

## North Yorkshire County Council

### Care and Independence Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 26 September 2019 at 10.00am at County Hall, Northallerton.

#### **Present:-**

County Councillor Karin Sedgwick in the Chair.

County Councillors: Philip Broadbank, Eric Broadbent, John Ennis, Caroline Goodrick, Helen Grant, David Jeffels, Andrew Jenkinson, Stanley Lumley, John Mann and Cliff Trotter.

#### **In attendance:**

County Councillors Caroline Dickinson (Executive Member for Adult Social Care) and Andy Paraskos (Older Peoples Champion).

Officers: Ray Busby (Scrutiny Support Officer), Anton Hodge, Assistant Director - Strategic Resources, Central Services, Chris Jones-King (Assistant Director Care and Support, Health and Adult Services), Mike Rudd, Head of Housing Market Development, Commissioning (HAS), Karen Siennicki, Interim Head of Service Mental Health, DoLS and EDT, Care and Support (HAS), Cath Simms, Head of Targeted Prevention, Care and Support (HAS).

#### **Apologies:**

County Councillors Mike Chambers MBE and Stuart Martin MBE.

Voluntary and Community Sector: Independent Sector: Mike Padgham (Independent Care Group) and Jill Quinn (Dementia Forward).

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### **Copies of all documents considered are in the Minute Book**

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#### **198. Minutes**

##### **Resolved –**

That the Minutes of the meeting held on 27 June 2019 having been printed and circulated, be taken as read and be confirmed and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

#### **199. Declarations of Interest**

There were no declarations of interest to note.

#### **200. 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.

#### **201. Chairman's Remarks**

The Chairman updated members on changes to the work programme she had agreed to.

## **202. Mental Health: Implementation and Pathway**

### **Considered**

Presentation by Chris Jones-King, Assistant Director Care and Support, Health and Adult Services) and Karen Siennicki, Interim Head of Service Mental Health, DoLS and EDT, Care and Support (HAS)

Social care and all partners can now follow a clear health pathway from referral into the service, triage and prevention. A restructured mental health service with a clear hierarchy, transparent lines of accountability and, significantly, an integrated care workforce team, strengthens this approach.

Karen explained the increased confidence that the service is statutorily compliant. Given that there is a stronger prevention offer at the front door, we can expect to see a reduction in the number of people requiring specialist mental health services. The pathways also set out a clear process of best practice to be followed in the treatment of a patient or client with a particular condition or with particular needs. Where there is a social care need identified, the impact of a crisis for an individual will be minimised

On the basis of what Members heard, they concluded that these new care pathways are designed to level up services so that individuals and patients all receive the best standard of care available.

### **Resolved –**

- a) That the report be noted.
- b) The Chairman report the committee's positive conclusions in her statement to council.

## **203. Budget Position: Operational Actions overspend update**

### **Considered –**

Report by Anton Hodge highlighting the areas presenting with the most significant financial pressures facing HAS as at September 2019 and the management action that is being taken in response to the pressures

Anton explained that towards the end of last year the Committee reviewed the HAS Directorate projected overspend and the action plan that is being taken in response to financial pressures.

Members particularly noted, referencing the previous item, the mental health budget is currently overspending by approximately £400,000 on a budget of £8.5m. Whilst reassured about the action being taken to correct this overspend, a number of members commented that it is easy to comprehend how the County Council spends such a significant part of its overall budget on these services.

Members discussed the main area of overspend, which remains within the care and support budget which accounts for £133m of a net £157m directorate budget. A predicted overspend of £4.9m. The question was posed whether, in cost effectiveness terms, it might be advantageous for the authority to operate a residential establishment, especially one that featured nursing home placement capacity. Anton replied that, in line with the county council's responsibilities regarding market shaping,

a good deal of analysis was being undertaken into how the council might intervene and develop the social care market. However, taking the step of becoming a direct provider entails significant business constraints and drawbacks. For example, the authority when faced with commercial factors - such as direct staffing costs, both cost per employee and overall employment costs, non-staffing direct costs, indirect or overhead costs, the cost of capital/premises – would find it a challenge to provide places at a favourable rate compared to many current independent sector providers.

Ray Busby reminded members that the committee members had recently reviewed the findings of the Mazaars consultancy report into market intervention options. A follow-up scrutiny discussion was planned at the next group spokespersons' mid cycle briefing on how the learning for this review was being progressed through the council's BEST improvement initiative. Members then asked that this be a substantive topic at the March committee meeting.

**Resolved -**

- a) That the report be noted.
- b) Whilst reassured about the action being taken to correct this overspend, Members remarked how easy it was to see how the County Council spends such a significant part of its overall budget on these services. Managing demand well, and sustaining the council's commitment to prevention and early intervention, will be key. These issues should, therefore, be prominent considerations for scrutiny and the committee's work programme.
- c) That current thinking on how the directorate meets its Care Act responsibilities regarding Market intervention and Shaping the Care market, especially in the context of the council's care and support budget pressures, now feature at committee meeting on the 5 March 2020.

**204. Living Well in North Yorkshire**

**Considered**

Presentation by Cath Simms outlining the results of an independent evaluation undertaken by Chrysalis.

Cath Simms explained that an integral part of NYCC's preventative offer is the Living Well Project which works with individuals and their carers who are isolated, vulnerable, bereaved, lacking confidence, or perhaps on the borderline of needing health and social care services. Instead, the service helps them to access their local community, and support them to find their own solutions to their health and wellbeing goals. This helps to reduce loneliness and isolation, and to prevent or resolve issues for people, including preventing hospitalisation.

Cath referred to the findings of the evaluation report. Evidence shows the positive impact of living well for service users in North Yorkshire County Council. Amongst a range of indicators pointing to the project's success, one in particular stands out: it delivers improved wellbeing worth £3.84 per every £1 spent.

Members agreed that Living Well is a genuine success story. It illustrates how the council has creatively and innovatively deployed public health grant money to further public health and social care objectives.

**Resolved –**

- a) That the report be noted.
- b) The Chairman report the committee's positive conclusions in her statement to council.

**205. Assistive Technology**

**Considered**

Report by Mike Rudd Head of Housing Market Development, Commissioning (HAS).

Mike explained the details of the recently entered into partnership arrangement with Nottingham Rehab Services (NRS). There are clear advantages to having moved to one organisation delivering AT services across the county to both adults and children. Rather than having to specify certain pieces of equipment and then relying on our NYCC Occupational Therapists (OT's) to understand and assess, the new contract operates as a direct partnership between NRS and the County Council. By employing their own OTs, who receive referrals from NYCC assessment staff, we can be confident that greater technical expertise is being brought to bear. NRS technical experts are able to identify the most appropriate piece of equipment to support a person's assessed needs and outcomes.

Members were impressed at how a range of solutions from the simple to the most technologically advanced are being used. One in particular, a working robot colleague, attracted members' interest. This appears to be having a great impact on people with dementia and Alzheimer's. The outcomes have been found to be reduced stress, stimulated interaction between people and carers, and reduced challenging behaviour.

Members concluded that initial results from the new arrangement seem to demonstrate that more people are being supported with a far wider range of equipment, and the contract provider is able to stay much more up-to-date with new and emerging technology.

**Resolved –**

- a) That the report be noted.
- b) The Chairman report the committee's positive conclusions in her statement to council.

**206. Work Programme**

**Considered -**

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

**Resolved -**

That the work programme be agreed.