

Extract from the Cabinet Member Report: Health, Housing & Adult Social Services presented to Council 30th June 2011

Since 9th May I have undertaken numerous briefing sessions with Directors, Assistant Directors and lead officers across the many areas in my portfolio.

Officers have been open and honest and have welcomed being able to work on pledges in our manifesto and on those policies we have been supporting for a number of years.

I have recently attended:

- Centre for Women's Democracy, Leeds - for their project on female Councillors
- Local Government Yorkshire & Humber – Health & Wellbeing Member Group
- Self Direct Support Forum
- National Housing Conference in Harrogate
- Safeguarding Adults Board
- Healthy City Board

Over the coming weeks and months I am due attend:

- Link York as a speaker
- Older Citizens Advocacy York AGM
- Full of Life Event
- Valuing People Board
- York People First
- Ageing Well Event
- Supporting People Board
- Leeds City Region HRA Board
- Local Government Information Unit Local Health Network
- The Rethink Forum (formally the National Schizophrenic Society) – guest speaker

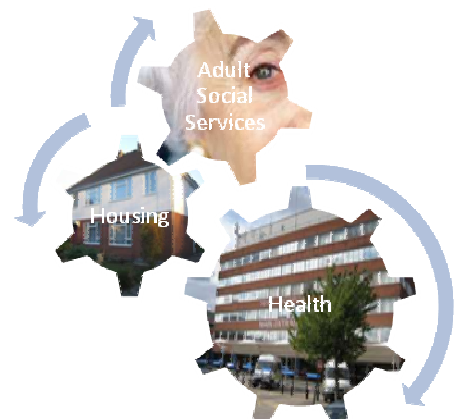
I will also be meeting with:

Mike Proctor – York Hospital NHS Trust

Bill McCarthy – Yorkshire and Humber Strategic Health Authority

Rachael Johns – York and North Yorkshire PCT

Dr David Hayes – GP Commissioning Consortium Chair



Health

Primary Care Trust (PCT) - Good progress has been made in the Council's liaison with the PCT and other health partners and an agreement has been reached on the transferring of funding. This will see increased investments over the next year including in the Council's Reablement Service – which helps people to gain the skills they need to remain at home, its Assessment Service for care packages and our Locality Home Care Service which provides almost 5000 hours care per week to 640 residents across the city.

These changing ways of working will leave the Council better placed than previously to meet the city's changing demographics and respond to the challenge of integrated support services being provided speedily, to keep people in their own homes and facilitate returns home after hospital admissions.

Whilst the changes to the NHS have been subject to a “listening exercise”, local preparatory work has continued. A Transition Board co-chaired by the Chief Executives of City of York Council and the PCT has continued to meet covering key workstreams on commissioning, public health transfer, establishing a Health and Wellbeing Board and Healthwatch - a report to Cabinet in early October will make summary recommendations on all four workstreams. To aid this transition, I have agreed to the Council becoming part of an information and best practice sharing group at a Yorkshire and Humber Regional level through the LGYH Health & Wellbeing Group. I have also started to look at regional best practice on Public Health, which will help with shaping the city's health agenda as we move forward.

Adult Social Care

Celebrating York's Older Residents - Changing demographics have and are often perceived and described as “a problem”. Here in York I am keen that we reverse this impression and celebrate the contribution that an increasingly ageing population can bring to the city. As part of this process, a photographic competition has taken place celebrating, through images, the roles of older people in society and resulted in a presentation at the Mansion House on the 27th June. I hope that this event can be built upon, working with individuals, families and support groups across the city.

Home Cooking- Residents, families and our own staff have praised the return to home cooked food to our Elderly Peoples Homes which has brought considerable benefits, including a better experience with more flexible mealtimes, greater individual choice and the welcoming smells of

home cooking. On my recent visit to Windsor House the cook had baked buns for tea time and I was told that these small changes were greatly welcomed.

Finance - Due to recent year on year budget cuts, and a reduction in Government funding, extensive work has been undertaken by service managers to remodel staffing deployment in our Elderly Persons Homes which has led to achieved savings in the region of £700k, but importantly still retaining the same levels of care as before. Work has also been done to review the tendering of procurement of goods and is delivering a total of £768k savings in 2011-12. I would like to thank the staff for their help in this work.

Budgetary savings, amounting to around £200k, have also been made from service mergers and management restructuring in Learning Disability provider services. Again, these have been undertaken without impacting on service delivery and continue to receive very positive inspection findings. I would like to thank all who contributed to this work.

Telecare - Telecare in York is the fastest growing Telecare service in the region. Referral rates are up by 60%, with over 500 customers now benefiting from the independence and reassurance offered by their Telecare equipment, helping them stay independent in their homes for as long as possible. This scheme will be further funded and expanded thanks to the Labour Council's commitment to increase Telecare by £250k per year.

Personalisation Agenda and Direct Payments - The rollout of the Personalisation Agenda and Direct Payments has continued in York and now all those who require services, irrespective of their customer group, are able to access self directed support. This means that every person who receives support, whether provided by statutory services or funded personally, will have choice and control over the shape of that support in all care settings through Direct Payments and Individual Budgets.

Adult Social Services has worked to increase efficiency and provide choice and control for residents who use the Council's services. Occupational Therapy and Community Equipment Services have been at the forefront of delivering these changes in 2010-11 and have launched an 'Online Self Assessment and Equipment Solution' to meet the pressures of changing demographics and needs of current and future users alongside service re-design to maximise the benefits of these new approaches.

Staffing Issues – The Council's staff are critically important to achieving high level quality services. The Adults Provision and Modernisation

Service has continued to make improvements in the areas of supervision and appraisals of staff having achieved a 100% rate of appraisals in 2011-12 for its 730 staff. The implementation of the staff training and development pathway aimed at ensuring all see the opportunities and career benefits of continued professional development throughout the business area has shown great progress over 2010-11. We have also been successful in the embedding of Equalities Impact Assessments, with equality training and awareness undertaken within teams and included in training and team plans.

Monitoring – Finally, positive Care Quality Commission (CQC) inspections have been achieved under the new CQC regime for Care Service, Reablement Service and Sheltered with Extra Care Schemes. The final Self Assessment for CQC managed and produced by Adults performance teams showed progress in 3 of the 7 Outcome areas for Adults, with all being rated as good, and receiving a first excellent judgement in respect of “Making a Positive Contribution”.

I know that all staff involved in these services worked hard to ensure we met the expected levels and they should be congratulated for their excellent work.

Councillor Tracey Simpson-Laing
Cabinet Member for Health, Housing and Adult Social Services
19th June, 2011