

EAP Health & Wellbeing and Vulnerable People
At 10.00am on Friday 14 October 2022
Council Chamber, Corby Cube

Present:

Members:

Councillor Helen Harrison (Chair) Councillor Geoff Shacklock
Councillor John McGhee
Councillor Russell Roberts

Officers:

David Watts Executive Director of
Adults, Health Partnerships and Housing

Susan Hamilton Interim Director of Public Health (for John Ashton)

Sam Fitzgerald Assistant Director of Adult Services

Zakia Loughead Assistant Director of Safeguarding and Wellbeing

Ian Achurch Head of Development, Infrastructure and Funding

1. Chair's Announcements

The Chair opened the meeting at 10.00am and welcomed members and officers to the meeting.

2. Apologies for non-attendance

Apologies were received from Cllrs Matt Binley, King Lawal, Ken Harrington and Chris Smith-Haynes.

3. Members' Declarations of Interest

No declarations were made.

4. Minutes of the Meeting Held on 2 September 2022

The minutes of the meeting held on 2 September 2022 had been circulated with the agenda.

Councillor McGhee asked if it would be possible to provide an Action sheet from each meeting.

RESOLVED that:

The minutes of the 2 September 2022 be approved and that an action sheet would be provided for all future meetings

5. Better Care Fund

The Panel were briefed on the Better Care Fund. The 2022-23 BCF plan reflected significant changes within the system since the last plan was submitted. The main objective was to build on the transformation work carried out in 2021-22 and progress an integrated out of hospital delivery model. Information on this process was included in the plan which the Panel had received.

Work would continue through the ICAN programme, the purpose of which was to deliver a refreshed focus to improve the quality of care, achieving the best possible health and wellbeing outcomes for older people across North Northamptonshire, supporting independence and resilience for as long as possible.

The Plan also played a fundamental part in delivering the ICS ambitions as set out in the document before the Panel.

Cllr Harrison commended Sam Fitzgerald for the comprehensive report and highlighted how much work had been carried out.

Cllr Roberts agreed great work had been done and this seemed the best chance to achieve results.

Cllr McGhee expressed concerns for those who need care at home, what is being done?

Sam Fitzgerald explained that the primary focus of the team was to think home first and although only a small presence in the Hospital there was significant capacity outside to support people returning home including an Internal Reablement service supporting around 60 people at an one-time to return to independence, the service have also commissioned an independent block short term home care contract that delivers 800 hours per week to support those returning home in the most timely way as well as support commissioned directly for the private home care market. Current performance is that 85% of people leaving acute hospital's and requiring some form of formal care and support are returning home.

Cllr McGhee also asked about data showing progress of the strategy.

Sam Fitzgerald explained that performance data was provide on a quarterly basis to the Health and Wellbeing Board and that this could be provided to the panel. The performance data metrics include admission avoidance, length of stay, people 65+ discharged to their usual place of residence, admissions to residential or care homes, and effectiveness of reablement.

Cllr Roberts commented on the pressures on GPs and primary care.

David Watts reminded the panel that we have to make realistic assumptions around the funding that we will receive and make plans accordingly. Winter planning has been done and there will be an additional 18 beds at Kettering General Hospital, extra care beds and investment has been made to provide extra Domiciliary Care.

6. Transforming NNC Adult Social Care Provider Services – Strategy and Case for Change

The report being presented to the Panel put forward the necessary steps for enabling significant improvement for both the workforce, residents and their families.

Zakia Loughhead outlined the requirements needed to modernise services. Focus was on facilities and three of the regulated services that required improvement.

Changes would need to be made in stages to deliver a long term, sustainable, quality service. The issues that need addressing are buildings that are not fit for purpose and the required investment needed to provide the buildings for the future, staff recruitment and retention with problems with poor pay and training as key challenges, and a change in focus towards reablement and maintaining independence.

Cllr Harrison confirmed that the Case for Change would go out to consultation, she said she was excited about this proposal as this was a once in a generation chance to shape these services and make them fit for the future, investing in our staff, our buildings and our focus. Understanding the existing problems was key to fixing them.

Cllr McGhee said all staff at all levels needed to be advised. He also commented that relationships were built between residents in the care homes so people needed to be kept together.

David Watts outlined that, prior to the publication of the papers, he had spent time in one of the care homes, Beech Close, talking to staff about the Case for Change, followed by an online meeting with the staff at Pine Lodge. This session and literature had been made available to all staff who were unable to attend the online meeting.

Zakia Loughhead assured the panel that if the plans go ahead, friendships between residents would be taken into account and every effort to find placements together would be made. Residents and their families would be involved in these decisions.

Cllr Roberts said it was vital to get a positive message out to press and community that this will make a difference.

David Watts said he would be happy to go to the external press, these chances do not come along very often, it is good to have a strong vision.

7. UK Prosperity Fund

The Head of Development, Infrastructure and Funding gave an overview of the UKSPF explaining that it was part of the UK Government's Levelling Up Agenda.

It was a three-year funding programme with all areas of the UK receiving an allocation of the £2.6 billion of new funding.

North Northamptonshire had been allocated £4,835,332; funding was mainly a mix of revenue funding with an increase of proportional capital spend across the three-year programme.

There were three funding streams; the Core Shared Prosperity Fund, Multiply and the Rural England Fund

There were three priority themes:

- Community & Place
- Support for Business
- People & Skills

The process was explained to the Panel with the Year 1 Delivery Plan in development and waiting for Government approval.

A report would go to the Executive Committee in November to agree the Year 1 Delivery Plan and then delivery would commence.

Cllr McGhee raised concerns about where the money was being spent and felt more should be going directly into the three most left behind communities.

This was discussed and it was pointed out that many of the initiatives, such as the NN Jobs Club, would have an impact in those communities as well as those that were being delivered directly in those communities.

Cllr McGhee also asked about the decision making process and the fact that only two Executive Members would be making the decisions, he considered that this was inappropriate. He asked how would the outcomes be measured at Rushden Lakes?

Ian Achurch informed the panel that all projects would have KPIs and be monitored accordingly.

Where businesses are supported locally, they would be encouraged to take on local people.

Cllr McGhee suggested that the application process for the Community Grant Scheme should be made as easy as possible.

8. Forward Plan of Executive Items

Local Council Tax Support Scheme

Case for Affordable Housing

Family Hubs

Towns Multi Use Building.

9. Close of Meeting

The meeting closed at 12.04 am.