

## **Report from Cllr Carol Runciman – Portfolio Holder for Adult Social Care and Health and Chair of CYC Health and Well-being Board**

### **Better Care Fund (BCF) and Working with the NHS**

Much of my time and that of officers has been taken up in discussion with the Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG), offering assistance so that the CCG with partners across the health and social care economy can address the issues relating to the financial sustainability of the NHS in York. The announcement that their expenditure is capped and they must work within a budget set by NHS England came recently. As this area is historically low funded and the CCG have been carrying an inherited financial deficit for many years, this is particularly challenging. It is therefore of vital importance that all agencies work together to develop an efficient and effective health service for the residents of the city.

Work continues on the Better Care Fund (BCF), despite the absence of final national guidance. The BCF provides an opportunity to find new integrated ways of improving services in an economically efficient manner which supports financial sustainability. Discussions aimed at clarification are ongoing and Scrutiny should consider its role here in reviewing the BCF expenditure plans. However, all agencies understand that the top priorities should be to catch health problems (mental and physical) early, put support into communities where it is easily accessible and to keep people safe and out of hospital for as long as is possible. Statutory agencies are working with the third sector to be able to achieve this change in line with the BCF.

These priorities are also the role of the recently appointed Local Area Co-ordinators who will work closely with the Local Area Teams to bring early intervention and prevention support nearer to those that need it.

A joint commissioning strategy was agreed in December 2016. Work is underway to put this strategy into action, with a plan containing services that can be jointly commissioned over the next 1-3 years.

My talks with the Non- Executive Chair of the CCG, the CCG's Accountable Officer, the Chair of the Acute Hospital Trust and the Chair of the Mental Health Trust (TEWV) as well as the managers of the Council

for Voluntary Services (CVS) and Healthwatch have been helpful and I look forward to continuing them.

## **Mental Health Provision**

Partners across the NHS, local authority, community and voluntary sectors have contributed to a draft Mental Health Strategy 2017-22. This establishes our key priorities which include: a focus on recovery and rehabilitation; improving services for young mothers, children and young people; improving the services for those with learning disabilities; ensuring that York becomes a Suicide Safer city and ensuring that York is both a mental health and dementia-friendly environment. We want to focus on putting services into the community and prioritise mental health to delay the experience of mental ill health. A Learning Disabilities strategy will be developed next.

Following an extensive consultation period with stakeholders and residents, the announcement of the site for the new Mental Health residential provision is imminent.

## **Mental Health, Young Adults**

Rebuilding work is underway on Sycamore House, having been delayed to await the grant from the DoH for the provision of a Safe Place and the relocation of the hospital social work team into a better integrated arrangement with the NHS. In addition to providing a safe space for people experiencing mental health in crisis, Sycamore House will continue to be a city centre community resource supporting residents with their mental health. The top floor will now be the location of counselling services and following a procurement process, the contract has recently been awarded to MIND. It should reopen by this summer.

## **Older People's Accommodation**

Good progress continues with the Older People's Accommodation programme. Construction on the Burnholme site will start this week by the construction firm Sewells who built our PFI schools. Having worked with them previously, we look forward to a healthy relationship with good outcomes for our residents. They will start with the construction of the access road comes first, to be completed by October 2017. The Centre

will be ready for occupation in May 2018. A care home and a medical practice will also be built on the site.

Designers are working on plans for the Oaklands site which will include a care home, health centre and community self-build, plus allotments. I took part in the topping out of the Glen Lodge extra care scheme and am looking forward to its completion. Design plans are underway for the extension to Marjorie Waite Court extra care scheme, and they will include a community facility.

The development of the Fordlands site is underway and there will be new care homes built by JRHT in New Earswick, with independently provided facilities on the Grove House site, Oliver House site and Carlton Tavern site, in addition to those on the Chocolate Works site which are already open. This is a tremendous programme of change and expansion and I am grateful to all those involved.

## **Future Focus**

As part of the council's strategy to prevent, reduce and delay care needs, a major programme of work is underway to change adult social care assessment and care management services. The Future Focus operating model programme will enable the adult social care workforce to intervene earlier and support people's independence and resilience through helping them to make the best use of their strengths assets knowledge and skills and those of the community that supports them. Engagement and co-production are strong themes running through the design principles and programme plan. The programme is currently in 6 month design phase which will move to an 18 month delivery plan.

## **Financial Inclusion Steering Group (FISG)**

I've been pleased to work with the FISG during the year at to help launch our initiatives to help those residents in financial difficulties – this comes under the banner of 'Improving Finances, Improving Lives'. Funds have been invested in a number of third sector organisations who will work with those who are less able to manage their finances on their own to increase their competence and thus their independence.

## **Suicide Prevention Strategies**

It is good to report that both the University of York St John and York University have invested resources in Suicide Prevention and that York College's suicide prevention strategy will be ratified soon. CYC has a Suicide Prevention Task Group working with all agencies to make York a suicide safer city. That work will continue and it is hoped there will be a drop in the numbers of suicides as a result.

## **Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (JSNA)**

The new JSNA is completed as is the HWBB strategy. These documents will drive forward our priorities for the forthcoming year.

Carol Runciman

12 June 2017

## **Abbreviations:**

BCF – Better Care Fund

CCG – Clinical Commissioning Group

CVS – Council for Voluntary Services

DoH – Department of Health

FISG – Financial Inclusion Steering Gro

HWBB – Health & Wellbeing Board

JRHT – Joseph Rowntree Housing Trus

JSNA – Joint Strategic Needs Assessm

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NHS – National Health Service

PFI – Private Finance Initiative

TEWV – Tees, Esk and Wear Valley NHS Foundation Trust