

## YHN/CVS Report – Branch Committee – 7<sup>th</sup> April 2014

### YHN

The Welfare Reform Service Review recruitment process has now been completed internally with no major issues following UNISON members' threat of a collective grievance was met with a positive response from management. Implementation is now likely to be 1<sup>st</sup> June 2014.

Nick Forbes and Olivia Grant (Chair of YHN Board) recently sent out a communication to all staff with an update on the future of YHN. While again stressing that they are not looking to either transfer stock or take YHN back in-house they gave a commitment to “develop an open approach to communication to staff and stakeholders” and “to work openly and honestly through all stages of this review, and to work together in the interests of the city and its people”. Watch this space!

### TWAM

Changes to how TWAM carries out its Front of House operations are now being consulted on. Talks are at an early stage and while there are two posts at management level currently at risk there are no proposals to reduce the numbers of front line staff. Much of the emphasis is on “the customer experience” and income generation. UNISON have already made it clear that any proposals to new roles which could mean in a reduction of grade are unnecessary and unacceptable and will be opposed vigorously.

### CVS

Continues to be case intensive with an increase already being seen in disciplinarys on top of last year's unprecedented levels.

One positive from this sector is that Age UK have begun consulting on changes to their Care Worker service delivery – and one of the things being considered is a move away from zero hours contracts on to contracted hours. Initially these may be only 16 hour contracts topped up by “zero hours” but it's a step in the right direction.

Consultation is underway with our members in Norcare (and colleagues in the South of the Region) as housing groups Fabrick and Vela merge to form the new group Thirteen. Also included in the merger are Norcare who along with Tees Valley Housing will be merging to form Thirteen Care and Support from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2014. In an attempt to strengthen their presence in the care and support sector initially our members will only see a change in the organisation's name as it is Tees valley staff who will TUPE across – though more detailed consultation will be around proposed new structures.

**Derek Muse – Deputy Branch Secretary / CVS Lead / YHN Convenor**