

Annex 2



Future challenges facing older people's care – background information provided for the focus groups.

Growing older brings opportunities and challenges, and we need to ensure that residents can access services that meet their needs and aspirations.

We know that - nationally and locally - the proportion of the population aged over 65 will increase dramatically during the next 15 years. Older people are living longer and staying active for longer. With an even greater increase in the number of older people aged 85 years and above, we can expect that more people will need care and support as they become frail. However, funding for care services is unlikely to increase at the same rate.

People's aspirations about the way they want to receive help are already changing; future services need to be flexible and responsive to individual choice. Older people will expect to take more control and that services will support them to remain independent, healthy and active in their community. This, combined with the pressures that a growing population will put on the public purse, means that we must find the most efficient and effective ways to deliver care and support. Projections show that, if we continue to provide services in the way we do now, it could cost us an additional £10m a year to provide social care services in York.

We are asking small groups of people in York for their views and ideas on three key issues that will help to shape the way that services are provided to older people in the future, and the way we respond to the challenges of funding that care and support.

- o Should we be looking to increase the amount of funding available for older people's services in York?
- o Should we be exploring ways of reducing the need for formal care services, and supporting services that make this possible?
- o Should we be rethinking the council's role as a direct provider of services?

To receive services funded by the council, a person has to receive an assessment of their needs. This is currently done by a social worker or care manager following guidance set down by the government.

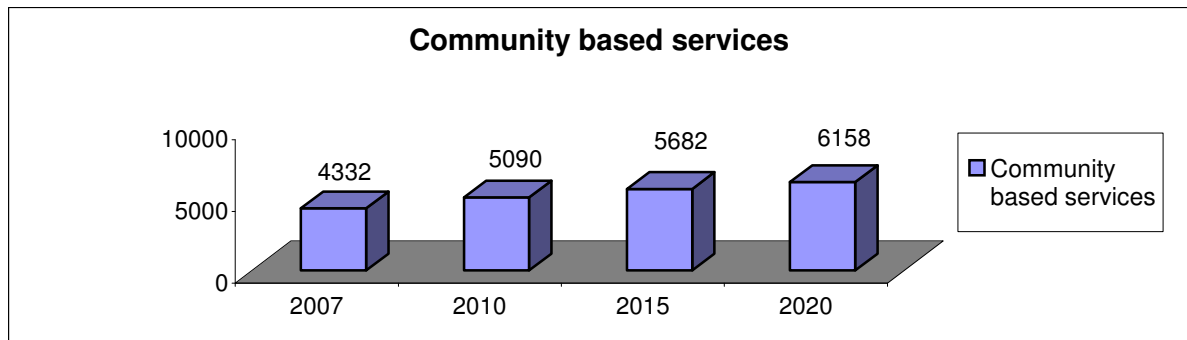
In York we have decided that we will provide services to people with needs classed as 'moderate' or above (as defined by the government). If someone is eligible, we carry out a further assessment to see if they can afford to pay for or contribute towards the cost of the services that they need, which could include equipment; help with personal care; day-time activities or care; residential care; nursing care; or respite care. It is possible for an older person to receive money to arrange their own care and support in the form of a 'direct payment', although not many people use this option yet. We also provide funding to voluntary sector services that offer help and support to people who may not meet the 'eligibility criteria'.

The table below sets out the projected increase in the number of over 65s in York (the figures come from the National Statistics Office):

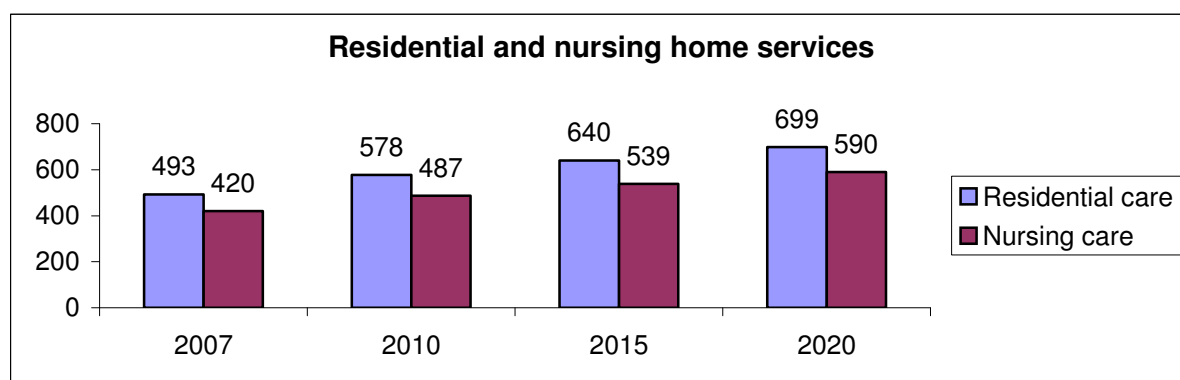
AGE GROUP	2007	2010	2015	2020
65-69	8300	8800	11200	10100
70-74	7600	7900	8300	10500
75-79	6500	6600	7100	7500
80-84	5000	5100	5400	5900
85+	4300	4700	5300	6000
Totals	31,700	33,100	37,100	40,000

The following graphs use information about the level of service provided in 2005-06 to show how the projected increase in the number of over 65s will lead to increased demand for services.

a) Projected increase in demand for community-based services



b) Projected increase in demand for residential and nursing home care



Community-based care costs

The independent sector currently provides long-term care to all but those with specialist needs, such as dementia or a very high level of physical care needs. The council provides care to those with specialist needs; to everyone for an initial period of up to six weeks, with the aim of increasing independence; and to those with very low care needs who still need regular support. Council services cost, on average, £4 more than the hourly rate paid to the independent sector.

Residential care costs

Although many councils do not manage residential care homes, City of York Council manages nine that provide around 30 beds each. Two of these homes have been adapted to provide specialist care for older people with mental health needs. The weekly cost per bed in the council-run homes ranges from £350 to £559 a week (the cost is higher in specialist homes). Fees paid to the independent sector range from £350 or £360 for residential home beds (with the higher fee paid for dementia care) to £470 or 480 for nursing home beds.

If we were to develop more homes to provide specialist care, either for people with dementia; mental health needs; or for people with a high level of physical care needs, we would probably need to make structural changes to buildings. This could cost between £350,000 and £750,000 per home. Staffing costs would also increase by an estimated £100,000 per home per year.