

NORTH YORKSHIRE STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP

ADULTS STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON
20 December 2010**

Meeting Room 2, County Hall, Northallerton

Present:

Sukhdev Dosanjh, Assistant Director – Performance & Change Management, ACS, NYCC
Seamus Breen, Assistant Director – Commissioning & Partnerships, ACS, NYCC
Larry Hollando, Performance & Change Manager, ACS, NYCC
Kate Tayler, Chief Executive, NYFVO
Judith Knapton, Head of Commissioning (Vulnerable People), NHS NYY
Janet Seymour Kirk, Chair, Physical & Sensory Impairment Partnership Board
Chris Anderson, Deputy Chief Fire Officer, North Yorkshire Fire & Rescue Service
Carol Gibson, Directorate Support Team, ACS, NYCC

ASP 29/10 Welcome and introductions

Apologies were received from Derek Law, Dawn Saxby, Bev Maybury, Dr Phil Kirby, Alyson Down, Paul Lightfoot, Rob Salkeld, Linda Burgon and David Archer.

The attendees considered whether the group was quorate, and it was agreed to hold the meeting despite the lower numbers attending. Sukhdev Dosanjh chaired the meeting in the absence of Derek Law.

ASP 30/10 Minutes of ASP meeting held 6 September 2010

The minutes were agreed as a correct record and will be circulated.

Matters arising from minutes of meeting held 6 September 2010

NHS White Paper Equity and Excellence: Liberating the NHS& the Operating Framework for 2011/12

David Nicholson, NHS Chief Executive has written to PCTs and interested groups about the transformation of the NHS and its implications in the coming year . A copy of the letter is available on request from Seamus Breen. The creation of a Health & Wellbeing Board is confirmed, more detail will be available as time goes on but the new arrangements would need to be in place by the end of 2012 and are likely to include Healthwatch, directors of adults and children's services as well as elected members. A move towards a shadow health and wellbeing boards is anticipated in 2011.

Ageing Well

SB reported that DL has been trying to access resources to maintain the Ageing Well work. There has been some ongoing development work with members of Council. It is hoped more information would be available at the next meeting.

Alcohol

NYCC's Care and Independence Overview and Scrutiny Committee is looking

Action

CG

All

at substance misuse as area for development and, working together with George Lee, will take the issue forward at its next meeting in February 2011.

Accessibility of Communication

The subject of accessibility of communications was returned to as this had been discussed at previous meetings and a report had been circulated to members. SD referred to the report from Kay Ritchie (Senior Policy & Partnership Officer). The paper summarizes a number of changes implemented in the new NYCC website to improve its accessibility as well as improved training on equality, diversity and communication for staff in the Customer Service Centre who are the first port of call for inquiries by members of the public. The council had also recently published a Community Engagement Toolkit offering guidance to staff on different formats of communication.

With reference to the NYSP website JSK said it would be useful to be able to change the background colour on documents and websites to help people with dyslexia to read text, and said she finds it difficult to locate the PSI Board section on the NYSP website.

Seamus suggested using Google to search, e.g. typing in 'NY PSI Board', which would bring the page up. Seamus also said there are different internet browsers (e.g. Google Chrome) which can be downloaded for free, that have tools to help with accessibility.

Seamus recommended that the ASP note the paper and ask the PSI Board to comment in more detail on the issues raised. Seamus also noted the possibility of the PSIB to provide consultancy on any improvements to accessibility of communication.

Janet will take back to the PSIB for detailed comment

JSK

ASP 31/10 2011/12 Budget Settlement

SD gave an update on the coalition government's budget settlement for 2011/12 which was announced by the Department of Communities and Local Government (CLG) on 13 December 2010. The funding settlement for North Yorkshire is worse than expected and leaves a shortfall of approximately £38M in 2011/12. The savings are frontloaded with savings of 13%, 8%, 5% and 1% over each of the next four years, and other factors that have impacted on the settlement include the way funding is allocated between authorities based on their dependency on grant funding, the transfer of concessionary fares from districts to county councils (£5M), a loss of £3M grant for children's services, and the top-slicing for academies (£2M). Calculations are still ongoing and the Executive will discuss the settlement at its meeting tomorrow.

SB advised that some of the proposed savings for adult and community services had been covered in recent report to Care and Independence Overview and Scrutiny Committee, however there is now a requirement for further savings to bridge the gap. Areas where savings are being looked at include libraries, reducing numbers of residential placements, closing EPHs linked to extra care, making day care provision more personalised, voluntary sector funding, restructuring adult social care operations and removing subsidies for delivered meals. Although the national announcement mentioned additional funding for adult social care, to address the rise in the number of older people requiring services, it is not yet clear whether this is new money,

and it is not likely to offset other reductions in grant and the projected increase in costs. SB said that with the extent of savings required it is inconceivable that frontline services will not be impacted by the cuts.

SD said that despite the difficult financial outlook the current position will challenge the way services are currently provided and partners need to think collectively and creatively how we can deliver effective frontline services.

CA confirmed that the funding settlement for North Yorkshire Fire and Rescue has been received for the next two years. This shows a 5.9% cut in 2011/12 and an additional 5.7% in 2012/13. Figures for 2013/14 and 2014/15 are not yet known. The service will have to reduce establishment numbers by using staff more flexibly and there are likely to be some voluntary redundancies. The settlement appeared to favour metropolitan councils.

SB asked if the budget settlement in Fire and Rescue will impact on the joint working initiatives with ACS; CA responded that he was keen to continue to pursue preventative working; the service has worked well with mobile libraries and he wanted to continue working on multi-agency referrals as a way to identify potentially vulnerable people. CA is meeting with Anne Marie Lubanski to discuss this further.

CA

JK said that there was still a lot of detail to be worked out regarding the NHS framework and Seamus had already summarised the main points.

KT said there is recognition within the voluntary sector that these are hard times and they are keen to focus on where the opportunities are for partnership working and creative solutions. A major concern is that some organisations will not have enough time to meet the challenges and therefore would be willing to bear a reduction as long as they can plan ahead as far as possible. Overall there will be costs involved in creativity and careful thinking is needed. Sukhdev said this view resonates with the ACS perspective.

Seamus, Judith and Kate will be meeting tomorrow with other voluntary sector agencies and are looking at how they can access transformation agenda funding.

ASP 32/10 Joint Strategic Needs Assessment Refresh and Emerging Priorities

SB gave a presentation on the JSNA refresh and explained the background to the interim report. The interim report is a complement to the original JSNA and is not meant to replace it.

The report highlights areas of deprivation and notes that alcohol is a major concern across a number of areas and transport remains an issue in North Yorkshire. The JSNA would continue to be updated from 2012 it will become closely linked to the Health & Wellbeing Boards.

ASP 33/10 Key messages from NYSP Executive

SD noted the email from Diane Parsons which reminded of the need to identify a smaller number of priorities for the NYSP and advising of the outcomes from the NYSP conference and asking thematic partnerships to suggest a small number of priorities which would be fed back into the NYSP exercise to consider its future.

SD suggested focusing on protecting vulnerable adults and emphasising that this is particularly important as finance reduces. The Partnership agreed this as a priority, and CA emphasised the importance of identifying people most in need and information sharing between agencies.

KT said there had also been recognition at the conference of protecting vulnerable people as a priority but also that this was linked with and dependent upon building community capacity and economic development.

Seamus said he would also be supportive of transport as a priority.

Janet said a lot of people are concerned about indicative budgets in light of the overall budget position.

SD

SD noted the priority areas raised and would feed this back to Derek Law.

ASP 34/10 **Performance Reward Grant bids**

Sukhdev recapped on discussions at the previous meeting. There is approximately £2M in Performance Reward Grant funding for the ASP over three years. Since the last meeting the critical financial position has meant that we needed to focus on a small number of key priorities linked to protecting the most vulnerable people.

Seamus said there is recognition that all agencies have a part to play in safeguarding across all partnerships – not just adult social care and the funding sought would further develop the system already in place. Funding for the PSI and OPP Boards currently comes from ACS Commissioning and Partnerships budget and it meets the Partnership's aspirations to continue to give older people and people with a disability. The funding sought from the PRG would give it some security for the next three years although both bodies need to consider alternative source of funding for the future.

Janet Kirk raised a concern that funding might not be available beyond the three years and suggested that it should be the responsibility of ACS to provide funding. Seamus responded that sustainable solutions would need to be found in the interim period, adding that the Boards are not a statutory requirement for ACS but they are a valuable forum for engaging with communities and capturing views.

The bid for the Innovation Fund was signalled at the last meeting as a way of bringing together priorities previously identified and will give opportunities for creative local solutions and building community capacity. LH agreed to draft a paper detailing the criteria for accessing the Fund which will be circulated to members of the partnership in advance of the next meeting.

LH

Details of the four bids were discussed and it was proposed that these are put forward to the NYSP Executive for approval.

ASP 35/10 **'A Vision for Adult Social Care: Capable Communities and Active Citizens'**

SB introduced a report summarising the Government's "Vision for Adult Social Care". The vision focuses on seven principles (the seven P's):

- Prevention
- Personalisation

- Plurality and partnership
- Protection
- Productivity and
- People

The vision is the start of a process that will transform the way social care is delivered. It will be more joined up with health on commissioning and delivery.

In addition the Department of Health has begun a consultation on 'Transparency in Outcomes: a framework for adult social care' which proposes a new strategy for transparency, quality and outcomes. Partnership member organisations are encouraged to respond to the consultation, which closes on 9 February. It would be helpful if responses could be copied to Larry Hollando if possible.

AII/LH

The partnership noted that the Localism and Decentralisation was published on the 13th December and there was a brief discussion on the emerging the 'Big Society' ideology and agreed this would benefit from a more focused discussion.

ASP 36/10 PSI 'Equal Lives Strategy and Action Plan' Refresh

Janet Kirk introduced a report from the PSI Board on the refresh of the Equal Lives Strategy and Action Plan. Janet reminded the Board that this was the multi agency strategy for people with a disability produced in 2007. To facilitate the refreshing of the document it has been broken down into more manageable parts which will be reviewed by the relevant PSI Board reference groups. Ideas can be fed across the reference groups but should avoid duplication, and action plans for one and three years have been devised so that each group knows what it has to achieve.

Seamus and Sukhdev supported the strategy and recommended it for approval by the ASP. Seamus said that ACS management board has looked at the strategy and taken on board the implications, for example the impact of the increase in older people with sensory impairment identified as part of the JSNA, and recommended that other agencies and boards also consider it.

Chris Anderson asked whether other things could be included, suggesting benefits assessments, in order to put some value to what's been achieved throughout the process. Larry Hollando responded that this could be discussed with Carol Johnson with a view to including it. Janet Kirk said any help would be welcomed. Seamus suggested that the PSI Board could strengthen its role, e.g. overseeing centres for independent living, which might prompt more involvement from partner agencies.

LH/CA

ASP 37/10 Older People's Partnership Board

Seamus introduced the report in the absence of Rob Salkeld. Seamus noted the work of the partnership on community transport and suggested this as an opportunity for the PSIB and OPPB to work together on what is a priority area for both boards.

Seamus highlighted the North Yorkshire Older People's Charter and recommended that members of the partnership review the charter and consider whether their organisation, including ACS, can sign up as signatories to it.

AII

ASP 38/10 Any other business

The Board noted the proposed meeting dates for next year. Janet Kirk asked if Terms of Reference for the Partnership are still being looked at. Sukhdev responded that they are and the role of the ASP and the future of the NYSP are currently under review. Derek Law will feed into discussions at NYSP and further clarity on the future of the partnerships is awaited from the centre.

ASP 40/10 Date and time of next meeting

7 March 2011, 10.30am, at County Hall, Northallerton.

If you have any enquiries about items on the minutes or you would like to receive a copy of the minutes in an alternative format, please contact Carol Gibson – 01609 535852 or email carol.gibson@northyorks.gov.uk