
Health Overview & Scrutiny Committee

14th December 2009

Report of the Interim Head of Civic, Legal & Democratic Services

Update Report – Outreach Workers

Summary

1. This report presents Members of the Committee with an update on a previously registered scrutiny topic regarding 'outreach workers' for further consideration.

Background

2. At a meeting on 5th January 2009 Members considered a scrutiny topic registered by Councillor James Alexander regarding the availability, funding and uniform distribution of access to outreach workers. A copy of the topic registration form is attached at Annex A to this report.
3. A feasibility study was prepared for consideration and this is attached at Annex B to this report.
4. Members of the Committee discussed the report at length and it was resolved:
 - i. That based on the evidence presented within the report Members do not proceed with a scrutiny review on this topic at the present time
 - ii. That the Director of Housing & Adult Social Services (HASS) provide an update report to the Committee, later in the year, detailing the outcome of discussions with stakeholders, representative agencies and providers about the commissioning of services and partnership working to provide these services.
 - iii. That following receipt of this report the Committee give further consideration to the need for a scrutiny review on this matter.
5. Further information has now been prepared by way of a briefing note and this is attached at Annex C to this report. The Director of HASS and the Interim Assistant Director for Commissioning & Partnerships will be in attendance to answer any questions Members may have about the information provided.

Consultation

6. In addition to the information in Annex C, the Interim Assistant Director for Commissioning & Partnerships has reported that:

‘Broadly speaking, Age Concern agree that the signposting service is not throwing up evidence of need, but they are still offering a Befriending Plus service. This is only funded for one year - and so they are likely to be looking for further funding beyond that. However I would not think that this would warrant a scrutiny review - otherwise they will be inundated with requests for topics from any organisation whose funding is vulnerable.’

Options

7. Members have the following options:

- Option A** If there are still outstanding issues, progress this topic to review
- Option B** If all issues have now been addressed, do not progress this topic to review
- Option C** Continue to receive regular updates

Analysis

8. Between 2008 and 2009 Housing and Adult Social Services and the PCT undertook a joint commissioning project to develop services to help support older people within York to live healthier and more independent lives. The briefing note at Annex C outlines how this was done, information on the services available and on those that are forthcoming.
9. The information contained within the briefing note (Annex C) does not appear to highlight any gaps in service. In light of this Members are not advised to progress this topic to review.
10. However, if Members choose to proceed with a review a draft remit, scope and timetable will need to be prepared. These should clearly define the aim and key objectives of the review. It is suggested that, should these be required, they be drafted at an informal meeting by a small cross-party task group and presented to a future meeting of the Health Overview & Scrutiny Committee for formal approval.
11. Members will also need to take into consideration outstanding commitments in their work plan when considering the options within this report.

Corporate Strategy 2009/2012

12. The contents of this report and the focus of any review that may be undertaken are directly linked to the ‘Healthy City’ theme of the Corporate Strategy 2009/2012.

Implications

13. **Financial** – There is a small amount of funding available within the scrutiny budget to carry out reviews. There are no other known financial implications associated with this report however; implications may arise should the topic be progressed to review.
14. **Human Resources (HR)** – There are no known HR implications associated with this report.
15. **Legal** – There are no direct legal implications associated with this particular report however; legal implications may emerge should the topic be progressed to review.
16. There are no known equalities, property, crime & disorder or other implications associated with the recommendations within this report.

Risk Management

17. In compliance with the Council's risk management strategy, there are no known risks associated with the recommendations within this report.

Recommendations

18. Based on the information contained within this report and its annexes Members of the Committee are not recommended to progress this topic to review.

Reason: Based on the information contained within this report and its annexes, no gaps in service have been identified.

Contact Details

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Report Approved

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Specialist Implications Officer(s) None

Wards Affected:

All

For further information please contact the author of the report

Background Papers:

None

Annexes

Annex A Topic Registration Form

Annex B Feasibility Study dated 05.01.2009

Annex C Briefing note on Outreach Workers for Older People