

EAP Health & Wellbeing and Vulnerable People
At 9.30 am on Friday, 2 September 2022
Council Chamber, Corby Cube

Present:

Members:

Councillor Helen Harrison (Chair)	Councillor John McGhee
Councillor Ken Harrington	Councillor Russell Roberts
Councillor King Lawal	Councillor Chris Smith-Haynes
Councillor Geoff Shacklock	

Officers:

David Watts	Executive Director of Adults, Communities and Wellbeing
John Ashton	Interim Director of Public Health
Ali Gilbert	ICS Director of Place

1. Chair's Announcements

The Chair opened the meeting at 9.40 am and welcomed members and officers to the meeting.

Chair advised Members that they had a new set of minutes.

2. Apologies for non-attendance

Apologies were received from Matt Binley.

3. Members' Declarations of Interest

Councillor Lawal advised he had an interest in Adult Social Care Reform.

4. Minutes of the Meeting Held on 2 August 2022

The minutes of the meeting held on 2 August 2022 had been circulated with the agenda. Councillor McGhee suggested it would be reasonable to mention Councillors by name during discussions.

RESOLVED that:

The minutes of the 2 August 2022 be approved.

5. Full Asylum Dispersal Model

David Watts briefed the Panel members on the Central Government approach to Full Asylum Dispersal, on the recent consultation, the emerging regional model, and on the Property Procurement (contingency hotel and private sector lease) arrangements being delivered in our area by SERCO.

Cllr Harrison commended the officers on the quality of the report including and praised the work done with Regional Migration Partnership to prepare the Council.

She highlighted that Council was already under pressure to find homes in the private rented sector for Afghans and Ukrainians who had come into the area via recent resettlement schemes and that this would add further pressure on an already scarce resource.

Councillor Lawal asked about asylum seekers looking for work in the area and was advised that they would be unable to work until their asylum status was granted. Once they were accepted as being eligible for asylum in the UK, they would be eligible to find work.

Councillor McGhee made the point that transparency and communication with local communities was vital to ensure community cohesion and integration.

He asked who attended the East Midlands Regional Partnership and was informed that senior officers attended such as the Assistant Director for Housing and Communities.

They assured the panel members that they would use the Regional Migration Partnership and Board to feed back to the Home Office and Serco the need for openness with the local community.

Cllr Harrison informed the Members that she would be sitting on the Regional Migration Board with her first meeting being the week commencing 5 September 2022.

Cllr Roberts said that it was important to make this work as there would be benefits with the skills these people would bring.

Cllr Smith-Haynes hoped it would be possible to share Leicester's experience.

David Watts confirmed that they had already been working closely with Officers at Leicester.

6. ICS Place Delivery Group update

Ali Gilbert updated the panel on the developing ICS at Place arrangements for North Northamptonshire.

There would be a:

- Health & Wellbeing Board
- 4 Community Wellbeing Forums
- 8 Local Area Partnerships

She explained what activities and responsibilities would fall into each of these structures and that the North Place Delivery Group was now working to bring this all to life.

The next steps would be to set up the first Wellbeing Forums, supporting and overseeing any problems.

Cllr Harrison thanked the officer for her presentation and said it was reassuring that things were moving forward.

Cllr Harrington asked about community involvement and consultation.

Ali Gilbert explained that the community would be brought into the process as the right time and consultation was important as we want to grow the system from the bottom up.

John Ashton agreed that there must be community engagement and buy in. He said that communities know what is best for them and can often design their own solutions and that we should be looking at asset-based solutions.

Cllr McGhee commented that previously there had been some great Health & Wellbeing Forums, devolution of responsibility with partnerships and services coming together. We should build on that experience, not lose it, as we move forward.

He also asked that meetings should be held in the local community rather than in the Council buildings.

Cllr McGhee also raised concerns about elected member involvement. Cllr Harrison assured elected members would be involved in the Community Wellbeing Forums.

Cllr Roberts commented the most important thing was to listen to the community, we have an opportunity, a strategic partnership and budget and the community would work.

Cllr Shacklock asked about the rural sector. Ali Gilbert confirmed that work was being done to pull together some of the rural groups and to engage with them.

7. Adult Social Care Reform

A report was presented to the panel explaining the detailed analysis of the probable costs of Adult Social Care Reform for North Northamptonshire by Newton Europe. The analysis identified that the funding from government would not cover the costs of the reforms.

Cllr Harrison commented there were clearly challenging times ahead and that representations were being made to government, locally and regionally.

Cllr Lawal commented on the large gap and asked how NNC intended to increase rates for providers if the reforms go ahead.

Cllr McGhee suggested that the political groups needed to get together to ensure that NNC received funds.

Cllr Roberts agreed that the political parties needed to come together to make our concerns known by the government.

Cllr Harrison said that lobbying of government was being carried out. However, if more funding was not forthcoming, she would be happy to show political unity on the issue by writing a cross-party letter to government.

8. Forward Plan of Executive Items

Draft Budget in December.

9. Close of Meeting

A discussion was held with regard to the place and time of these meetings, it was agreed that the meetings would continue to be held in Corby but the time would be moved to 10:00 am.

The meeting closed at 11.43 am.