

MEDIA RELEASE

28 June 2011

Board agrees on voluntary organisations review of funding

The Board of NHS North Yorkshire and York has today (Tuesday 28 June 2011) agreed to support the conclusions of a review of the voluntary sector organisations it funds.

NHS North Yorkshire and York (the PCT) spends over £5 million annually on services from the voluntary sector - much of this is to fund input to patients' care packages. Approximately £768,000 is spent on mental health services (including drug and alcohol services) and £1.6 million is spent on other voluntary sector services.

The review of voluntary sector organisations started in April 2011 and aimed to:

- Focus the funding of voluntary sector services to support the PCT's Quality, Innovation, Productivity and Prevention (QIPP) plan
- Fund services with specifications that include clear outcomes
- Provide more equitable services across North Yorkshire and York
- Make the commissioning and monitoring of services more efficient and effective
- Ensure services provide value for money
- Work within budgetary requirements including an efficiency requirement of 4%

The PCT made a commitment to protect and maintain current levels of funding to organisations that provide equitable services to the most vulnerable and elderly in its population. Therefore, no reduction in funding has been applied to services providing:

- support to vulnerable, frail and elderly patients
- support to those with dementia – to prevent crisis and maintain independence
- support to carers, including short breaks for carers

- generic advocacy services – empowering people who otherwise would be unable to make their voice heard

For services due to receive a reduction in funding or have their funding ceased, the review followed a clear set of 'principles of decision making'. These included examining whether the service supported those at risk of hospitalisation or loss of independence, whether the service was delivering the desired outcomes and whether there was duplication across other organisations. (See notes to editors below for full list).

A significant proportion of the money saved this year as part of the review will be reinvested into voluntary sector organisations that deliver on the PCT's areas of priority. The full implications of the changes in funding to voluntary sector organisations in North Yorkshire and York will be published once organisations have had the chance to appeal the decisions via an appeals process. This is expected to conclude by the end of July 2011.

Sue Metcalfe, deputy chief executive of NHS North Yorkshire and York, said: "We recognise the excellent contribution that voluntary organisations can make to health care and patient support. However, all primary care trusts are being asked to find efficiencies and make sure their commissioning demonstrates value for money.

"We have undertaken this review alongside our local authority partners who also contract with many of the same organisations. It followed a clear set of principles which helped us make some hard decisions.

"Whilst we have reduced or ceased funding for some of the organisations, we will be using some of the money saved to reinvest back into voluntary sector organisations that are focused on areas of priority.

"Ultimately we want to enable organisations to work more collaboratively, deliver on our priority areas, avoid duplication and ensure their contracts provide value for money for taxpayers."

To read the full board report “Commissioning of Voluntary Services” visit www.northyorkshireandyork.nhs.uk

NOTES TO EDITORS

Principles of Decision Making

The following principles formed the basis of funding decisions for the continuation, reduction or cessation of funding as part of the Voluntary Sector Review. These are:

- Does the service support the Quality, Innovation, Prevention & Productivity (QIPP) plan?
- Does the service support those at risk of hospitalisation or loss of independence?
- Is there equitable provision across North Yorkshire and York as far as possible?
- Is there equity of access irrespective of belief, ethnicity, sexual orientation or cultural background?
- Is the service cost effective in maximising volume and quality within the available resources?
- Does the service deliver the desired outcomes?
- Are there other PCT funding streams available for the same service?
- Is there duplication of provision?
- Will it give added value? Can the organisation demonstrate that partnership approaches are being taken?
- Does the service demonstrate mutual support and empowerment?
- Impact to front line services to be minimised.
- Does it support NHS North Yorkshire and York’s core business?
- Infrastructure Organisations are only funded to provide infrastructure support and Volunteer Centres, not direct service provision. This is to eliminate conflict of interest unless there are exceptional circumstances.

ENDS

For further information contact the NHS North Yorkshire and York Communications Team on 01423 859616