

**Minutes of a meeting of the EAP Health & Wellbeing and Vulnerable People**  
At 9.30 am on Friday 17<sup>th</sup> December, 2021 held remotely via Zoom

**Present:-**

Members

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

Officers

David Watts – Executive Director Adult’s Communities & Wellbeing  
Carol Berrevoets – Service Manager, Adult Learning Service  
Francesca McHugo – Democratic Services

**53 Chair's Announcements**

Councillor Harrison welcomed members and officers to the meeting. The Chair advised members that an alteration to the agenda would be made to consider Item 07 Adult Education Offer prior to Item 06 Draft Budget Proposals.

**54 Apologies for absence**

Apologies were received from Councillor K Harrington

**55 Members' Declarations of Interest**

**MEMBERS' DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

The Chair invited those who wished to do so to declare any interests in respect of items on the agenda.

No declarations of interest were received:

**56 Minutes of the Meeting Held on 29 October 2021**

It was AGREED:

- i. That the minutes of the Health, Wellbeing & Vulnerable People Executive Advisory Panels held on 29 October 2021 be approved as a true and accurate record of the meeting.
- ii. That the minutes of the Health, Wellbeing & Vulnerable People Executive Advisory Panels held on 3 December 2021 be approved as a true and accurate record of the meeting.

## 57 **Adult Education Offer**

The Service Manager presented members with an overview of the Adult Learning Service and the opportunities on offer. The presentation highlighted the two main income streams from the Department for Education and charges from fee-based courses.

The Service Manager emphasised the benefits of the Adult Learning Service's placement within Public Health and how supported courses linked to the Public Health Outcomes benefitted the community.

During discussion, the Panel raised the following principal points:

- i. Flexibility in location should be used to promote attendance within the heart of communities.
- ii. Provision of split data would be beneficial in the assessment of the impact and reach within our levelling-up communities.
- iii. Key Performance Indicators should be reviewed in relation to the separate needs of the two council areas within Northamptonshire.
- iv. Courses should be placed in our more rural communities to aid in the reduction of social isolation.
- v. Signposting should be used to provide wider opportunities in the leisure and arts sectors in addition to educational and careers guidance.

It was AGREED:

That the Panel would consider areas to select for future in depth discussion.

## 58 **Draft Budget Proposals**

The Executive Director for Adults, Communities and Wellbeing outlined the main headline assumptions within the draft budget proposals and highlighted the following;

- A pay increase to meet the Real Living Wage had been implemented, the impact on increased pension contributions would be evident in the budget.
- Words of caution were expressed when considering the funding for social care reform due to anticipated additional spending expectations.
- Proposals included a 1.99% increase in Council Tax and a 1% increase in the Adult Social Care precept for 2022/23.
- There would be opportunity for public engagement through the budget consultation process.
- Social Care grants and Better Care Funds will add clarification to the budget.

- The General Capital Fund Program allocated funds for housing and homelessness prevention.
- Officers continue to seek efficiencies to address the budget requirement for 2023/24.

Members noted contract changes & additional inflation, demographic & service demands, service change and development and COVID demands as additional pressures identified through the budget challenge process.

The Panel considered the draft budget proposals and raised the following principal points:

- The cost of borrowing presented a concern
- Rising costs would be expected as steps towards a carbon neutral council are introduced
- Steps should be taken to limit the use of assumptions within the budget
- Leisure services should have a clear scope for investment
- Allocations should be considered to support services in need of catch-up following the pandemic

It was AGREED:

That further opportunities to scrutinise the draft budget proposals within the Council be supported.

## **59 Forward Plan of Executive Items**

The Panel received the Executive Forward Plan covering the period 1 December 2021 to 31 March 2022.

It was AGREED that the Executive Forward Plan of items be noted.

## **60 Work Programme**

Members reviewed the forward list of items for future consideration by the panel.

It was AGREED that the following amendments be made to the work programme of the Health, Wellbeing & Vulnerable People EAP:

- Community Assets Transfer Policy to be amended to January 2022
- Better Care Fund report to be included for January 2022
- Social Prescribing to be included for January 2022
- Integrated Care Systems as an addition for February/March 2022

**61 Updates and Alerts**

The Executive Director Adults, Communities and Wellbeing provided updates on the Omicron variant of Covid-19

Concerns over the transmissibility within hospitals and the impact on staffing within care settings were noted.

The Chair raised concerns over the vote in the House of Commons to make vaccination compulsory in care settings. Members noted the potential for staffing shortages to be realised across our care settings from 1 April 2022.

It was AGREED that:

The Panel noted updates on the Omicron variant of Covid-19.

**62 Close of meeting**

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Chair

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Date

The meeting closed at 11:31 am