

Supporting Elderly People – Briefing On Key Issues for Potential Corporate Review

Summary

1. This report presents a briefing paper on the key issues Members may wish to consider for developing the ‘Supporting Elderly People’ as a potential theme for corporate scrutiny review taking into account the responsibilities of the whole scrutiny function.

Background

2. At the annual work planning event in early May 2014, Members considered and expressed interest in developing a theme around supporting elderly people worthy of ‘corporate review’, in terms of its connection to one of the key priorities within York’s Health & Wellbeing Strategy 2013-16.

York’s Health & Wellbeing Strategy 2013-16

3. It is recognised that Health and Wellbeing is about more than illness and treatment. It is about being well physically, mentally and socially, feeling good and being able to do the things we need to do to live a healthy and fulfilled life (based on the World Health Organisation’s definition of health). Many factors affect our health and wellbeing, including: where we live, our housing, the local economy, our income, the environment, our relationship with the local community and the lifestyle choices we make.
4. Local authorities throughout the country have been developing Health and Wellbeing Strategies. York’s Health & Wellbeing Strategy 2013-16 is based on an understanding of the needs in York that emerged from the ‘Health and Wellbeing in York, Joint Strategic Needs Assessment 2012’ (JSNA).

5. The four key points arising from the JSNA were:
 - Our population is ageing and will place increasing demands on health and social care services
 - Health and wellbeing inequalities exist in the city and must be tackled
 - We need to know more about the mental health needs of our population
 - The importance of intervening early and give children and young people the best possible start in life
6. With those points in mind, York's Strategy set out the following five priorities for improving residents' health and wellbeing:
 1. Making York a great place for older people to live
 2. Reducing health inequalities
 3. Improving mental health and intervening early
 4. Enabling all children and young people to have the best start in life
 5. Creating a financially sustainable local health and wellbeing system
7. The suggested corporate scrutiny review on Elderly People will support the first priority above. The relevant extract from York's Health & Wellbeing Strategy detailing the planned approach for this priority is shown at Annex A.
8. Furthermore, as part of a recent refresh of the JSNA, it was agreed that a number of in depth studies would be carried out, one of which was to be on the frail and the elderly. The findings from this study will be known by August 2014 and these may well highlight specific issues related to the elderly, worthy of scrutiny review.

Adopting a Focus for each Review

9. In the event that a decision is taken to proceed with this corporate theme, this Committee will need to instruct the four Overview & Scrutiny Committees to identify a suitable review remit, in line with their individual terms of reference. Below are a number of suggested areas for possible review. However the study referred to in the paragraph above may well identify other ongoing issues suitable for scrutiny review:

Community Safety: Addressing Loneliness & Social Isolation – to develop the capacity of communities to identify ideas and solutions.

Economic & City
Development:

- i) Access to social support through transport and technology – to ensure the needs of older people are considered in decisions about planning and the city’s infrastructure
- ii) Ensuring that economic growth in the city benefits elderly people - there is already some work to connect older people to jobs through skills/training, but more could be done to ensure that older people benefit from and are able to make a contribution to growth, not least with the forthcoming changes to pension age. There’s a really positive angle to this too – elderly people need to be valued as active contributors to the economic life of the city.

Health:

Reducing admissions to hospital - identifying a suitable community-based approach for managing long-term conditions to enable people to live independently for longer.

Learning & Culture:

- i) Supporting and encouraging Physical Activity including exercise, social activity and/or volunteering.
- ii) Improving Intergenerational Interaction – Increasing opportunities for older people & young people to come together to help tackle loneliness and social isolation and reduce stereotypes. Identify opportunities for experience based learning that complements theoretical studies, giving older people the chance to feel useful thereby increasing their wellbeing, and giving students an opportunity to help their community.

Consultation

10. Both the Older People’s Assembly and the Voluntary Sector Forum for Older People may be able to provide information and guidance to some/all of the reviews carried out in support of this corporate review.

Timeframe for Completing this Corporate Review

11. The timeframe for any review work in this municipal year is limited due to the forthcoming general and local elections. With this in mind it would be helpful if the four Overview & Scrutiny Committees completed the work on their contribution to corporate review by the end of January 2015, to allow this Committee time to collate the findings and amalgamate the draft recommendations by the end of March 2015.

Council Plan 2011-2015

12. The theme of this potential scrutiny work could contribute to all the priorities identified by the Council in its Plan for 2011-15.

Implications

13. There are no known resources or other implications associated with the recommendation in this report. If Committees proceed to scrutinise this theme, then, clearly, the implications associated with their findings will be identified within their draft final reports.

Risk Management

14. There are no risks associated with the recommendations in this report.

Recommendations

15. Members are asked to agree:
 - i. Whether they wish to proceed with a corporate scrutiny review on 'Supporting Elderly People', and comment on potential remits.
 - ii. A timeframe for completion of the individual reviews to allow this Committee sufficient time to conclude its work on the review prior to the end of March 2015.

Reason: In order to ensure effective scrutiny of key Council priorities.

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Report Approved



Date

6 June 2014

Specialist Implications Officer(s) None

Wards Affected:

All



For further information please contact the author of the report

Background Papers: None

Annexes:

Annex A –extract from York’s Health & Wellbeing Strategy