

Voluntary Sector Funding

Summary

1. This report details information from NHS North Yorkshire & York in response to a recent letter sent by the Chair of this Committee in relation to voluntary sector funding. The Deputy Chief Executive and the Head of Commissioning (Adult and Community Services) from NHS North Yorkshire and York will be in attendance at the meeting to discuss their response to the Chair's letter.

Background

2. On 11th January 2012 the Chair of the Health Overview & Scrutiny Committee wrote to the Chief Executive of NHS North Yorkshire & York requesting her (or a representative's) attendance at today's meeting to discuss voluntary sector funding.
3. The Chair had been made aware of significant cuts to voluntary sector funding as of April 2012 (June 2012 for one organisation). In her letter, the Chair stated that *'at least one of the organisations that will be affected by these cuts is an organisation where joint funding and partnership work is implicit in the services to be cut.'*
4. As part of the letter the Chair said *'I would like to receive a written paper regarding the funding cuts and request that this be included amongst the public agenda papers for this meeting and should include the following information:*
 - *The review process, including clarification on how the review process entered into the 'spirit of partnership working' in what are difficult financial times for all*
 - *Who was consulted prior to a decision being made and how were they consulted?*
 - *How many organisations have been affected by this review?*

- *Who are they and how have they been affected, how much funding will each organisation lose?*
- *How many of the organisations who lost funding lodged appeals?*
- *How many of these appeals were upheld*
- *At what point were the Primary Care Trust going to inform the Health Overview & Scrutiny Committee that funding had been withdrawn from these organisations?*

5. The response from NHS North Yorkshire & York is at Annex A to this report along with 8 supporting documents which have been attached in date order.

Consultation

6. One of the main purposes of this meeting is to establish whether appropriate consultation took place between NHS North Yorkshire, the voluntary organisations affected and other key partners.
7. A copy of the letter sent by the Chair was given to all Members of the Committee. It was also sent to the Chairman of York Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust, the Chief Executive at York Council for Voluntary Service and the Assistant Director, Integrated Commissioning at City of York Council, all of whom have been invited to attend today's meeting.

Options

8. Members can:
- Accept the position statement provided by NHS North Yorkshire & York (Annex A and supporting documents refers)
 - Request further information from NHS North Yorkshire & York
 - Make specific recommendations on this matter to NHS North Yorkshire & York in light of the information received

Analysis

9. NHS North Yorkshire & York have provided a response to the Chair's letter dated 11th January 2012 and this is included within today's papers (Annex A and the supporting documents refer). Members are asked to consider the response and discuss the matter further with the representatives in attendance from NHS North Yorkshire & York and the other organisations present at the meeting.

10. It is, in the first instance, important to establish whether the Committee believe due process to have been followed. In this instance due process could be:
- Did appropriate consultation take place?
 - Did it take place and allow appropriate timescales for response?
 - Did NHS North Yorkshire & York effectively enter into the spirit of partnership working (including looking at alternative ways of working), especially in light of the present economic climate?
11. After consideration of the above, the papers within this agenda and discussions at today's meeting the Committee may wish to consider whether they would like to make any recommendations to NHS North Yorkshire & York
12. The Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee have a legal right to be consulted on substantial variations to service. Members may wish to satisfy themselves whether, on the basis of information given at today's meeting and that contained within the agenda papers, the changes to voluntary sector funding constitute a substantial variation to service.
13. The Centre for Public Scrutiny offers the following guidance on substantial variations:
- 'A 'substantial variation or development' of health services is not defined in Regulations'. Proposals may range from changes that effect a small geographical area such as changes in the timing of podiatry services within a health centre, to major reconfigurations of specialist services involving large numbers of patients across a wide area. The key feature is that there is a major change to services experienced by patients and future patients'.*

Council Plan 2011-2015

14. Whilst this issue does not have a direct link to the Council Plan, the Health Overview & Scrutiny Committee has a statutory responsibility to hold NHS North Yorkshire & York and other key health partners to account for the decisions they make.

Implications

15. **Financial** – withdrawal of funding to the voluntary sector could have an impact on City of York Council in that there may be an expectation that the Council would make up the shortfall, especially where the service is

jointly funded. In such cases it is preferable for commissioning and decommissioning decisions to be made in partnership.

16. There are no other known implications associated with the recommendations within this report.

Risk Management

17. There are no risks to CYC associated with the recommendations within this report other than the possibility of increased financial pressure as outlined in paragraph 15 above.

Recommendations

18. Members are asked to consider the information contained within this report and its associated annexes and consider the next steps, if any, for the Health Overview & Scrutiny Committee.

Reason: To undertake their statutory responsibility to hold key health organisations to account for their decisions.

Contact Details

Author:

Tracy Wallis
Scrutiny Officer
Scrutiny Services
Tel: 01904 551714

Chief Officer Responsible for the report:

Andrew Docherty
Assistant Director Governance & ICT

**Report
Approved**



Date 07.02.2012

Specialist Implications Officer(s) None

Wards Affected: *List wards or tick box to indicate all*

All

For further information please contact the author of the report

Background Papers:

None

Annexes

Annex A – Response from NHS North Yorkshire & York ‘*Review of Voluntary Sector Services - Process and Consultation*’

Eight Supporting papers