

Because the cuts have been frontloaded there is still a gap in the overall budget. A number of possible areas of efficiency have been identified following a period of consultation with PricewaterhouseCoopers and are now being followed up. In addition trade unions are consulting over possible changes to staff terms and conditions. For an interim period the County Treasurer has arranged to use reserves to meet the financial shortfall; the Council will meet again in May to agree processes from all directorates as to how the shortfall will be met in the longer term and a revised budget for 2011/12.

ACS has been in dialogue with voluntary sector representatives and a recent meeting lead by SB was held to firm up proposal. KT said she had attended the meeting last week and the general feeling was positive – voluntary organisations generally felt they were being involved in changes and being listened to. The Innovation Fund and the overall direction of travel were generally well received and people were expecting bad news but left the day more optimistic about the future. DL said the Innovation Fund will be a creative way of maintaining investment in preventative services and support initiatives that give good value for money and have been evidenced to work well.

Following a question regarding meals DL explained that information has recently been circulated regarding changes to the meals service. It is proposed that WRVS will take over the provision of delivered meals in North Yorkshire and the service will no longer be subsidised by the Council. DL noted that there have been some misunderstandings about the nature of the changes but it was not unreasonable to end the subsidy in the current financial climate, the changes also offered an opportunity to provide services consistently across the county.

KT referred to a comment by the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government that funding should not be cut to voluntary sectors and asked for a reaction by senior managers from the county council. DL commented that the government are issuing new advice on a weekly if not daily basis and the messages were being considered but in the mean time the county council had to continue to make difficult plans to achieve financial balance. The Partnership discussed the concept of the 'Big Society' and the expected involvement of the voluntary sector and noted the contradiction in expectation while there is no additional funding available.

ASP 4/11 Performance Reward Grant – Outcome from NYSP Executive meeting

DL confirmed that all bids submitted by the ASP were endorsed in full by the NYSP Executive. Bids were agreed for the Innovation Fund, strengthening of the safeguarding processes and funding for secretariat support of the countywide boards for Older People Partnership and Physical and Sensory Impairment Partnership.

JS asked what the next step is, and DL advised that money will be available from 1 April for which NYCC is the administrative body. LH is working on formulating the criteria for the innovation fund, this will be circulated to members of the partnership for feedback before wider circulation and communication to enable to voluntary sector to access funds. DL said that the basic elements of the criteria will be that initiatives should demonstrate quantitative and qualitative outcomes, offer value for money and can be made available to a significant number of beneficiaries. In addition DL said that schemes that were at risk from current budget situation, which met the

Innovation Fund's criteria could make a case for continued financial support.

JS asked about an exit strategy, and DL confirmed this would be important as funding will end after three years. For more successful initiatives it may be necessary to look at how to sustain groups going forward, but that this need to be reviewed in case by case basis and will depend on the emerging financial position. LH added that the allocation of funding would also aim to achieve geographical equity.

KT asked about the Active Communities proposal which received £400K from the NYSP via the Stronger/Rural Partnership and whether there might be scope for further funding from the innovation fund, as it fits criteria for stimulating local capacity and support. DL said that the possibility of funding from two partnership had been discussed at the meeting of the chairs of the thematic partnerships and ruled out. KT noted that the original proposal had been re-worked and strengthened.

LH noted that the paper circulated is subject to further amendments with some figures yet to be finalised, and should not read as final.

ASP 5/11 Update on Changes with the NHS

DL gave an update on recent discussions. A transitions board has been set up and held its first meeting, which was chaired by Sue Metcalfe, Deputy Chief Executive NHS NYY on behalf of the regular Chair, Richard Flinton. The meeting was attended by all those GPs in North Yorkshire & York who are chairs of practice based commissioning groups and started to address all the issues that will need to be dealt with and gave an idea of what will need to be done over the coming months.

Subgroups to the main board will be created, and a work stream will focus on the transition of LINKs into HealthWatch, which are expected to take on their new responsibilities from April 2012. Guidance has been received from the Department of Health but there still is a need for considerable clarification. Work has started towards creating a shadow Health & Wellbeing Board and it is expected that once this has been created thematic partnerships will be disbanded and there will be a formal reporting process to the board. A lot of governance and other arrangements will need to be worked through; there is also work to be done to understand how commissioning and joint commissioning responsibilities will be transferred across to GP consortia.

JK said there will also be issues with groups covering different boundaries and DL confirmed that some groups would be dealing with two health and wellbeing boards, scrutiny committees, etc.

The partnership discussed the new arrangements and acknowledged there will need to be a combined effort to have consistent service and avoid a 'postcode lottery'. In terms of when information will be communicated more widely DL stressed that the work is at an early stage and there will need to be sensible structures in place before involving voluntary and other organisations.

ASP 6/11 NYSP Key Messages

DL referred to the detailed update that had been received from Diane Parsons, including a summary of discussions at Local Government North Yorkshire and York meeting on 28 January 2011 regarding partnership rationalisation. No

issues were raised and DL said he would give an update on the future of the NYSP Executive and other partnerships under 'Any Other Business' at the end of the meeting.

ASP 7/11 OPPB

MJ introduced an update report from the Older People's Partnership Board. MJ said the Board had asked if there were any issues with groups signing up to the Older People's Charter. DL said he was not aware of any problems and LH will discuss with SB on his return from leave.

LH/SB

MJ said there was concern about the cuts, particularly the increase in cost of day care, and the potential impact on traditional day care which in some areas is a lifeline for people. JK said where there is a charging policy there needs to be a mechanism to provide services to people who can't afford it, and this will need to be monitored, and asked if the increase could be implemented gradually. DL confirmed that changes will be implemented gradually – new people coming into the system will pay the full amount but existing customers will receive a gradual increase. This gradual approach will however have limitations – there needs to be a balance to avoid significant differentials between levels of contributions.

MJ said the winter issues task group had attempted to hold a conference to look at the impact of the severe weather conditions over the last two years, but this had been cancelled twice due to lack of interest. The issue about whether people had legal liabilities if they cleared neighbours' paths, etc. was still not clear and MJ suggested wider communication was needed.

DL said that statutory bodies had met and looked at the main issues raised by the protracted bad weather. Information was published on the NYCC website and NY Times, and DL himself had spoken on local radio a number of times advising where to get help. The general feedback was that arrangements worked well and communities resolved some of the problems themselves. Although the availability of appropriate information needs to continue to be monitored.

ASP 8/11 PSI Board

JSK gave a verbal update on behalf of the Physical and Sensory Impairment Partnership Board. The Board is keen to find out about recent developments regarding Centres for Independent Living (CIL), and DL suggested JSK obtain relevant information directly from Stephen Harrison.

JSK

JSK now attends equipment service meetings and said that it has been useful to have links with members. Good progress was made at the first meeting and JSK is working with Peter Hopkins, PSI Commissioning and Change Implementation Officer, to increase awareness of the PSI Board with locality teams.

An issue has been raised in Wensleydale about housing policy and young adults not having access to bungalows. PL said it may be a Richmondshire policy but there should be some flexibility. DL queried if this was in fact the Hambleton policy and suggested JSK contact the Head of Housing at Richmondshire District Council (Colin Dales) in her capacity as Chair of the PSI Board to find out the correct position.

JSK

Nicola Wilson, Change and Outcomes Manager for Hambleton/Richmondshire/

Selby has approached the PSI Board to look at improving the low take up of services.

Following a proposal from the OPPB about lack of sign language learning JSK said that there was concern that nothing is available.

JSK is putting together a constitution for the board, which will be consulted on in June and then signed off. SB will be attending a future meeting of the PSI Board about the future of the group and how it can take itself forward.

There is concern about individual budgets and JSK asked that the PSI Board be kept up to date with communications. LH will ensure that JSK is added to the circulation list for the regular personalisation email newsletter sent by ACS.

LH

JSK raised a concern about the organisation of the NYSP conference and the lack of any questions about special requirements or accessibility issues. DL suggested JSK write to Diane Parsons to ensure this is addressed for future events, as there is likely to be a continuation of some kind of conference for the wider groups.

JSK

ASP 9/11 AOB

NYSP Executive Structure

DL advised that the NYSP Executive will be scrapped and replaced by a North Yorkshire and York Chief Executives Group, including the Chief Executive of City of York Council, which will provide leadership & organisation across the sub-region. DL will attend what will effectively be the last thematic chairs meeting in mid-May, and by then should know more about progress with the creation of the Health and Wellbeing(HW)Board. DL said that the Adults, Healthier Communities and possibly Children's thematic partnerships will probably be subsumed within that board. .

JSK raised a concern that the PSI Board would lose its access to key stakeholders through the board. DL said he would expect there to be some form of sub-structure underneath the HW Board so that all relevant bodies are represented, but nothing is confirmed yet.

DL said he would report back to the ASP after the meeting in May when more information will be known.

ASP 10/11 Date and time of next meeting

10.30am on 13 June 2011 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