



REPORT TO: OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

DATE: 16 DECEMBER 2010

REPORT OF THE: HEAD OF TRANSFORMATION
CLARE SLATER

TITLE OF REPORT: SCRUTINY REVIEWS PROGRESS REPORT – HEALTHY
WEIGHT AND POST OFFICES

WARDS AFFECTED: ALL

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

1.0 PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To present the progress achieved to date with the scrutiny reviews currently being undertaken.
- 1.2 To amend the terms of reference for the Post Office Scrutiny Review

2.0 RECOMMENDATION

- 2.1 That members note the progress and the dates of future meetings of the task groups.
- 2.2 That the Aims included in the Terms of Reference for the Post Offices Scrutiny Review be amended to say:

‘To find practical ways by which Ryedale DC and its partners can:

- Improve the availability of services in local communities.
- Provide an evidence base from which to influence future changes or reductions in levels of service
- To consider the options for delivering these services in future’

3.0 SIGNIFICANT RISKS

- 3.1 Any risks associated with the reviews are detailed in the report below.

4.0 BACKGROUND AND INTRODUCTION

- 4.1 The Overview and Scrutiny Committee has commissioned two scrutiny reviews and the terms of reference have previously been agreed by this committee for each of these. These are attached at annex A.

- 4.2 Following discussion at the task group for the Post Office review about the changing national policy context for the post office service, the task group would like the committee to revise the aims of the review as detailed above. A recent publication issued by the Department for Business Innovation and Skills 'Securing the Post office Network in the Digital Age' states that 'There will be no programme of post office closures under this Government'.
- 4.3 The Healthy Weight Review Task Group received a presentation from the Health Improvement Manager from NHS North Yorkshire and York. Whilst this presentation clarified the current position in Ryedale and the improvements being made, it was also made clear the need to develop a very clear and focussed scope for the review. This lesson has been learned in a number of other areas of the country when reviewing this work area.
- 4.4 Action Plans have been developed for each of the reviews following their inaugural meetings.

5.0 CONSULTATION

- 5.1 A community Engagement Plan is being developed for each review and these will be agreed at the January meetings of each review task group.

6.0 REPORT DETAILS

6.1 Post Office Review:

The purpose of the meeting was:

- To confirm the scope of the review
- To confirm the Terms of Reference for the Review
- To decide on the next steps
- To assign roles – Who will do What?
- To establish a schedule of future meetings

As Stated above, the Department for Business and enterprise has recently published a document which clearly states the intentions of the government in relation to the future of the Post Office network. This document links to but is independent of The Postal Services Bill which was introduced to parliament on 13 October 2010.

In the publication 'Securing the Post Office Network in the Digital Age' the Department for Business Innovation and Skills makes the following statements:

- We recognise that the Post Office is more than a commercial entity and serves a distinct social purpose.
- We will ensure that post offices remain a valuable social and economic asset or our communities and businesses.
- There will be no programme of post office closures under this Government.
- The Post Office is not for sale.
- We will provide £1.34 billion for the Post Office to modernise the network and to safeguard its future, making it a stronger partner for Royal Mail.
- We want to see the Post Office become a genuine Front Office for Government at both the national and local level.
- We will support the expansion of accessible and affordable personal financial services available through the Post Office.
- We will support greater involvement of local authorities in planning and delivering local post office provision.

- We will create the opportunity for a mutually owned Post Office.

Key Points arising from the discussions at the Task Group meeting included:

- It is difficult to determine which services are available at which branch/outreach service within Ryedale.
- We need to understand how communities feel about the services they do or don't receive.
- We would like to speak to sub-postmasters and providers of outreach services within Ryedale to find out their views on the current situation and implications of proposed future changes.
- From the research undertaken in Wales we learnt that impacts of closure and outreach provision fall heaviest on the most vulnerable consumers.
- The BIS have published a report entitled Securing the Post office Network in the Digital Age on 12 November 2010. The implications of this report need to be identified.
- We need to analyse costs associated with payments of Council Tax at the post office and profile the users of this service.
- We need to understand the implications of our post offices taking on additional local government services.

Actions to be taken following the meeting include:

- Meeting a local Sub-postmaster
- Meeting with a provider of the mobile services in an area of Ryedale
- Meeting with a representative of the Post Office network
- Finding out more about the potential for the proposed model of the 'Post Office Local'
- Discuss links to future changes to one stop shops and the access to services programme with NYCC and partners
- Study use of payment cards
- Design an approach to meeting with customers, following meeting with sub-postmaster

6.2 Health Weight Review:

The Healthy Weight Task Group were given a detailed and technical presentation by Greg McGrath, Health Improvement Manager for NHS North Yorkshire and York. The presentation covered the following topics:

- County Wide Approach
- Complex multifaceted system of determinants
- Ryedale Approach
- National Child Measurement Programme data
- Health Inequalities
- Market Segmentation
- Local Health Summary
- Life Course Approach
- Obesity and Socio Economic Status
- Online Weight Management Toolkit

One of the key messages from the presentation was that in Ryedale the situation is improving and levels of childhood obesity are improving. This is as a result of concerted and focussed effort from partners across the public sector. Ryedale is ahead of other areas in having taken this approach. The challenge is how to keep

this work going through the next few years in light of changes to the public sector and abolition of the PCT's and the spending pressures all partners will experience.

Another point was that there is a complex multifaceted system of determinants of an individual's weight and that there are only three of these over which we can try to have any influence, namely:

- Individual psychology
- Individual activity and the
- Activity environment

A summary of the data available at all levels was provided as follows:

- There are significant inequalities in obesity prevalence among children for both girls and boys, and across different age groups.
- The pattern of socioeconomic inequalities and obesity is consistent across a variety of different measures of deprivation using three different data sources: the National Child Measurement Programme (NCMP), the Health Survey for England (HSE) and the Millennium Cohort Study (MCS).
- There is an almost linear relationship between obesity prevalence in children and the Index of Multiple Deprivation (IMD) 2007 score for the area they live in. Child obesity prevalence in the most deprived tenth of local areas is almost double that in the least deprived tenth.
- Child obesity prevalence also varies by occupation-based social class. Children in households where the main income-earner works in a professional occupation have lower rates of obesity than those where the main income-earner is in a manual occupation

Other key points arising from the presentation included:

- Make sure you fine tune the scope of the review as it will become far too complicated
- Choose either adults or children
- Choose one or at most two areas from the life course approach
- Keep in mind the possible transition of Public Health into Local Authority structures
- Keep in mind the wider determinants of health; Education, Housing, Occupation and Income
- Be aware that PCTs will be abolished by March 2013
- Practice Based Consortia will hold funding
- Changes in current provision; School Sports partnerships, Healthy School Status and Sport England
- Changes in performance monitoring
- Interpreting national guidance suggests Health and Wellbeing is not a priority but sits on the periphery of school education

The task group will therefore take some time to consider the issue in Ryedale as described in the presentation and will then confirm the focus and scope of the review at their next meeting in January. An action plan has been prepared following the inaugural meeting of the task group.

7.0 DATES OF NEXT MEETINGS

Post Office Scrutiny Review Task Group
10 January 2011, 6.30pm, Ryedale House

Healthy Weight Scrutiny Review Task Group

24 January 2011, 6.30pm Ryedale House

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Background Papers:

Post Offices:

Securing the Post Office Network in the Digital Age

Research summary and other papers available in Transformation Team

Healthy Weight:

Presentation on the current position in Ryedale – Greg McGrath, Health Improvement Manager, NHS North Yorkshire and York

Profiling and data related to healthy weight in Ryedale and Nationally

Papers available in Transformation Team

Annex A

Impact of Post Office Closures Scrutiny Review –Terms of Reference

Aim of the Review	<p>To find practical ways by which Ryedale DC and its partners can:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improve the availability of services in local communities. • Provide an evidence base from which to influence future proposed closures or reductions in levels of service • To consider the options for delivering these services in future
Why has this review been selected?	<p>Ryedale lost a significant number of post offices through the network change programme in 2008. Changes to the provision put in place at the time of the closure programme continue as do actual post office closures. The Council needs to have evidence to respond to any forthcoming consultations on further closures or changes to the network. Also the Council may be able to work with post offices and other local community facilities to provide post office type services to our communities.</p>
Who will carry out the review?	<p>The review will be carried out by a task group including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A minimum of 2 members of the O and S committee (but open to all) • The Head of Transformation • The Customer Services and Benefits Manager • Support will be provided by members of the Transformation Team
How the review will be carried out?	<p>The task group will consider the impact of the post office closure programme on local communities. This will involve the study of recent research documents and the engagement of local people to ascertain the impact of changes in levels of service including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sub-postmasters engaged in a range of delivery methods • Service users interviewed at a variety of locations utilising different delivery methods <p>The review will also investigate options for future provision of post office services and any value the Council can add through its own service delivery.</p> <p>Evidence will be gathered on the levels of usage of post office services and the range of services available and satisfaction with and usage of these. This will include the usage and needs of businesses in relation to post office services.</p> <p>Evidence gathering sessions will be open to the public.</p>
What are the expected outputs?	<p>It is expected that the task group will produce a report, summarising the evidence they have gathered and containing specific recommendations for the Council and other partner organisations as appropriate.</p>
Timescale	<p>It is anticipated that the group will report the outcomes of the review before 31 March 2011. Progress reports will be submitted to the committee throughout the review.</p>

Healthy Weight Scrutiny Review – Draft Terms of Reference

<p>Aim of the Review</p>	<p>To find practical ways by which Ryedale DC and its partners can:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improve services aimed at encouraging the prevention of obesity and achievement of a healthy weight for all residents and of all ages across the district. • Improve responses to existing obesity, helping people to lose weight and live healthier lives • Achieve improvements within the current challenging public sector funding climate • Anticipate the role the Council can play in improving this aspect of public health and reducing health inequalities in light of changes in legislation which may follow the recent Health White Paper
<p>Why has this review been selected?</p>	<p>Ryedale has had high levels of obesity in all ages but notable in children, for a number of years. The Ryedale Strategic Partnership identified the achievement of a healthy weight as a priority for action in 2006. A number of projects and initiatives have been funded through the RSP and supported by officers of a number of partner organisations. Work to help people to achieve a healthy weight is being led by the Ryedale Healthy Weight Active Lives group.</p>
<p>Who will undertake the review?</p>	<p>The review will be carried out by a task group including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A minimum of 2 members of the O and S committee (but open to all) • The Head of Transformation • A representative of the Ryedale Healthy Weight Active Lives group • A representative from the Primary Care Trust. • Support will be provided by members of the Transformation Team
<p>How will the review be undertaken?</p>	<p>The task group will consider the arrangements that have been and need to be put in place across local partnerships to maximise the prevention of and response to obesity in Ryedale. Key to this will be contributing to the development of the Ryedale Healthy Weight Strategy.</p> <p>There will be a two stage scrutiny process:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An initial desktop review of existing evidence will consider key academic and government documents, the current picture of 'healthy weight' across Ryedale, and activity on-going in Ryedale to achieve healthier lifestyles. • The second stage will involve an in-depth review of key issues and evidence gathering in order to inform the task group recommendations. <p>Evidence gathering sessions will be open to the public.</p>
<p>What are the expected outputs?</p>	<p>It is expected that the task group will produce a report, summarising the evidence they have gathered and containing specific recommendations for the Council, the Primary Care Trust, and other partner organisations as appropriate.</p>
<p>Timescale</p>	<p>It is anticipated that the group will report the first phase of the review in November 2010. The deadline for the second stage of the review will be established at this time.</p>

