituency area:-

- The number of maintained schools and the number of academies.
- School standards (ie the number of school Ofsted judgements at “good” or “outstanding”, “requires improvement”, and “inadequate”; attainment overall;

Early Years foundation stage profile; and attainment at Key Stage 2 and progress at Key Stage 4).

- The number of, and most common reason for, fixed-term and permanent exclusions, and the local authority response to exclusions.
- School finance (ie the number of schools in financial difficulty across North Yorkshire and future projections; and the number of schools in financial difficulty across Harrogate and Knaresborough).
- School sustainability, including current and future pupil rolls and the main reasons why pupils living outside the Harrogate and Knaresborough constituency area attended schools within the constituency area.

Jane Le Sage (Assistant Director Inclusion, Children and Young People's Services) and Andrew Dixon (Strategic Planning Manager, Children and Young Peoples' Services) introduced the report and presented orally additional information which County Councillor Paul Haslam had requested prior to the meeting. County Councillor Haslam requested a written copy of that additional information.

Members discussed the report and asked questions which Jane Le Sage and Andrew Dixon answered. During discussion:-

- It was highlighted that, in respect of the local authority response to exclusions, a decision had been made by the local authority in terms of transforming the model of alternative provision and pupil referral services by September 2020. Local authority officers were currently in the midst of working with schools across the county, in localities and pupil referral service headteachers to shape what that provision would look like by the time of September 2020. A Harrogate/Knaresborough/Ripon meeting was due to be held on 22 March 2019 and would be the first of a series of monthly meetings, up until summer, at which local authority officers would be working with locality schools and pupil referral service headteachers to shape the model for the locality. That would be done by the end of summer 2019 and subsequently there would be a year of transformation and transition into the new model. At present, the modelling was looking at secondary schools but primary schools were not being ignored. The local authority vision continued to be that it wanted to support schools to reduce the need for permanent exclusions and to focus on an area intervention model and preventative work so that children could remain on roll. There had been no negative feedback concerning what the local authority was trying to achieve, and the local authority wanted to ensure schools had options to permanent exclusions. Jane Le Sage offered to provide an update to Members after Easter 2019. Members also asked for a report to be submitted to this Committee in six months' time regarding the impact of budget cuts at The Grove Academy Pupil Referral Unit, showing how many places had been lost and where and how they had been replaced. *(Arising from this discussion, the Committee agreed resolutions which are recorded at paragraph (b) and (c) of the following Resolution.)*
- Members raised concern that North Yorkshire secondary schools were placed 122 out of 150 local authorities in terms of funding. The officers undertook to circulate by email, following the meeting, a response to the question:- "If we were to have average funding per pupil across the country, what would our position be (for both primary and secondary across the county)?" Members noted that there was anecdotal evidence that, on the whole, schools were finding it difficult to deliver the curriculum on a budget. They noted that, as at March 2018, 54 schools across North Yorkshire had accumulated deficits totalling £4.4m. Across the Harrogate and Knaresborough constituency area, of the 19 maintained schools in the area, 12 were projecting to be in deficit by March 2021, with a total projected deficit of £3.4m. County Council officers provided advice and assistance to schools which got into financial difficulty and

some schools had scope to restructure to address a financial deficit. Members suggested that North Yorkshire was not being treated fairly in the allocation of government funding for schools, and that their concerns about this, and the degree of financial difficulty experienced by schools in the Harrogate and Knaresborough constituency area, should be brought to the attention of the Harrogate and Knaresborough MP and the County Council's Young People Overview and Scrutiny Committee. *(Arising from this discussion, the Committee agreed a resolution which is recorded at paragraph (d) of the following Resolution.)*

Resolved –

- (a) That the report be noted.
- (b) That an update be emailed to Members of this Committee after Easter 2019 concerning discussions between local authority officers, schools in the Harrogate/Knaresborough/Ripon locality, and pupil referral service headteachers to shape the model of alternative provision and pupil referral services for the locality.
- (c) That a report be submitted to this Committee's meeting to be held on 7 November 2019 regarding the impact of budget cuts at The Grove Academy Pupil Referral Unit, showing how many places have been lost, and where and how they have been replaced.
- (d) That Members' suggestions that North Yorkshire is not being treated fairly in the allocation of government funding for schools, and their concerns about this, and the degree of financial difficulty experienced by schools in the Harrogate and Knaresborough constituency area, be brought to the attention of:-
 - (i) the Harrogate and Knaresborough MP via a letter from the Chairman of this Committee; and
 - (ii) the County Council's Young People Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

33. Receipt of Petition "Save North Yorkshire's Pupil Referral Service"

Considered –

The report of the Assistant Chief Executive (Legal and Democratic Services) which advised of the receipt of a petition "Save North Yorkshire Pupil Referral Service", outlined consideration which had previously been given to the concerns of the petitioners, and asked the Area Constituency Committee to consider a response.

The report, in summary, advised that a petition "Save North Yorkshire's Pupil Referral Service" had been received on 15 January 2019 and, in accordance with the County Council's arrangements for dealing with petitions, must be discussed by this Committee. The Campaign Group behind the petition had spoken at various recent meetings to bring their concerns to the attention of County Councillors, including the meeting of the County Council's Young People Overview and Scrutiny Committee on 7 December 2018, the meeting of the County Council's Executive on 15 January 2019 when a decision was made concerning the Pupil Referral Service and Alternative Provision Budget and Fund Modelling, and at the meeting of the full County Council on 20 February 2019 when the County Council had set its budget for 2019/20.

The Chairman reported orally that the petition organiser had advised that he would not be speaking at today's meeting to present the petition because he felt he would be repeating himself.

The Chairman referred to the previous meetings at which the petitioners' concerns had already been discussed. Members commented that they wished to note the petition and the previous consideration which had already been given to it. They also proposed making arrangements for future monitoring of the situation. *(During consideration of the previous item of business, the Committee had already requested a report, in six months' time, regarding the impact of budget cuts at The Grove Academy Pupil Referral Unit, showing how many places had been lost, and where and how they had been replaced.)* After further discussion, the Committee agreed the following Resolution.

Resolved –

- (a) That the petition "Save North Yorkshire's Pupil Referral Service" be noted, together with the consideration which has previously been given to the petitioners' concerns at the meetings of the County Council's Young People Overview and Scrutiny Committee on 7 December 2018, the County Council's Executive on 15 January 2019, and by the full County Council on 20 February 2019.
- (b) That regular updates be submitted to this Committee concerning the numbers of school exclusions both in the Harrogate and Knaresborough constituency area and across North Yorkshire and that the updates be termly if possible or otherwise to co-ordinate with other work which officers need to carry out to monitor the number of school exclusions.

34. Work Programme

Considered –

The Work Programme for the Committee to consider, develop and adopt.

The Chairman introduced the Work Programme. He:-

- Asked the Committee to decide whether it wished to extend the informal highway drop-in sessions.
- Reported that, following circulation of the agenda and reports for this meeting, the dates for the public engagement on the Harrogate Traffic Congestion Study had been decided and that the engagement would run from Monday 15 April to Monday 8 July 2019. Consequently, officers would not be in a position to report the findings from the public engagement at the Committee's next meeting, as indicated in the written report. Instead a short update paragraph would be included in the Work Programme report to the next meeting, and a full report on the findings of the public engagement, and potential next steps, would be submitted to the Committee's meeting to be held on 29 August 2019. He asked for the Work Programme to be amended to reflect this.
- Reported that Andrew Jones MP had been invited to attend the Committee's meeting to be held on 7 November 2019, rather than to the earlier meeting in August. He asked for the Work Programme to be amended to reflect this. It was highlighted that 7 November might not be convenient to Andrew Jones MP and, in such circumstances, the Chairman should be authorised to change the arrangements for that meeting.

County Councillor Geoff Webber highlighted the importance of the topic "Building of Social Housing" and asked the Chairman to ensure that it was not delayed and would come before the Committee's meeting to be held on 13 June 2019. It was confirmed that a report had been requested from officers of the Harrogate Borough Council.

Arising from comments from County Councillor Paul Haslam, it was suggested that officers in the Business and Environmental Services Directorate might be asked to email Members of this Committee to advise them of the detailed arrangements, as soon as these were known, for the public engagement on Harrogate congestion relief study and how members of the public could submit their comments.

Resolved –

- (a) That informal highway drop-in sessions be held immediately after each ordinary meeting of this Area Constituency Committee during the remainder of 2019.
- (b) That the Work Programme be amended as follows:-
 - Harrogate Traffic Congestion Study:- A short update paragraph be included in the Work Programme report to the meeting to be held on 13 June 2019 and that a full report on the findings of the public engagement, and potential next steps, be submitted to the meeting on 29 August 2019.
 - Andrew Jones MP had been invited to attend the Committee's meeting on 7 November 2019 at 9.30am at Knaresborough and, if those meeting arrangements were not convenient to the MP, the Chairman be authorised to alter the meeting arrangements.
- (c) That officers in the Business and Environmental Services Directorate be asked to email Members of this Committee to advise them of the detailed arrangements, as soon as these are known, for the public engagement on Harrogate congestion relief study and how members of the public can submit their comments.

The meeting concluded at 12.15pm.

RAG