

## **Report of the Cabinet Member for Health and Community Engagement**

**30/09/2014**

### **Health and Adult Social Care**

“Adult social care, including care of an ageing population, is one of the big issues we face at present. It is important to understand this in the context of the wider healthcare system of acute and primary care. There are no easy answers, but we need to think clearly and in a joined-up way about the predictable and growing challenges in years to come.”

Amyas Morse, head of the National Audit Office, 13 March 2014

Creating a sustainable adult social care system is perhaps the biggest challenge that councils across the country currently face. York is no different in this regard and it is vital that members across this council work together with residents and communities to find solutions to the challenges of an ageing population.

### ***Finance and performance***

The 2014-15 (First Quarter) Financial, Performance and Equalities Monitoring Report on Health & Well-being shows a projected overspend for Adult Social Care for 2014-15 of £1.441M for which there are 3 major reasons – direct provision of care packages, changes to the Council’s Deprivation of Liberty Safeguard (DOLS) responsibilities and continuing cost pressures relating to the running of the Council’s own Elderly Person’s Homes. Cabinet agreed on 9th September to release £600K of contingency funds to Adult Social Care in recognition that a significant part of these costs, especially those related to DOLS, could not have been foreseen [there has been a 400% plus increase in workloads relating to DOLS since the Cheshire West Judgement]. This reduces the predicted Adult Social Care overspend for 2014-15 to under £1M at the end of Quarter One, this is the lowest that it has been for some years (since 2009/10).

In relation to financial systems issues within the department that led to previous criticism of the department, an action plan was produced that went further than the original auditors recommendations. This is well underway and the auditors have concluded that: “an action plan has

been developed in response to our findings, which we believe addresses the areas requiring improvement.”

Work has been undertaken with the Council’s auditors to establish the true value-for money position of services that the Council commissions on behalf of vulnerable adults. This has including benchmarking with peer authorities. The auditors concluded that the Council has been getting good value-for-money from the services it has commissioned.

The departmental savings plan has been reviewed in terms of the potential for realisation of previously identified savings and potential new savings. This has reduced the gap in the savings plan to £0.4M in 2014/15 with work continuing.

### ***Care Act***

The Care Act 2014 is arguably one of the most significant pieces of legislation affecting adult social care in England in a generation. The emphasis moving forward is on person centred, asset based care so that in future people’s care and support needs will be met by: harnessing existing capacity within neighbourhoods and families to provide support; addressing people’s needs at an earlier stage and before the need for formal services; the provision of high quality state support based on clear national entitlements. The Act also envisages that care and support will be more effectively joined up across all local services (particularly health and housing) and will work more collaboratively across local authorities, providers and other statutory organisations.

We have made good progress across the council on preparations for the Care Act coming into force next April. Colleagues not only in social care but across finance, communications, workforce development and policy and performance are all engaged in readiness. The Safeguarding Adults Board is making the necessary preparations for becoming a statutory body in April 2015.

### ***Integration and the Better Care Fund***

Greater integration between health and social care provision is vital for creating a sustainable system for the future. The first step toward such integration, and a key part of the Council’s Rewiring programme, is our work with the Vale of York Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) on the Better Care Fund. The re-submission of the Better Care Fund agreement was submitted on time on 19<sup>th</sup> September. Although subject

to a risk-sharing agreement, within the current plan there is an additional planned transfer to social care identified in 2015/16.

### ***Health and Wellbeing Board***

Over the past few months I have met with every member of the Health and Wellbeing Board (HWBB) individually to review the workings of the board and their priorities for the future. There is a great willingness across the city – in the public, private and voluntary/community sectors – to work more closely together to improve the health and wellbeing of *all* residents in the city. The Board will continue to lead this work with particular focus on the wider wellbeing agenda. This will include tackling key public health priorities in the city such as tackling poor air quality and reducing smoking, addressing issues relating to alcohol and reducing the city's consumption of sugar. The HWBB launched a web-based Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (JSNA) earlier this year.

### ***Public Health***

Health in York is generally very good and in a lot of areas we out-perform national and regional averages. Nevertheless, there are still significant health inequalities in the city with nearly a 10 year gap in life expectancy between men in the city's most and least deprived areas and 5.6 years in women. Furthermore, our figures for excess winter deaths and smoking in pregnancy are above national averages. In response, we are re-procuring our stopping smoking service to be better targeted at most high-risk groups.

The Council's Public Health responsibilities include the national child measurement programme, school nursing service and, from September 2015, the health visiting service. Whilst our figures are again below national average with around 8% of children entering reception year obese, this figure rises to 16% by the time they leave reception year.

We are currently re-procuring the city's sexual health service seeking to provide a more integrated service and to address the inherited overspend in this area due to the funding settlement when Public Health responsibilities came over to the local authority.

In May this year the city achieved White Ribbon Status showing our commitment to eradicating violence against women and children.

## **Community Engagement**

The Rewiring transformation programme has so far seen the council engage with around 7800 residents across the city on a range of service areas as well as asking residents to share their aspirations and ideas for the city as a whole. This included open days at Council offices, conversations with residents on the buses, using social media, workshops with Parish Councils and Resident Groups and sessions with different stakeholder groups. On children's services alone the Council spoke with around 1700 parents, carers and childcare providers about the future of our children's centre provision.

Through the Local Plan process, the Council has consulted with over 14,000 residents and businesses across the city making it one of the most widespread consultation processes we have undertaken as an authority.

Community Conversation events have now taken place in 15 wards giving residents and local community groups the opportunity to get together to share ideas, to solve problems and to challenge the council leader, cabinet members and local ward councillors.

These are just a few examples of the strong emphasis on engagement and consultation as the Council reshapes its services in response to the extremely challenging financial circumstances we now face. Council services in the future will, as far as possible, be designed and produced together with the communities who use them.

Ward councillors play a vital role in this engagement work and I want to personally thank those who are actively leading their ward teams, bringing together residents and community groups to collectively solve problems and improve their local areas.

### ***Voluntary sector***

As a Council we are continuing to build strong links with the voluntary and community sector (VCS) within the city, both in terms of individual projects and at a strategic level. We also continue to run a number of very successful volunteer programmes across the Council and held the first ever celebration of volunteers earlier this year. The VCS plays a vital role in enhancing the wellbeing of our city.

## ***Equalities***

I continue to work closely with the Council's Equalities Advisory Group (EAG) and Fairness and Equalities Board on embedding equalities across the organisation and the city as a whole. I welcome the work of the Corporate and Scrutiny Management Committee in taking a lead on members' involvement in this area. This work is vitally important in ensuring that every resident in York has access to all the opportunities our great city has to offer.

Finally, I would like to personally congratulate the Communities and Equalities team for being shortlisted for a Community Pride Award in recognition of the vital work they do across this city's communities.