



Minutes of the meeting of the EAP Health & Vulnerable People

At 9:30 am on Friday 8th April 2022

in the Members Room, The Cube, George Street, Corby NN17 1QG

Present: -

Members

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

Councillor John McGhee
Councillor Christina Smith-Haynes

Officers

David Watts – Executive Director Adults, Communities and Wellbeing
Stuart Mallett – Senior Officer for Northamptonshire Health and Care Partnership
Paul Goult – Democratic Services

84. Chair's Announcements

The Chair welcomed members and officers to the meeting. The Chair introduced Mr Stuart Mallett a representative of Northamptonshire Health and Care Partnership who would be introducing a presentation to the EAP on Social Prescribing.

85. Apologies for Absence

No apologies were presented at the meeting.

86. Members' Declarations of Interest

No declarations of interest were made.

87. Minutes of the meeting held on 4th March 2022

The minutes of the meeting held on 4th March 2022 had been circulated with the agenda papers.

It was noted there was a minor typo on page 2 under paragraph 78 (ii). The word "chares" to read "charges."

RESOLVED that: -

The minutes (as amended) of the meeting held on 4th March 2022 be approved.

88. Social Prescribing at scale across Northamptonshire

The Panel received a presentation from Mr Stuart Mallett on the approach being taken to Social Prescribing within Northamptonshire. A copy of the presentation slides had been circulated to members prior to the meeting.

The presentation explained that Social Prescribing (or Community Referral) was a way for practices to refer patients with social, emotional or practical needs to a wider range of non-clinical and local services to support patients.

Full successful implementation of the scheme would provide better outcomes for patients, less use of GP appointments, allow clinicians to focus on medical issues, would see an increase of the range of services offered in and outside the practice, provide a more holistic care package for patients in need, and would be a more cost-effective use of practice's resources.

The presentation provided detail on the key objectives and priorities of the scheme and the funding and governance structure. It was noted that it was currently a 5-year project. It was recognised that the scheme was gaining momentum and members indicated that they would like to be kept updated on performance and key indicators. NNC would seek to work constructively with the programme.

The Chair thanked Mr Mallett for his presentation.

89. Forward Plan of Executive Items

It was noted that the EAP were expecting to see sight and be able to discuss the following reports prior to their submission to the Executive for determination –

19th May 2022

Towns Fund – Multi-use Building
Rough Sleeping Initiative 2022-2025
Community Asset Transfer Policy

The Chair stressed the importance of the EAP being able to consider draft prior to determination by the Executive, in order that EAP members could have a proper discussion on recommendations and meaningful input. EAPs had an important role to play in informing the Council's policy and strategies on matters within the Group's brief; the presentation of draft documents in a timely manner was essential.

90. Work Programme

It was noted that the three draft reports highlighted in the Forward Plan for the 19th May 2022 Executive, were scheduled to be tabled at the Group's next meeting.

In addition, items on Children's and Young People's Collaborative and on the Integrated Care System were to be tabled at a future EAP meeting.

The Chair whilst appreciating the earlier presentation on Social Prescribing, felt that future presentations needed to be more strictly time controlled. Panel members agreed. It was suggested by the Chair that in future presentations should be limited to 20 minutes, with an additional 20 minutes set aside for questions and answers.

91. Updates and Alerts

Homes for Ukraine

The Panel received an update from David Watts regarding the activity being undertaken by the Council regarding the Homes for Ukraine scheme. David Watts confirmed that NNC were taking a "common sense" approach to inspection of potential homes to ensure that no unnecessary bureaucracy was being implemented. David Watts confirmed that where required staff from other service directorates were assisting. It was noted that currently NNC had record of 100 offers of sponsorship.

Afghan Settlements

It was noted that there was a shortage of properties but the service was seeking to accommodate agreed allocations.

In relation to a query regarding access to schools for children subject to resettlement, the Panel were informed that the Government had requested that schools relax admission rules.

David Watts confirmed that NNC were monitoring if there were any particular community tensions resulting from resettlement; pleasingly nothing to report to date.

NNC/NHS Covid Pressures

David Watts reported that the NHS were reporting staffing pressures due to staff being off work due to Covid. This was impacting on service delivery at all levels, including the Ambulance service.

It was noted that the Covid Discharge Funding provided by the NHS which was originally set at 8 weeks funding, had been reduced to 4 weeks funding and had been phased out totally at the end of March 2022.

It was noted the Government had removed the statutory requirement for all adult and social care workers to be inoculated.

Other

Councillor McGhee queried whether NNC currently had any schemes in place to encourage staff into a career in adult and social care. Councillor McGhee recalled that NCC had previously had a close working relationship with local schools and colleges. David Watts was unaware of any current specific scheme in place however the options of exploring the feasibility of apprenticeships and establishing teaching partnerships with local schools and colleges could be explored.

92. Close of Meeting

Meeting closed at 11:52 am.