

# Health care changes lead to budget warning

CHANGES to the way health care is organised in York could have a serious impact on the city council's budget.

The warning came over the creation by the North Yorkshire and York Primary Care Trust (PCT) of new "alternative care pathways" - aimed at getting more patients out of hospital and being treated at home.

City of York Council's health scrutiny committee met last night and heard about progress in setting up the services.

But Coun Ian Cuthbertson, chairman of the committee, said the shake-up could have a knock-on effect on the authority's social services budget.

He said: "Clearly, the PCT have made some efforts to get these alternative care pathways in place at the time that the hospital will be downsizing."

"My concern and the committee's concern is that this happens and that patients are not disadvantaged and that these pathways are effective."

He added: "The one thing we have to be careful of is the cost of any extra work that might come from the PCT. Because the adult social services budget is already quite stretched it would have a big impact on tax-payers."

# Centre's Sunday opening success

A SUCCESSFUL church-cum-café in the centre of York is now trading seven days a week.

The Spurrigate Centre, which is in the former St Michael's Church, Spurrigate, was opened in 1989 as a Christian centre, offering refreshment and a listening ear to the many people who live in, work at or visit York.

Up to last October, it opened on a Monday to Saturday basis but, following a successful Sunday trial opening for eight weeks before last Christmas, the centre reopened for regular Sundays on Mothering Sunday.

Each Sunday opening has the theme of Make Sunday Special, and is very close to the heart of the Spurrigate Centre's mission statement of "sharing God's love with the people of York and its visitors".

The pastoral co-ordinator at the centre, Joan Sargent, and the prayer co-ordinator, Sister Pauline Wheeler, have both been greatly encouraged by the interest shown in the Sunday opening venture.



CHRISTIAN MESSAGE: Joan Sargent, left, the pastoral co-ordinator at the Spurrigate Centre, and Sister Pauline Wheeler, the prayer co-ordinator, arrange a display marking 200 years since the abolition of slavery - one of the topics explored during Sunday openings at the centre

## On this day

April 3

Today's birthdays: Doris Day, actress, 83; Tony Benn, former Labour MP, 82; Helmut Kohl, former German Chancellor, 77; Richard Thompson, guitarist and songwriter, 58; Alec Baldwin, actor, 49; David Hyde Pierce, actor, 48; Eddie Murphy, actor/comedian, 46.



**1892:** Jesse James, the legendary outlaw, was shot in the back by one of his own gang.

**1913:** Suffragette Emmeline Pankhurst was sentenced to three years for inciting supporters to place explosives at the London home of David Lloyd George.

**1922:** Joseph Stalin was appointed general secretary of the Communist Party in Russia.

**1987:** The late Duchess of Windsor's jewels fetched £31 million at auction.

**Last year:** A US jury found al-Qaeda conspirator Zacarias Moussawi eligible to be executed for his role in September 11.