

**Health & Adult Social Care Policy & Scrutiny
Committee**

30 July 2019

Report of the Executive Member Health and Adult
Social Care

Priorities for the coming year

1. As the Executive Member who continues in the same portfolio from the previous four years, my priorities for the portfolio remain in place and despite the national financial crisis in adult social care. I remain determined to support all services which care for some of the most vulnerable in our city.

Older Persons Accommodation Programme:

2. Our plans to address the needs of York's ageing population through the delivery of the Older Persons Accommodation Programme are on target and Phase 1 is complete. With my colleague, the Executive Member for Housing, this is something I remain committed to over the next four years as we deliver phase 2.
3. It is important for members to note that York is facing a significant demographic challenge with the increase in older people (over 85 years old) living in the city expected to grow by two fifths between 2017 and 2025.
4. Our new plans aim to maximise the use of two of York's existing Sheltered Housing with Extra Care schemes, making them more accessible for residents with higher care needs. This will allow older people to continue to live independently in their own home for as long as they want to and are able to do so. By the end of the programme there

will be over 900 new units of accommodation for older people across the city.

Mental Health:

5. One of the key areas I have prioritised over the last four years, and one which I will continue to keep at the top of my agenda, is improving the provision of mental health services across the city. My ambition is to ensure that early mental health support is available to residents in their own communities, so that problems can be addressed early, before things get serious. To achieve this, strong partnerships are essential, both with TEWV Mental Health Trust and with the numerous PVI (Private, Voluntary and Independent) providers in the city. I have established good relationships with many of them already and will continue to strengthen these important links.
6. As part of our partnership agreement, we have committed reviewing mental health services, with a view on improving our early intervention work; our work with the third sector and emergency phone-line support.
7. York Mind have also launched the third year of the Mental Health and Wellbeing Activities Programme. Working in collaboration with Converge, York Carers' Centre, Refugee Action York, York LGBT Forum and Move the Masses; York Mind will be delivering a range of activities across York, aimed at supporting individuals' mental health and wellbeing.

Community Services and Social Prescribing:

8. One area of the Council's work I am keen to expand and improve is our work within communities – bringing services to people rather than people to services. Working with the CCG, I would like to see the expansion of programmes which encourage social prescribing. Again, one of our commitments within the new administration is to increase our investment in ward level social prescribing, as part of our plans to tackle loneliness and isolation.

9. A great deal of work has already taken place to decentralise some health services and instead, base them in the communities they serve and I will encourage this to continue.
10. The team of Local Area Co-ordinators has been expanding and they successfully support local residents to find the help they need within wards or nearby. The Local Area Co-ordinators work to liaise with community groups and they have developed local networks, which are used to improve health outcomes and communication of information in a specific area of the city. The recent evaluation report shows how positive this work has been in diverting people from more serious interventions such as attendance at A&E and I plan for this expansion to continue.
11. Talking Points have also been set up to improve health services in specific communities. Talking Points are staffed by qualified social workers and provide residents earlier access to such services as social care and mental health support close to where they live. As a result, residents who have used the service have been able to access information, advice and support quickly and find out more about local activities and resources whilst delays are minimised.
12. A number of local ward budget projects have also been funded to alleviate loneliness and social isolation and this wise investment of ward committee funding is very welcome. For any wards wishing to have further information about investing in such projects for their communities, please contact myself or the Adult Social Care team to talk about what can be done.

Working with our local health services:

13. The Council continues to work in partnership with its partners and good progress has been made with TEWV, Hospital Trust, the CCG and GPs who provide support for local residents in their surgeries. I intend to maintain the positive working relationships with our health partners here in the city, so we can continue to address the city-wide, regional and national challenges social care faces.

14. The Council and the CCG have also entered into further joint commissioning arrangements, with the aim of increasing investment in early intervention and social prescribing - particularly in York's voluntary and community sector.

Work with Third Sector partners:

15. The Council continues to work closely with CVS, CAY and Healthwatch, particularly in supporting all organisations who train and retain volunteers who provide crucial services. With the further expansion of the introduction of Universal Credit in York, such services are needed more than ever.
16. As part of our partnership agreement whilst in administration, we have committed to expanding the 'People Helping People Scheme', by exploring options to support a community volunteering bank. By doing so, we can help our social prescribing networks in our local communities.

Developments:

17. NHS Property Services have recently engaged in a failed commercial sale of the Bootham Park Hospital site and are now continuing to re-market it. The Council has published its draft masterplan for the Bootham Park Hospital site, following the public consultation which took place last year. Developed jointly with the Acute Hospital Trust, it offers exciting opportunities to bring much needed provision to a historic and iconic site.
18. York residents are invited to contribute further to the development of the masterplan, by giving their views on the proposals so far. The Bootham Park Masterplan Consultation will launch in September 2019. More information can be found via this link:
<http://www.york.gov.uk/boothampark>.
19. The HWBB is in the process of review and I have had meetings with all members to discuss new ways forward which are now under development.

Visits:

20. I recently welcomed the Minister for Care, Caroline Dineage MP, to York and accompanied her to the care home in The Chocolate Works. I also helped cut the first turf for the new care home on the Burnholme site, met with the Independent Care Group, spoke to the Older Citizens Advocacy Service and to the Older People's Assembly, both of which I enjoyed very much. I took part in the Young People's Mental Health Summit and talked to the team hoping to develop services on the site of The Retreat.

Finally:

21. I look forward to working with our new Corporate Director on the use of assistive Technology and Robotics, particularly in social care – I feel there are a lot of possibilities there waiting to be developed, all of which have great potential to help support residents.

Cllr Carol Runciman, Portfolio holder

19/07/2019