



Cabinet

**A meeting of the Cabinet will be held at the The Forum, Towcester,
NN12 6A on Tuesday 18 January 2022 at 6.00 pm**

Agenda

Public Session	
1.	Apologies for Absence and Notification of Substitute Members
2.	Declarations of Interest Members are asked to declare any interest and the nature of that interest which they may have in any of the items under consideration at this meeting.
3.	Minutes (Pages 5 - 12) To confirm the minutes of the meeting of Cabinet held on 21 st December 2021.
4.	Chair's Announcements To receive communications from the Chair.
5.	Urgent Business The Chair to advise whether they have agreed to any items of urgent business being admitted to the agenda.
6.	Outcome of the Call-In of the Cabinet Decision of 9 November 2021: Harmonisation of the Garden Waste Collection Services Across West Northamptonshire (Pages 13 - 22)
7.	Assistive Technology Framework (Pages 23 - 52)
8.	Northamptonshire Domestic Abuse Strategy 2022 - 2025 (Pages 53 - 80)

Catherine Whitehead
Proper Officer
10 January 2022

Cabinet Members:

Councillor Jonathan Nunn (Chair)

Councillor Adam Brown (Vice-Chair)

Councillor Fiona Baker

Councillor Lizzy Bowen

Councillor Rebecca Breese

Councillor Matt Golby

Councillor Mike Hallam

Councillor Phil Larratt

Councillor Malcolm Longley

Councillor David Smith

Information about this Agenda

Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence and the appointment of substitute Members should be notified to democraticservices@westnorthants.gov.uk prior to the start of the meeting.

Declarations of Interest

Members are asked to declare interests at item 2 on the agenda or if arriving after the start of the meeting, at the start of the relevant agenda item

Local Government and Finance Act 1992 – Budget Setting, Contracts & Supplementary Estimates

Members are reminded that any member who is two months in arrears with Council Tax must declare that fact and may speak but not vote on any decision which involves budget setting, extending or agreeing contracts or incurring expenditure not provided for in the agreed budget for a given year and could affect calculations on the level of Council Tax.

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Queries Regarding this Agenda

If you have any queries about this agenda please contact Sofia Neal-Gonzalez, Democratic Services via the following:

Email: democraticservices@westnorthants.gov.uk

Or by writing to:

West Northamptonshire Council
One Angel Square
Angel Street
Northampton
NN1 1ED

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Minutes of a meeting of the Cabinet held at The Forum, Towcester on Tuesday 21 December 2021 at 6.00 pm.

Present Councillor Jonathan Nunn (Chair)
 Councillor Adam Brown (Vice-Chair)
 Councillor Fiona Baker
 Councillor Lizzy Bowen
 Councillor Rebecca Breese
 Councillor Matt Golby
 Councillor Phil Larratt
 Councillor Malcolm Longley

Substitute
Members:

Also
Present: Councillor Jamal Alwahabi
 Councillor Sally Beardsworth
 Councillor Jonathan Harris
 Councillor Bob Purser
 Councillor Wendy Randall
 Councillor Emma Roberts
 Councillor Danielle Stone

Apologies
for
Absence:

Present Councillor Mike Hallam
 Councillor David Smith

Officers Jane Carr, Director of Transformation
 Sarah Reed, Executive Director - Corporate Services
 Stuart Timmiss, Executive Director - Place and Economy

82. Apologies

Councillor David Smith and Councillor Mike Hallam

83. Declarations of Interest

None

84. Minutes

The minutes from the Cabinet meeting of the 7th December were approved and signed as a true and accurate record.

85. **Chair's Announcements**

None

86. **Urgent Business**

None

87. **Period 7 Revenue Monitoring Report for the Financial Year 2021-22**

At the Chair's invitation Councillor Malcolm Longley presented the report. The main points of the report were highlighted.

Councillors made the following comments.

- The report was very detailed, the same level of detail was requested to be included in subsequent reports and with more regularity.
- It was noted that there was still a significant deficit and it was questioned whether the actual cost of running the authority was known.
- There was a large amount of capital spent on special expenses. An explanation of this was requested.
- It was noted that there was an underspend in education, was the Council receiving statutory advice on this?
- Staffing levels were a concern with a large amount of vacancies and staff being pulled from different areas to cover others.
- It was advised that some staff were feeling overwhelmed with mental health being a concern.
- The report did show some fragility with large gaps in the budget. The Council should be making strong representation to the Government regarding these.
- The Transformation journey was queried, whether it was working as it should, it was felt that it was a strain on services.
- It was queried whether any mitigations were already known of and if so what plans were in place to address them.
- Educational Psychology was mentioned as a particular issue which would require more focus.
- It was requested that more information be provided at the monthly briefings.

Councillor Malcolm Longley made the following comments.

- With regards to special expenses this would be looked into.
- Some items mentioned were not within the financial remit and as such could not comment on them.
- It was agreed that there was a level of fragility.
- The concerns raised over Transformation were noted and it was advised that there would be a new approach to this in the new year.
- The mitigations expected would be fairly normal ones.
- Meetings would continue to take place with Councillors Harris and Stone, extra information would be given if requested.

The Executive Director of Finance noted that there had been some pressures and issues which would be addressed going into the new year.

The Chief Executive made the following comments;

- It was noted that there were vacancies within the Educational Psychology Team. Discussions in relation to pay and terms and conditions were being undertaken with trade unions.
- There were various vacancies across the council. This was a national issue, as far as was known no services had been overly affected by this.
- Only three areas had been restructured, conversations had taken place with staff throughout.

Councillor Lizzy Bowen noted that there were regular staff surveys carried out where staff can make their thoughts known.

The Chair advised that with regards to the mental health of staff there were anonymous ways for staff to raise issues and seek help. It was agreed that the Executive Director Corporate would mention this in the next newsletter.

88. Capital Monitoring Period 7 2021-22

At the Chair's invitation Councillor Malcolm Longley presented the report, copies of which had been previously circulated. Cabinet was advised that a Capital Assets board had been created which would include The Executive Director of Finance, Councillor Malcolm Longley and Councillor Lizzy Bowen. All future capital projects would come through the board. Members were informed that there were a large number of projects in the pipeline.

Councillors made the following comments.

- Did the costs mentioned in the report include the increase in the cost of materials?
- It was queried whether the school building costs would be received from central Government.
- It was noted that schools were still having to fund their own covid-prevention measures.
- The Disabled Facilities grant was mentioned. Details of where this money would be spent were requested.
- It was noted that there were many programmes from the previous authorities in progress, how many would be reliant on funding provision?
- The Active Travel scheme and its rephasing had been mentioned in the report, could what was meant by this be clarified with a full briefing?
- The EV charge points project had been agreed for specific areas, was this still going ahead?

The Executive Director of Finance advised that there was a plan to capitalise revenue and transformational costs. There were various funds available to Education schemes, this information would be provided. The re-phasing that had been mentioned was 'slippage' that would be moved forward.

Councillor Fiona Baker advised that any expenditure related to Covid within schools was dealt with by the Department of Education.

Councillor Matt Golby advised that the Health and Wellbeing Board would send any relevant information when requested.

Councillor Lizzy Bowen mentioned that contingency plans were always in place when dealing with construction costs, these were reviewed regularly at the Capital and Assets Board.

Councillor Phil Larratt advised that the active travel scheme was still being working on with various ideas coming through.

The Executive Director of Place and Economy advised that he would have to take away the question regarding EV charge points and come back with an answer.

89. Treasury Management Quarter 2 2021-22

At the Chair's invitation Councillor Malcolm Longley presented the report, copies of which had been previously circulated.

Councillors made the following comments.

- It would be useful for members to know where the Council's money was invested at present.
- The report mentioned repaying Cornwall Council £5 million, had there been more borrowing from other authorities?
- It was noted that there was a good level of borrowing, was there a cap on how much could be borrowed?

Councillor Malcolm Longley advised that the council should be slowing borrowing and increasing its reserves.

The Executive Director of Finance advised that a list of investments could be provided.

90. Draft Budget 2022-23 and Medium Term Financial Plan

At the Chair's invitation Councillor Malcolm Longley presented the report, copies of which had been previously circulated. Cabinet was advised that this was a draft plan and not finalised. Members were reminded that this year four authorities had come together as one with the stabilisation of the area being a main objective. The reserves were currently circa £100 million but would rise and fall as the months passed.

Councillors made the following comments.

- It was queried whether the council was able to balance due only to the amount of vacancies.
- It was noted that the transformative capacity was linked to staffing levels.

- The Overview and Scrutiny committee would need to revisit various areas of this report.
- There were concerns about the rise in Council Tax and how it would affect poorer people, it was queried how this fitted into the councils anti-poverty strategy.
- Strong recommendation needed to be taken to central government with regards a 4 year budget which had been requested consistently.
- The National Insurance increase had been mentioned, how much added social care money would come to the Council through this?
- With regards to staffing, it was questioned whether the current offer given to potential staff was enough? Could this be why staffing levels are so low?
- It was suggested that the public supported keeping the Council's money local.
- It was noted that there had been an increase in the parking charges at the country parks, with some parks requesting payment for the entire day and not hourly.
- West Northamptonshire had a rapidly aging population, it was important to help keep people in their own homes for as long as possible for their own mental health.
- Daventry had increased residents parking permits but Northampton had not, harmonisation these charges would be appreciated.

Councillor Adam Brown made the following comments.

- There would be central Government funding for homelessness.
- Residents would see tangible results from the council tax rise.
- It was advised that without raising funds it would not be possible to raise wages and fund services.
- Members were informed that there was a constant dialogue with central Government about the county's needs.

Councillor Phil Larratt noted the differences in the costs of parking at country parks and that once all of the services had come together costings would be looked at.

91. **Draft Housing Revenue Account Budget 2022-23**

At the Chair's invitation Councillor Adam Brown presented the report, copies of which had been previously circulated. It was advised that there had been a rent increase with universal credit and housing benefits increasing in tandem with this. Cabinet was reminded that there was a national shortage of housing with over 3000 families on the Northampton housing list at present. Members were advised that the Council had been active in seeking funding from various routes.

A Councillor noted that not much detail had been mentioned with regards to the housing strategy and that the Overview and Scrutiny committee had requested to see this information pre-decision.

92. **Northampton North West Relief Road - progress and funding update**

At the Chair's invitation Councillor Phil Larratt presented the report, copies of which had been previously circulated. Cabinet was reminded that this was a legacy project with planning consent given in 2020. It was advised that this item would also come back to Cabinet at a later date.

Councillors made the following comments.

- It was queried whether the levelling up fund had made it past the gateway and whether there had been any feedback with regards a re-submission.
- As the bid had not been successful would the Council be reviewing its funding process.
- It was noted that the report could have been presented at the December 2021 Council meeting.
- Cabinet was reminded that the Flore bypass had been built in order to improve travel between Daventry and the M1 but was a single carriageway.
- It was felt that central Government should also fund part of this as they had requested the extra housing mentioned in the report.
- The report noted that there would be a limited effect on climate. It was felt that this could not be correct as any new road would contribute to pollution.
- It was queried whether the 10% contingency that was in place would be enough and whether this would be a fixed price contract?
- It was noted that there had been a significant increase in the overall costs as building materials had risen in price.
- What would happen should some of the houses not be built, would the Council need to request another loan?

Councillor Phil Larratt made the following comments.

- The Flore bypass would remain a single carriageway for now, but duelling in the future was an option as it had been built with that in mind.
- The concern for the environment was echoed, and work would go into looking for different construction methods to ensure the project would be as carbon efficient as possible.
- The contingency worries were understood.

The Executive Director of Place & Economy made the following comments.

- There had been no feedback at present about the levelling up fund.
- Members were advised that the strategy used to applying for funding was continuously under review.
- It was advised that the contract was a fixed price one with all risk being transferred to Balfour Beatty.
- The contract had taken inflation and the price of materials into consideration.
- It was advised that part of the road would also be built by the developers.
- The project would be continually monitored.

The meeting closed at Time Not Specified

Chair: _____

Cabinet - 21 December 2021

Date: _____

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WEST NORTHAMPTONSHIRE COUNCIL CABINET

18 JANUARY 2022

**CABINET MEMBER WITH RESPONSIBILITY FOR CLIMATE CHANGE,
TRANSPORT, HIGHWAYS AND WASTE SERVICES – COUNCILLOR PHIL
LARRATT**

Report Title	Outcome of the Call-In of the Cabinet Decision of 9 November 2021: Harmonisation of the Garden Waste Collection Services Across West Northamptonshire
Report Author	Tracy Tiff, Deputy Democratic Services Manager, tracy.tiff@westnorthants.gov.uk 01604 837408

Contributors/Checkers/Approvers		
MO	Catherine Whitehead	4/1/2022
Deputy MO	Geoff Wild	
S151	Martin Henry	4/1/2022
Other Director/SME	Stuart Timmiss	12/12/2021
Communications Lead/Head of Communications	Becky Hutson	6/1/2022

List of Appendices

None

1. Purpose of Report

- 1.1 To inform Cabinet of the outcome of the Place Overview and Scrutiny Committee's findings following the call-in of the Cabinet decision of 9 November 2021 on the harmonisation of the Garden Waste Collection Services Across West Northamptonshire.

2. Executive Summary

- 2.1 On 9 November 2021, Cabinet resolved that:

Resolutions: It was agreed that Cabinet:

- a) *Agreed that a charge was made for kerbside garden waste collection for all residents of West Northamptonshire who opt into this service of £42 per bin per year, from 1 April 2022;*
- b) *Approved the decision to run the customer service and administration of the garden waste collection service in-house for all residents of West Northamptonshire, thus removing its administration from West Northamptonshire Norse, in the Daventry area;*
- c) *Approved the establishment of a subsidised home composting scheme, to be launched at the same time as the charge 2022/23, to offer residents an alternative.*

The Reason:

- a) *The introduction of a charge for the collection of garden waste would bring the south of West Northamptonshire into harmony with the rest of the council area. The scheme would be run council-wide with the level of charge, terms and conditions and service standards the same across West Northamptonshire.*
- b) *Charging for the collection of garden waste would ensure that only those who wish to use the service pay for it. Therefore, those who home compost, or who don't have gardens or who take their garden waste to the Household Waste Recycling Centre would not pay for the collection service.*
- c) *The Council are permitted to levy a 'reasonable' charge for the garden waste service (under the Controlled Waste (England and Wales) Regulations 2012). The proposed charge would generate income essential to part fund the waste collection services provided to the residents of West Northamptonshire. This includes approximately £800,000 in additional net income to the council in 2022/23 for the south area, where the charge would be newly introduced. It would also maintain the approximate £2.2 million of annual income from the areas of the council where there was an existing charge.*
- d) *The £42 charge recommended for 2022/23 would be the same as was charged in the Daventry and Northampton areas in 2021/22 and so would represent no increase for those residents and is identified as average across the region.*

- e) *The proposal to bring the customer service and administration of the garden waste collection service would enable the Council to have a direct interface with residents who wish to opt-in to this service, ensuring they receive the best possible customer service.*
 - f) *The subsidised home composting scheme would provide an alternative option for residents who do not want to pay the collection fee. It also promotes home composting, which in waste management terms is a preferred option.*
- 2.2 A request for call-in was made to the Monitoring Officer on 16 November 2021 by Councillors Ian McCord (the Call-In Originator), Dennis Meredith, Emma Roberts, Gareth Eales, Jonathan Harris, Julie Davenport, Rosie Humphreys and Sue Sharps. The call-in was deemed valid and was referred to Place Overview and Scrutiny Committee for consideration.
- 2.3 Place Overview and Scrutiny Committee met on 14 December 2021 to consider the call-in. In doing so, the Committee heard from the call-in originator and two of the signatories, Councillors Harris and Roberts, to the call-in. Councillors Beardsworth and Stone addressed the Committee in support of the Call-In. The Committee received a comprehensive presentation from the Cabinet Member with responsibility for Climate Change, Transport, Highways and Waste Services, together with the Assistant Director for Highways & Waste. The Director for Place and Economy was also present at the meeting.
- 2.4 After all the evidence had been heard, the Place Overview and Scrutiny Committee resolved that the call-in be accepted and that the following alternative courses of action should be considered by Cabinet:
- a) To allow for a lower cost than the £42 proposed, whilst being cost neutral overall
 - b) To await the outcome of the DEFRA consultation before placing reliance on the income stream proposed
 - c) To clarify if the Christmas tree collection service is open to all residents or just those signed up to the garden waste collection scheme
 - d) To open the Household Waste and Recycling Centres 7 days a week to allow residents not in the scheme to dispose of their garden waste
 - e) To amend any proposed scheme to allow for payment by instalments
 - f) To amend any proposed scheme to allow for those in receipt of Local Council Tax Reduction Scheme support to have a lower cost or nil cost

3. Recommendations

- 3.1 It is recommended that Cabinet be formally notified of Place Overview and Scrutiny Committee's findings following the call-in hearing of 14 December 2021 and reconsider its decision.

4. Reason for Recommendations

- 4.1.1 In accordance with the Overview and Scrutiny procedure rules (11.7), if a decision is referred to the original decision maker (in this case Cabinet), Cabinet shall then reconsider the matter, taking into account any concerns and recommendations of Place Overview and Scrutiny **Page 15**

Committee and make a final decision, amending the decision or not and give reasons for the decision.

- 4.1.2 As this is a decision relating to an Executive function only, Cabinet can ultimately decide the matter, provided that it is in accordance with the Council's budget and Policy Framework.

5. Report Background

Call-in originator

- 5.1 At the meeting on 14 December 2021, the call-in originator and two other call-in signatories expanded upon their reasons for the call-in, and listed a number of matters which in their opinion were flaws with the decision of Cabinet, as set out below:

- a) Cabinet had the option of harmonising the cost at a lower one than £42 thus preserving the existing revenue which spreading the cost over all the residents in the district, this would have been approx. £30 per year.
- b) Cabinet acknowledged that DEFRA are consulting on capping or removing the cost of green bin collections and this would represent a risk to the new income stream should such a policy be enacted.
- c) Cabinet did not give clear indications as to alternatives residents have, questions of whether Christmas tree collection would be for all or just those opted into the scheme were not answered.
- d) Cabinet did not give any indication as to where the extra £800k revenue, which is all additional income for no additional cost would be used for and Scrutiny may want to give recommendations, for example return the household waste and recycling centres to a full 7 day a week operation.
- e) Cabinet ruled out the prospect of paying for this by instalments or direct debit and opted for a single one-off payment
- f) Cabinet did not consider a lower charge for those in receipt of Local Council Tax Reduction Scheme support members may wish to examine this

- 5.2 The alternative course of action/recommendations that were proposed by the call-in originator were highlighted as detailed in paragraph 2.4, above.

Response from the Cabinet Member for Climate Change, Transport, Highways and Waste Services and the Assistant Director for Highways & Waste

- 5.3 The Cabinet Member with responsibility for Climate Change, Transport, Highways and Waste Services, together with the Assistant Director for Highways & Waste, provided their response to the call-in notice, as follows:

- a) In accordance with Controlled Waste Regulations 2012, a charge can be applied for the collection of garden waste. Nationally, 65% of Local Authorities charged for this in 2019/2020.
- b) In 2018/2019 the average cost of those authorities who charge for garden waste collection was £43 per bin.

- c) Garden waste is collected fortnightly across West Northamptonshire. The position in relation to the three predecessor Councils is that two of the three geographical areas has been maintained for the first year of West Northamptonshire Council with commitment to review and charges for garden waste in 2021/ (Shadow Executive Committee - March 2021).
- d) Residents in Daventry and Northampton pay £42 per year for garden waste collection, with high participation rates. Should this charge be reduced to £30 across all West Northamptonshire there would be a loss of forecast income of around £1million. The additional income from extending the charge to the South Northamptonshire area is included within the draft budget 2022/2023 and assists in achieving a balanced budget. If this is not achieved, additional income or savings would have to be found.
- e) DEFRA has consulted on charges applied for garden waste, the latest indication is that DEFRA will respond to the consultation early in 2022. It is possible that DEFRA could ask Councils to either cap the charges or stop charging. If changes are made, this will be compensated in the New Burdens Legislation. There is no definitive timescale for implementation of any change, or indeed if a change will be made.
- f) Alternatives for residents to using the waste collection services were provided:
 - Home composting with a one off fee for purchase of the composting bin at £10. Use of the household recycling centres which is a free service.
 - Share a waste collection bin with neighbours and therefore share the cost.
- g) Real Christmas tree collections will continue across West Northamptonshire for all residents.
- h) The estimated cost of opening household waste recycling centres (HWRCs) to seven days a week would be £960,000 per year. All six HWRCs are open at the weekend with each site open five days a week on a rota basis. Current opening hours are tailored to residents' use, which ensures the cost effective and efficient delivery of the service.
- i) There is currently no technical solution available within the Council to enable residents to pay by direct debit or to enable a discount via an on-line or automatic payment system.
- j) It is not possible in accordance with Council Tax Legislation to add garden waste subscription to the Council Tax bill.
- k) A range of discounts will be considered as part of continual review and improvements to the garden waste subscription service, but they would have to be supported by an auto-payment system.

Deliberation

5.4 During the deliberation, Members of the Place Overview and Scrutiny Committee raised a number of questions and made a number of points, as set out in summary below:

- a) Members supported, in principle, the charging of garden waste in all three areas of West Northamptonshire, commenting that it should be the same charge for all three areas but a lower cost could be considered.
- b) A query was raised that it could be seen that South Northamptonshire area residents previously had a free garden waste service and would now have to pay an additional amount for the collection of garden waste. The response was that Daventry and Northampton area residents had been in the same position when charging for the collection of garden waste had been implemented in these areas. It was noted tha

members understood that they would have to harmonise this garden waste charges as soon as possible after the formation of West Northamptonshire Council.

- c) Members asked why the charge of £42 was proposed and not a lower charge. It was noted that the £42 charge currently applied in Daventry and Northampton is the close to the national average and comparable with neighbouring authorities. It was also noted that participation rates in Daventry and Northampton are high and therefore £42 was not seen as a barrier for residents to subscribe.
- d) Members asked what participation rate the estimated additional income was based on. It was confirmed that a participation rate of 62%, which is the same as the Daventry area, had been used to estimate the income.
- e) Members asked if the current participation rate is known for the garden waste service in the South area. Officers did not have this information available at the meeting but noted that normally there is a higher yield when the garden waste collection service is subscribed to.
- f) Members were concerned whether there were any alternatives available to residents to the collection of garden wastes service. The response was that a home composting bin could be purchased at a one off cost of £10, which is less than 50% of the actual cost of the bin. Residents could share a garden waste bin, for example with a neighbour, and therefore also share the annual cost. The recycling centres can be used free of charge.
- g) In response to a query, it was confirmed that the real Christmas tree collection will continue to be available for all residents
- h) Members asked how the additional revenue would be used. It was confirmed that the income would be reinvested in the waste service and help to support the provision of these services. It was noted that there are budget proposals to increase the funding for the waste and highways services within the draft budget for 2022-23.
- i) Members queried whether direct debit payments and discounts could be put in place. The response was that an auto payment system for West Northamptonshire is being investigated and when installed, systems such as direct debit payments will be investigated.

Findings and Conclusions

- 5.5 During the deliberation session, Place Overview and Scrutiny Committee concluded that there was a need for the decision to be referred back to Cabinet and that the alternative course of action/recommendations as proposed by the call-in originators should be investigated.
- 5.6 Therefore, following the submission of the all the evidence, Place Overview and Scrutiny Committee resolved to uphold the call-in and ask Cabinet to reconsider its decision, as follows:

Resolved that:

- (1) That after all the evidence had been heard, the call-in be accepted on the grounds the following alternative courses of action are considered:
 - a) To allow for a lower cost than the £42 proposed whilst being cost neutral overall
 - b) To await the outcome of the DEFRA consultation before placing reliance on the income stream proposed

- c) To clarify if the Christmas Tree Collection service is open to all residents or just those signed up to the garden waste collection scheme
- d) To open the Household Waste and recycling centres 7 days a week to allow residents not in the scheme to dispose of their garden waste
- e) To amend any proposed scheme to allow for payment by instalments
- f) To amend any proposed scheme to allow for those in receipt of Local Council Tax Reduction Scheme support to have a lower cost or nil cost

6. Issues and Choices

- 6.1 Cabinet is asked to reconsider the decision taking into account any concerns and recommendations of Place Overview and Scrutiny Committee and make a final decision amending the decision or not and give reason for the decision.

7. Implications (including financial implications)

Resources and Financial

- 7.1 The decision cannot be implemented until Cabinet has resolved and made a decision upon the report of the Place Overview and Scrutiny Committee on the results of the call-in.
- 7.2 The decision will have implications for the draft budget, which currently includes the proposal to introduce the garden waste subscription service in the South area of West Northamptonshire at a rate of £42 per bin. This would provide an additional £800,000 financial pressure in the final budget.

Legal

- 7.3 Overview and Scrutiny operates within the provisions as set out in:
- the Local Government Act 2000
 - the Health and Social Care Act 2001
 - the Local Government Act 2003, the Police and Justice Act 2006
 - the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007
 - the Local Democracy, Economic Development and Construction Act 2009
 - the Localism Act 2011
 - the Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act 2011
 - the Overview and Scrutiny (Reference by Councillors) (Excluded Matters) (England) Order 2012
 - the Health and Social Care Act 2012
 - the Local Authority (Public Health, Health and Wellbeing Boards and Health Scrutiny) Regulations 2013

7.4 As set out in section 7, paragraph 11.7 of the Constitution (December 2021):

11.7.1 If a decision is referred back to Cabinet, it shall reconsider the matter taking into account any concerns and recommendations of the Committee and make a final decision amending the decision or not and give reason for the decision.

11.7.2 If a decision relates to an Executive function only, Cabinet can ultimately decide the matter provided that it is in accordance with the Council's budget and framework policy.

Risk

7.5 The decision cannot be implemented until Cabinet has resolved and made a decision upon the report of the Place Overview and Scrutiny Committee on the results of the call-in.

Consultation

7.6 Place Overview and Scrutiny Committee held the Call-In Hearing.

7.7 The call-in originator addressed the meeting of Place Overview and Scrutiny Committee and answered any questions that the Committee posed.

7.8 The Cabinet Member with responsibility for Climate Change, Transport, Highways and Waste Services, together and the Assistant Director for Highways & Waste, addressed the meeting of Place Overview and Scrutiny Committee and answered questions asked by the Committee.

7.9 The Call-In Hearing was published through the Council's usual channels and was attended by five elected Members, four of which addressed the Committee.

Consideration by Overview and Scrutiny

7.10 Place Overview and Scrutiny Committee considered the Call-In Notice at its meeting on 14 December 2021.

Climate Impact

7.11 As set out in the Cabinet report of 9 November 2021 (Item 8).

Community Impact

7.12 As set out in the Cabinet report of 9 November 2021 (Item 8).

8. Background Papers

Cabinet Report of 9 November 2021 Item 8 - Harmonisation of the Garden Waste Collection Services Across West Northamptonshire

Decision Notice – Cabinet of 9 November 2021 Item 8 - Harmonisation of the Garden Waste Collection Services Across West Northamptonshire

Shadow Authority Cabinet Report of March 2021

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WEST NORTHAMPTONSHIRE COUNCIL CABINET

18 JANUARY 2022

**CABINET MEMBER WITH RESPONSIBILITY FOR ADULT CARE, WELLBEING,
AND HEALTH INTEGRATION: COUNCILLOR MATT GOLBY**

Report Title	Assistive Technology Framework
Report Author	Katie Brown – Assistant Director Safeguarding and Wellbeing

Contributors/Checkers/Approvers

West MO	Catherine Whitehead	6/1/2022
West S151	Martin Henry	4/01/2022
Other Director/SME	Stuart Lackenby	15/12/2021
Communications	Becky Hutson	6/1/2022

List of Appendices

Appendix 1 - Assistive Technology Service background paper

Appendix 2 - AT Strategy

1. Purpose of Report

- 1.1 To outline adult social care's intentions to establish a framework to allow West Northamptonshire Council to procure a range of assistive technology goods and services from the appointed suppliers.
- 1.2 To seek cabinet approval for the Executive Director of Adults Communities and Wellbeing to have delegated authority to establish the framework to procure goods and services from the appointed suppliers where not already delegated.
- 1.3 To support the implementation of the Assistive Technology and Remote Support Strategy.

2. Executive Summary

- 1.1. West Northamptonshire Council currently supplies a range of assistive technology to approximately 7000 people across Northamptonshire which supports them to live more independently.
- 1.2. The assistive technology framework enables the assistive technology team to purchase equipment which the service then delivers to the people of Northamptonshire as required. This service is currently hosted in the West but will continue to provide services on behalf of North Northamptonshire until the service is disaggregated.
- 1.3. The Assistive Technology Service provides a range of equipment to people across Northamptonshire including:
 - Telecare – group of devices that link directly to a 24h monitoring centre and lead to an emergency response.
 - Apps – With the increased use of smartphones and tablets apps, companies started to cater towards people with disabilities and creating apps that support people in communicating, anxiety, reminders, guided conversations etc.
 - Monitoring devices – Passive devices that provide information about the person activity or location whilst at home or when accessing the local community.
 - Memory prompts – reminders to prompt the person to complete tasks throughout the day, for example, medication, drinking water, eating, etc.
 - Hearing equipment – safety and quality of life devices for hearing impaired people.
 - Smart Devices – Google Home or Amazon Alexa can provide good alternatives to more complex environmental control devices and the ability for a person to use their voice to control some aspects of their life such as calling for help, talking to friend and family, turning lights on and off, etc.
 - As part of the new Assistive Technology strategy and in partnership with Health we have agreed to implement and develop a hub which will be at the centre of Telecare and Remote Monitoring. We aim to use a new central hub(s) as the heartbeat of the preventative AT strategy, joining up technology around the county, using it to know and understand the needs of our people, maximising and personalising the use of assistive technology with the people that use the services.

3. Recommendations

- 3.1 It is recommended that the Cabinet:

- a) Approve the establishment of a framework to allow West Northamptonshire Council to procure a range of assistive technology goods and services from appointed suppliers.
- b) Give delegated authority to the Executive Director for Adults, Communities and Wellbeing to establish the Assistive Technology framework to procure goods and services from appointed suppliers where not already delegated.
- c) Support the implementation of the Assistive Technology and Remote Support Strategy.

4. Reason for Recommendations

- To comply with legislation and West Northants procurement policy
- To enable the procurement of assistive technology equipment so that the service can continue to purchase equipment which supports people to live more independently and reduces the need for higher cost care packages.

5. Report Background

- 5.1 The existing assistive technology framework was approved by Northamptonshire County Council (for 2 years) prior to the establishment of the existing council and is set to expire on 31st March 2022
- 5.2 The existing Assistive Technology Service is hosted in West Northants Council, the service is hosted on behalf of North Northamptonshire and in line with the blueprint is due to be disaggregated.
- 5.3 A new Assistive technology framework for the procurement of equipment is required from 1st April 2022 to allow the team to continue to help promote Northamptonshire residents' quality of life, independence and wellbeing, support with hospital discharges and delivery of cost avoidances to Health and Social Care.
- 5.4 The service is seeking approval to establish a new assistive technology framework to ensure compliance with legislation and West Northants procurement policy.
- 5.5 The assistive technology service supports the council to be compliant with the Care Act 2014.
- 5.6 The assistive technology service is currently working with a range of partners developing a new model (See appendix 2, The AT Strategy)

6. Issues and Choices

- 6.1 Not to approve the procurement of an assistive technology framework, will lead to the service not being able to trade and provide services to the vulnerable people of Northamptonshire.
- 6.2 Approval to proceed with the procurement of an assistive technology framework, will result in the service being able to continue to provide equipment to the vulnerable people of Northamptonshire.

7. Implications (including financial implications)

7.1 Resources and Financial

- 7.1.1 The framework will be set to a limit of £999,000.00. This does not mean that the assistive technology team will spend that amount in the 2 years of the framework. It allows the service

and its partners (including health as part of the integrated care system) to use the framework up to that limit. For this reason, the frame set at this value will future proof the service for developments which can benefit people of Northamptonshire. Expenditure can only be committed when it can be contained within existing budgets.

- 7.1.2 The assistive technology service generates income circa of £300,000 per year and last years spend on equipment was £255,962.00. The current equipment spent is capitalised. There are no implications to the existing budgets or expenditure levels through this procurement framework paper.
- 7.1.3 There are no implications on staffing levels through this procurement framework paper.
- 7.1.4 There are no resources or financial implications arising from the proposals.

7.2 **Legal**

- 7.2.1 The compliance around procurement laws means that for the council to continue to purchase assistive technology there needs to be a framework in place.
- 7.2.2 If a procurement framework isn't in place for assistive technology, it will mean that the service being delivered to support the delivery of the Care Act 2014 will no longer be able to operate. This will mean that West Northants Council will be unable to meet all the prevention requirements under the Care Act 2014. This may result in the council having to provide higher cost care packages as a replacement.
- 7.2.3 People at the Health of Care (The Social Care White Paper December 2021) emphasises the using the full potential of technology to support people's lives and aspirations as part of the social care 10-year plan.

There are no other legal implications arising from the proposals.

7.3 **Risk**

- 7.3.1 Delays in the approval decision or procurement process will put at risk, the procurement being able to complete on time. To mitigate these risks, the service will buy additional equipment to cover a short period of time should there be any delays to the approval and procurement process.
- 7.3.2 There are no other significant risks arising from the proposed recommendations in this report.

7.4 **Communications and consultation**

- 7.4.1 The Assistive Technology Service supports WNC's objectives of providing inclusive and evolving communications that support residents' needs. North Northants Council commissioning team and the therapy service manager have been consulted. At the point of disaggregation North Northants will be able to choose whether they use this framework or procure their own. Any future changes or opportunities as a result of the proposed new framework and developing strategy would be communicated as and when required.

7.5 Consideration by Overview and Scrutiny

- 7.5.1 No comment has been sought from the Overview and Scrutiny Committee in relation to this report and recommendations.

7.6 Climate Impact

- 7.6.1 The use of assistive technology promotes efficient ways of support for individuals who have health and social care needs. The technology can support independence or reduced dependency on social care type services reducing the climate/environmental impact of physical support which causes additional road use and traffic in our communities.

7.7 Community Impact

- 7.7.1 The community impact would arise from non-provision of assistive technology to the people of Northamptonshire. Additional financial pressures would arise through the need to meet peoples eligible care needs through more formal care packages. This may be disproportionately be felt in more deprived areas of Northamptonshire where usage is higher.

8. Background Papers

Appendix 1 - Assistive Technology Service background paper

Appendix 2 - AT Strategy

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Northamptonshire Assistive Technology Service was formed in 2010/11. It was part of Northamptonshire County Council before moving across to Olympus Care Services in 2012 and then back to Northamptonshire County Council in 2018/9. West Northants Council inherited the Assistive Technology Service along with Call Care Handling Centre from Northampton Borough Council in 2021. The Assistive Technology Service is hosted by West Northants Council and currently provides a service to both North and West Northants councils. The future of the Assistive technology in document in the New AT Strategy being developed across Health, Social Care, Housing and the other local community Organisations.

The population of Northamptonshire has grown at a faster rate than the national average over the past 30 years and is predicted to continue to grow at a greater rate over the medium term from 2018 to 2041. The county is predicted to increase by 14% or 104,900 people over this period. The growth rate over the county differs considerably by area, viewing the change within the two proposed unitary areas the growth rate is predicted to be 12.8% or 51,500 people in the west unitary area and 15.5% or 53,400 in the north unitary area.

In terms of older people, JSNA for Northamptonshire indicates that 12% more people in Northamptonshire are over 65 in 2017 than in 2014, the national average increase being a little over 5%.

Adapting effectively to the changing demographics and increasing demand, it is important to connect modern assistive technology and telecare into the heart of NASS and support services rather than see it as an add-on. These two services need to be fully embedded as a standard part of the information and advice offer and assessment and care processes.

The current spend per annum is £40,000 for the Call Handling service, supporting 2,880 customers per year and the service generates income to the Council of approximately 300k p.a. The Assistive Technology equipment is purchased on a spot basis, the annual spend is £171,000 and the service has supports 4243 approximately customers annually.

Since 2012 assistive technology and telecare have advanced hugely and is constantly evolving with new innovative equipment reaching the market. The technological scope for supporting independence, assisting, and safeguarding vulnerable people in their homes has grown immensely over the years, and ongoing this represents a great opportunity to create innovation and solutions for improving independence.

The Call Care Centre Handling service and the AT equipment provision, have the potential to greatly support the prevention agenda ongoing by supporting vulnerable adults and their families in their homes, promoting independence and prevent incidents such as hospital admissions by quick alerts and responses from key people involved and securing value for money. These services are key to prevent social isolation and loneliness too.

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Northamptonshire Assistive Technology and Remote Support Strategy



Northamptonshire AT Hub Model



Endorsement -

In recent years, the digital revolution has changed our world. Our long term vision for Health, Social Care and Housing sees huge opportunity for using modern digital technology to transform the way our services are provided.

New assistive technology will play an ever increasing role in supporting healthy and fulfilling lives. This strategy document sets out a vision for how we can use a more preventative approach rather than a reactive approach using the best of the latest technology to support people within Northamptonshire to thrive.

There is an opportunity across Health, Social Care, Housing, other public bodies and voluntary sector (See Appendix 1) to join together around a new “Northamptonshire Assistive Technology Model” building on National Ageing Well Programme priorities in Northamptonshire. Underpinning this is the NHCP’s (Northamptonshire health and care partnership) iCAN (integrated care across Northamptonshire) programme.

How will iCAN support the system vision and mission?

**Northamptonshire
Health and Care Partnership**

The aims of the iCAN programme align with the NHCP mission for people to choose well, stay well and live well. We've looked at each of these elements in turn through our pillars; Primary & Community, Discharge and Frailty.



iCAN be sure that the right choices are available to me

iCAN be sure that the right services are there to help me look after my own health



iCAN be sure that the right services are there to detect, diagnose and treat my illness as early as possible

iCAN be sure that I get the right treatment



iCAN be sure that the right care and support exists to help me manage

iCAN be sure that the care and support is in the right place for me

15

The aims of the iCAN programme alongside principals of the strength based conversation model adopted by adult social care means that there is a significant opportunity for technology to play a prominent role in achieving the best outcomes possible for the people of Northamptonshire. (See Appendix 2&3 for NHCP and iCAN governance structures)

Northamptonshire in 2025

2025
Community hubs (referral point not hospital)
Resource moving to community/primary care
Community & primary focal point
Removing organisational boundaries
Community based teams (clinicians not hospital based)
Smaller acute bed base
Staff (voice, job satisfaction, care, quality)
Remote monitoring systems and virtual working
Patients (choice, voice, listened to)
Digital solutions



Northamptonshire
Health and Care Partnership

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The strategy itself was developed with input from Health, Social Care, Housing and a wide range of partners and stakeholders. We are delighted to welcome this assistive technology strategy and look forward to the developments that will follow from it; along with the benefits that flow from people independence living well-connected lives within our communities (See Appendix 2&3)



West
Northamptonshire
Council

Summary

Northamptonshire Vision for the use of Assistive Technology

To use a proactive, preventive approach to assistive technology, making the hub(s) the heartbeat, joining services across Health, Social Care and Housing to provide an early response to support people to live where they want to be, stay connected to their local communities, staying fitter and active for longer. With the ability to trigger rapid support at times of rapid deterioration or crisis

Achieving the strategic aims

Prevention and independence

- Using technology in care and support planning
- Using data from the hub(s) to initiate the right response at the right time
- Developing the technology service offer using the latest technologies
- Research new and innovative ways to support different groups of people

Enhancing independence

Supporting the provision of care and support in the right place

Information and choice

- Promoting apps, kits and technology to our people
- Equipping our staff with the skills they need to inform and advise
- Supporting people to use technology

Through co-production creating a menu of digital options recognising the unique needs of each person

Empowering people

Use of data to future plan for people's care and support

Future proof

- Understanding, testing and using new technology
- Using data and evaluating effectiveness to inform future direction

Building on interoperability capability which promotes intelligent sharing of key information between solutions

Process and practice change

Value

- Understanding the economic costs and benefits and using our resources to achieve the greatest impact
- Investing in assistive technology for prevention to save money in the future

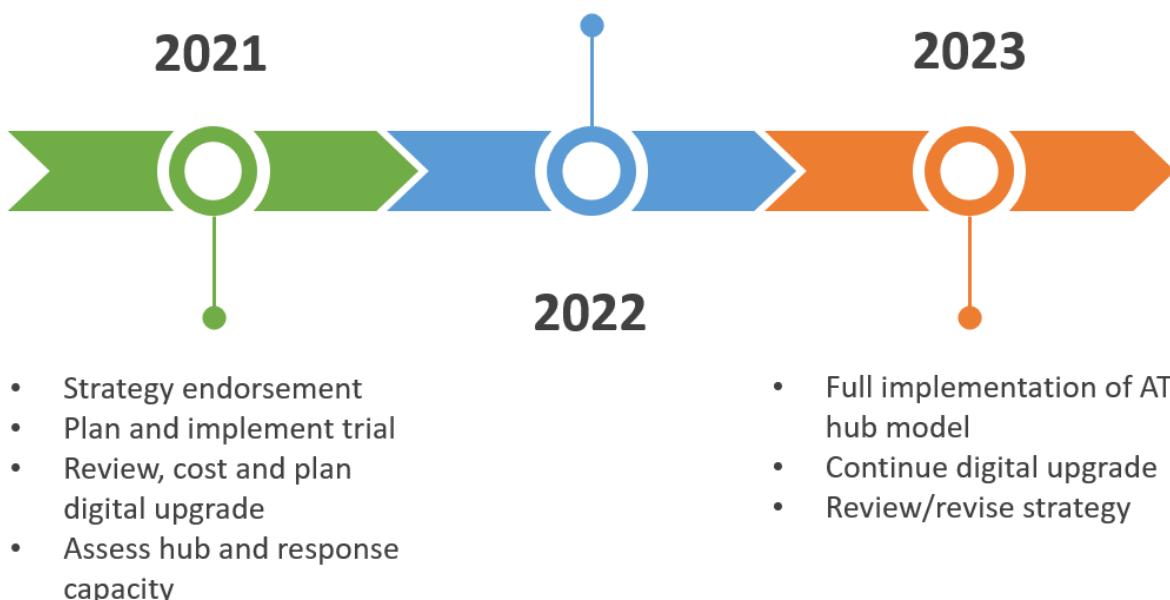
Capturing wellbeing as reported by the user in relation to benefit of technology used

Self care and connection with others



3 Year Plan

- Upscale AT Hub model
- Research and trial new tech innovations
- Implement digital upgrade
- Assess and plan for full implementation



Introduction

We live in a fast moving digital world where the use of technology has become common place. All public and partner organisations have embraced the use of technologies in varying degrees and volumes. Much of the use of technology from these organisations has been implemented in isolation specifically to enhance services and efficiencies in delivery to the person they are serving rather than at scale to meet overall population outcomes

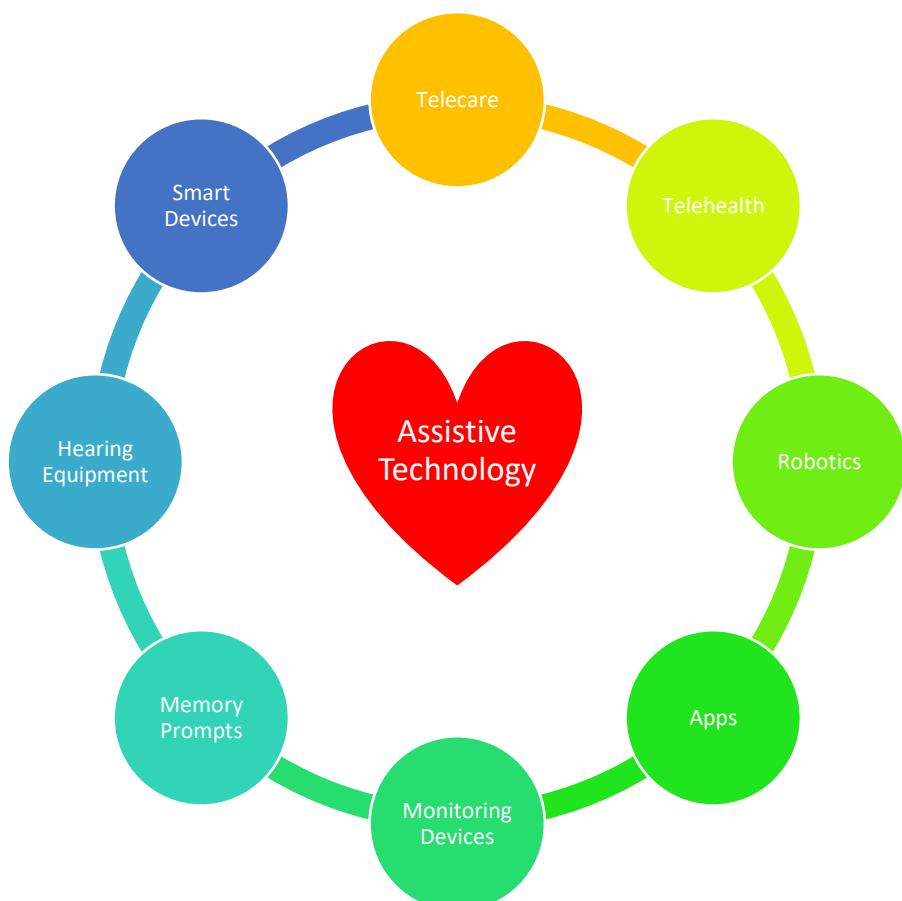
There has been growth in telecommunications and mobile phone internet which enables people to be more in control of their own lives. Health prevention is growing, as sensors installed in people's smartphones allow them to measure and monitor their wellbeing and fitness through activity; use of health promoting apps which can promote healthy lifestyles and detect the signs of illness. Signal strength and coverage continues to improve with superfast broadband and fibre coverage within Northamptonshire at 99%.

These developments have the power to transform the delivery of Health, Social Care and Housing and align our public services in Northamptonshire as we have never seen or experienced before.

The pandemic has shown us that technology can aid safety and has been actively embraced by cohorts within our society who may previously had some reluctance to engage. We now have a new challenge – to ensure that we do not create digital inequalities within our population

What is AT?

Assistive technology refers to devices or systems that help maintain or improve a person's ability to do things in everyday life. These can assist with a range of difficulties, including problems with memory and mobility.



Elements which come together within the Assistive Technology umbrella include:

Telecare – group of devices that link directly to a 24h monitoring centre and lead to an emergency response.

Telehealth – Health data gathering devices that provide information on various readings allowing proactive approaches to take place through the identification of needs and escalation to the appropriate services.

Robotics – The constant expansion in the field of robotics means that this technology will start seeing an increased use in the future through exoskeletons, artificial intelligent companions and daily living devices.

Apps – With the increase use of smartphones and tablets apps, companies started to cater towards people with disabilities and creating apps that support people in communicating, anxiety, reminders, guided conversations etc.

Monitoring devices – Passive devices that provide information about the person activity or location whilst at home or when accessing the local community.

Memory prompts – reminders to prompt the person to complete tasks throughout the day, for example, medication, drinking water, eating, etc.

Hearing equipment – safety and quality of life devices for hearing impaired people.

Smart Devices – Google Home or Amazon Alexa can provide good alternatives to more complex environmental control devices and the ability for a person to use their voice to control some aspects of their life such as calling for help, talking to friend and family, turning lights on and off, closing curtains or blinds etc.

Benefits of Technology

Improved quality
of life for people
through AT

Reduce social
isolation for
people

Raise awareness
of partner
services

Reduction in
ambulance calls
and A&E visits

Support Hospital
discharges

Cost avoidance

Benefits of Technology



Improve quality of life – Supports people to achieve their outcomes improving their health and wellbeing and maintain independence for as long as possible

Reduce Social Isolation – The hub will make proactive wellbeing calls to identified groups of people, link people with partner organisations, charities, libraries, events, to promote community based approaches and support services. This includes the provision of targeted on-line support groups e.g. Dementia Choir

Raise awareness of partner services- Promotion of county wide services through the 3 conversation model and iCAN approach and the extended functionality of a Northamptonshire Health and Care Directory

Reduction in ambulance calls and A&E visits – Achieved by working proactively and avoiding crisis situations through the use of data, wellbeing checks and early warning indicators when person is self-reporting as feeling unwell. Use of response services instead of blue light services for less urgent and complex interventions.

Supporting Hospital discharges – Through iCAN and National Ageing Well Programme including provision of additional monitoring equipment with direct links back to hospital Consultants during the first few days following return to place of usual residence

Cost Avoidance – Delivery of cost avoidances to both social and health care

Current Situation

There are numerous commissioned assistive technology services across Northamptonshire offering various types of technology ranging from health monitors, telecare, trackers, hearing equipment, monitoring devices and smart devices. these services are commissioned by various partners across health, Social care and Housing. Private partners also offer an array of technology solutions.

Much of the existing telecare offers are largely analogue based which will need to move to digital platforms by 2025.

The services provided across the public sector in Northamptonshire are generally seen as successful arrangements with well established, tried and tested approaches. Health Social Care and Housing would like to build on the successes and extend the use of this technology from a reactive approach to a preventative approach meeting needs at a much earlier stage. It also aims to harness the benefits of newer forms of technology.

Ambition

Our ambition for Northamptonshire is to connect Health, Social Care and Housing through the use of modern assistive technology, having it beat strongly at the heart of our services rather than a pulse on extremities of our organisations. Assistive technology has often been treated as an add on to services something that is thrown in on the side to give us some additionally rather than thinking it as a core component of the whole system.

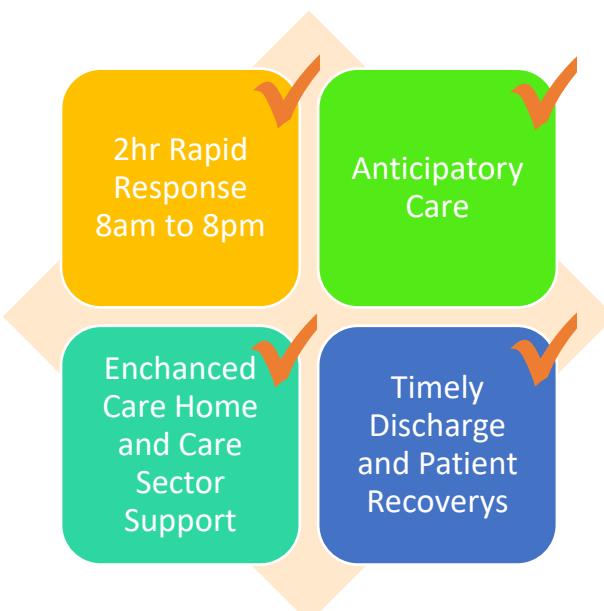
Our ambition is, aligned to holistic care planning all of our older population and those who are younger with frailty will be offered technology solutions to aid them. By 2025 we expect 50% of our older population to have some form of technology linked to our central monitoring hub. This will give a coverage of circa 70,000 persons.

We aim to use a new central hub(s) as the heartbeat of the preventative AT strategy, joining up technology around the county, using it to know and understand the needs of our people, maximising and personalising the use of assistive technology with the people that use the services. We will also aim to incorporate the best of all latest technologies and approaches to deliver the New “Northamptonshire AT model” and implement the required changes to be digital ready by 2025.

We recognise the diverse range of solutions available within the market and intend to work with a number of different providers to ensure the best products and personalised solutions are available for our population. All suppliers we work with will be required to support the ambitions of the Northamptonshire Health and Care Partnership, support research and evaluation, including using data to support population health management, the building of an evidence based practice, and will be expected to work collaboratively to ensure timely access to information and minimise multiple log-ins for those monitoring and delivering care.

The Northamptonshire AT model, will support the delivery of the National Ageing Well Programme priorities in Northamptonshire and deliver on the iCAN digital program using the principals of the strength based conversation model. The Northamptonshire AT Model will build upon the existing tailored offer to working aged adults to incorporate the latest evidenced based practice to maximise the opportunities for independent living.

National Ageing Well Priorities



The AT Strategy

Key point	Description
Prevention	Use of Technology Enabled Care (TEC) and telehealth to identify and prevent 'crisis management' situations supporting customers to avoid the need for more intensive forms of care and promote their independence across all working age adults and older persons
Digital & Data	Use of data provided by TEC's to target customer groups with specific interventions and provide a known customer/known needs approach. Using the single care record to support this
Future Proof	Digital ready technology in line with the digital switch over from analogue to digital.
Partnership	Look for opportunities across Health, Social Care, Housing, Voluntary Sector and their partners to design approaches and work collaborations including response services
Value	Understand the social and economic costs and benefits of TEC's and targeting resources accordingly; use TEC's to meet the challenges of rising demography and increasing complexity.

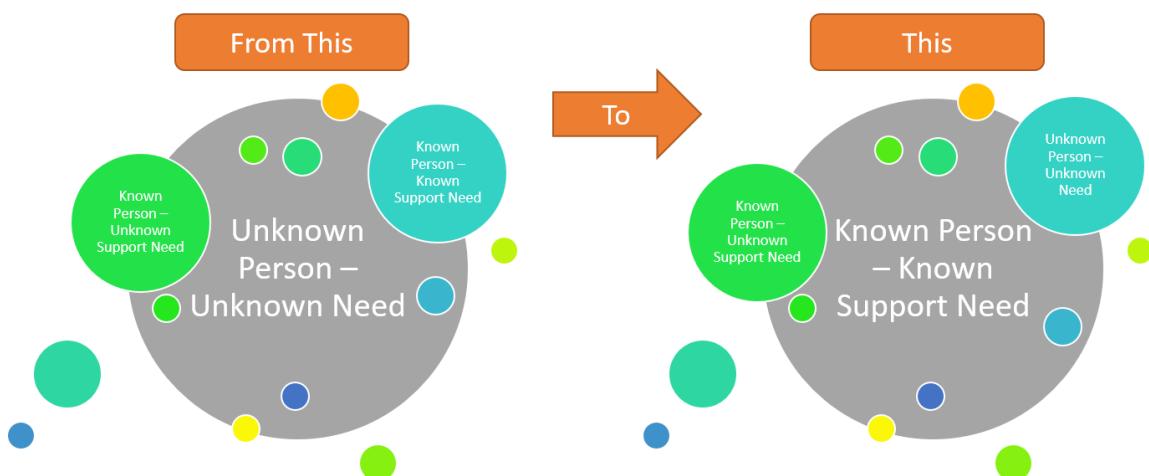
Prevention - Use of existing Telecare Control rooms to create a Hub where customer information is gathered through the use of TEC devices. The hub(s) approach will be based on a wraparound model of AT support and will provide regular proactive wellbeing calls to people with the intent to find information about a specific need or just a general proactive conversation and provide a proportionate response to emerging and changing need

The test and learn process during year two will inform the future accommodation requirements of the core hub function. Aligned to the new Rapid Response clinical triage function and primary care there is significant opportunity to consider co-location of these elements. Virtual links will also be essential to the Mental Health Hub, Police and Fire HQ and the primary care out of hours' hubs.

There will need to be dedicated digital back up capabilities both with servers and second delivery / access site for the hub in the event of unforeseen local environmental issues or cyber-attacks.

This approach will allow both Health, Social Care and housing to identify early signs of deterioration which might require input from their professionals and reduce the number of people who receive crisis management interventions across both sectors. The aim of this approach will be to know more people and know their needs, see diagram below.

Northamptonshire Integrated Care Approach - “Know the Person, Know the Need”



The Hub will be able to target specific groups of people with specific questions or reminders, identify 1st signs of vulnerability or deterioration and when information gathered requires further intervention, inform the appropriate teams and partners.

Responder services are a fundamental part of the TEC's and we aim to link community response resources when a visit is required.

The hub will provide potential opportunities to provide a single access point for health and social care to further integrate services.

Digital and Data - TEC devices can provide a wealth of data that can provide opportunities to improve or transform provision of services.

Telehealth in conjunction with a proactive approach has an increase benefit for Health and Social Care in identifying people that require input prior to crisis and therefore reduce the need for long term interventions or emergency admissions.

Devices that provide activity monitoring information such as, GPS trackers, Canary, Brain in Hand, Embrace etc. can have rules and alerts being triggered to the hubs and emergency calls made to the appropriate responders.

Future proof - Continue development of new technologies requires constant exploration of TEC solutions. Our aim is to identify, test and deploy new TEC's that provide a solution for the needs of the people of Northamptonshire.

Partnership - To maximise the benefits and opportunities provided by TEC's and bring these to as many people as possible. The new Northamptonshire AT model will be delivered in partnership with NHS, Public Health, Voluntary and Community Sector and housing groups.

Value - Many studies have demonstrated the value in preventative approaches through the use TEC's.

The Barcelona model white paper and the Airedale reports, both link the use of TEC's to savings and cost avoidances, to both Health and Social Care, by reducing emergency admissions, A&E contacts and provide cost avoidances thorough the preventative approach.

Value in promoting self-care and self-help – For people across the age spectrum who have low level needs, do not require monitoring and would benefit from advice and information, the strategy would promote, and encourage the use of mainstream technologies in everyday life. The AT strategy will also aim to build a body of expert evidence based practice of technologies (through evaluation and research) that can produce effective outcomes for people to use in their lives.

Operational Vision – “Northamptonshire AT Model”

A proactive hub as the heartbeat, making proactive wellbeing calls, monitoring and analysing numerous devices and data, engaging with people.

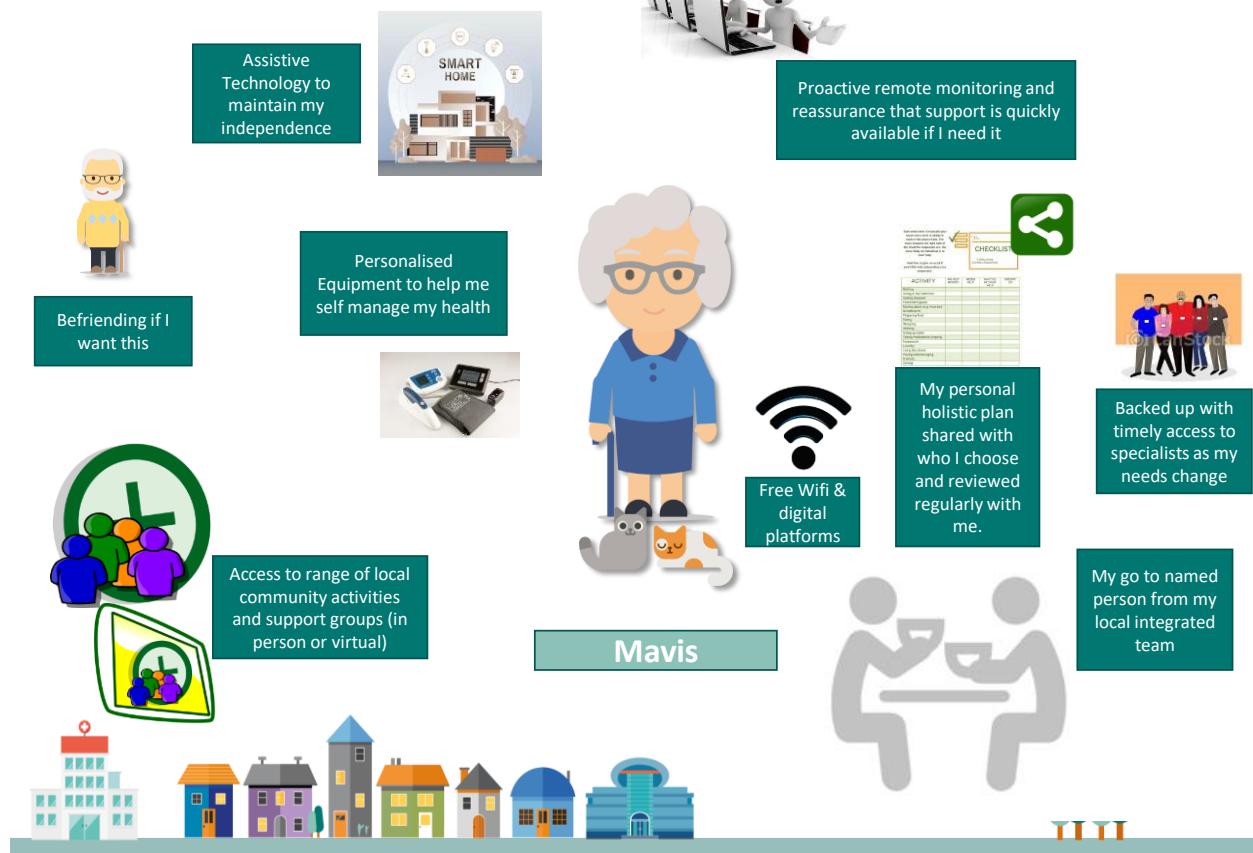


Timely Response – the hub will connect with local services sharing data and signposting in a timely way to ensure people receive the right response at the right time.



For our supported persons this will be a key part of their overall support offer.
The wider elements of which are highlighted in the visual below.

In 2025 I will have



Northamptonshire AT Model - 3 Year Plan

Year 1

- Northamptonshire AT Strategy to be endorsed across system partners
- Communicate the new Northamptonshire AT Strategy
- MAP Acute/Community AT & response Services
- Plan & Implement trial of the [Northamptonshire AT Hub Model](#)
- Research and report on findings of [Northamptonshire AT Hub Model](#)
- Implement new learning
- Research and trial new tech & innovations
- Review, Cost, Plan, apply for funding for Digital Upgrade
- Assessment of hub capacity for wider implementation (65%)
- Assessment of response service capacity for wider implementation (65%)
- Plan wider implementation and apply for funding as required (65%)

Year 2

- Implementation and upscale of the [Northamptonshire AT Hub Model](#) (65%)
- Research and report on findings of the [Northamptonshire AT Hub Model](#)
- Implement new learning
- Continue to research, trial and implement as BAU new tech & innovations
- Implement Digital Upgrade
- Further assessment of hub capacity for full implementation
- Further assessment of response service capacity for full implementation
- Plan full implementation and apply for funding as required

Year 3

- Full Implementation of the [Northamptonshire AT Hub Model](#)
- Research and report on findings of [Northamptonshire AT Hub Model](#)
- Implement new learning
- Continue to research, trial and implement as BAU new tech & innovations
- Continue Digital Upgrade
- Review, revise and communicate 3 Year Northamptonshire AT Strategy

Appendices

Appendix 1

Our Partners

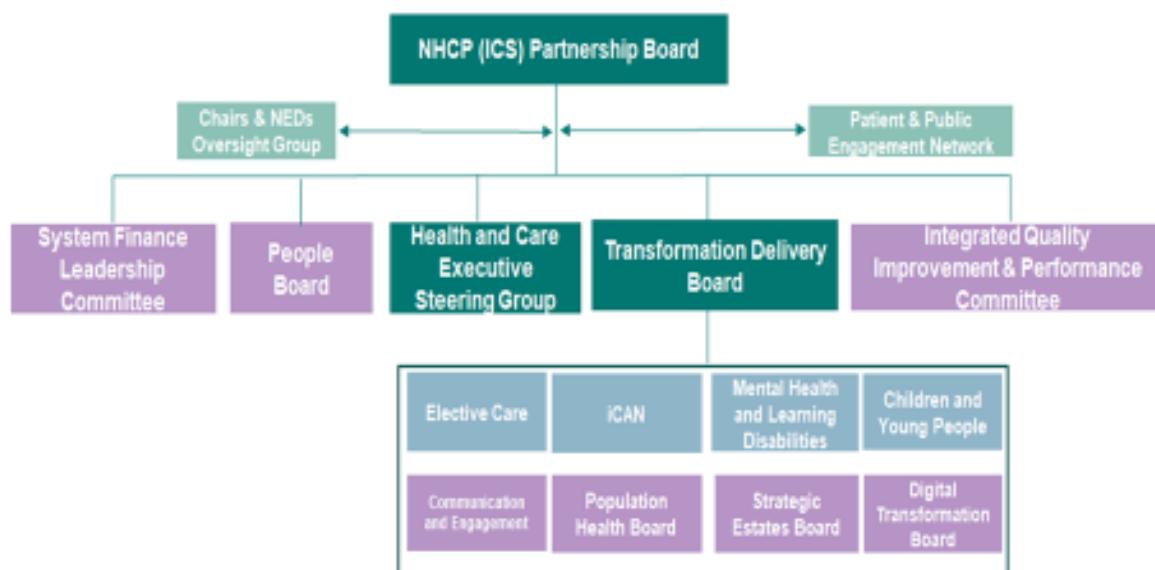
Aim to have the following partner organisations sign up to the AT Strategy;



Appendix 2

NHCP Integrated Governance

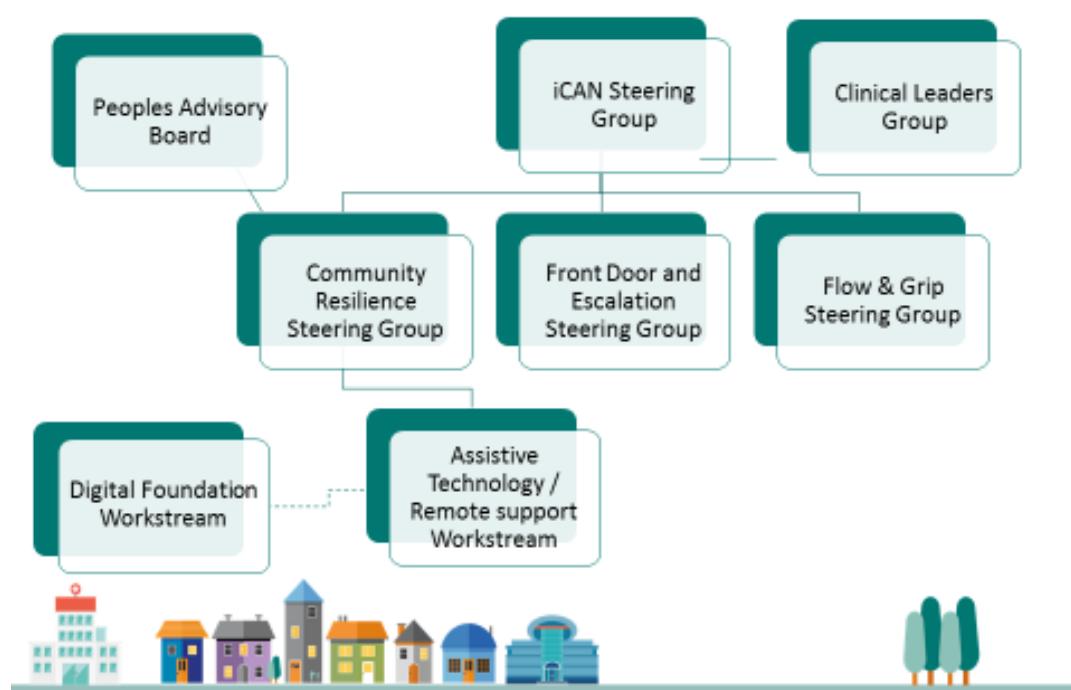
Northamptonshire
Health and Care Partnership



Appendix 3

iCAN Governance

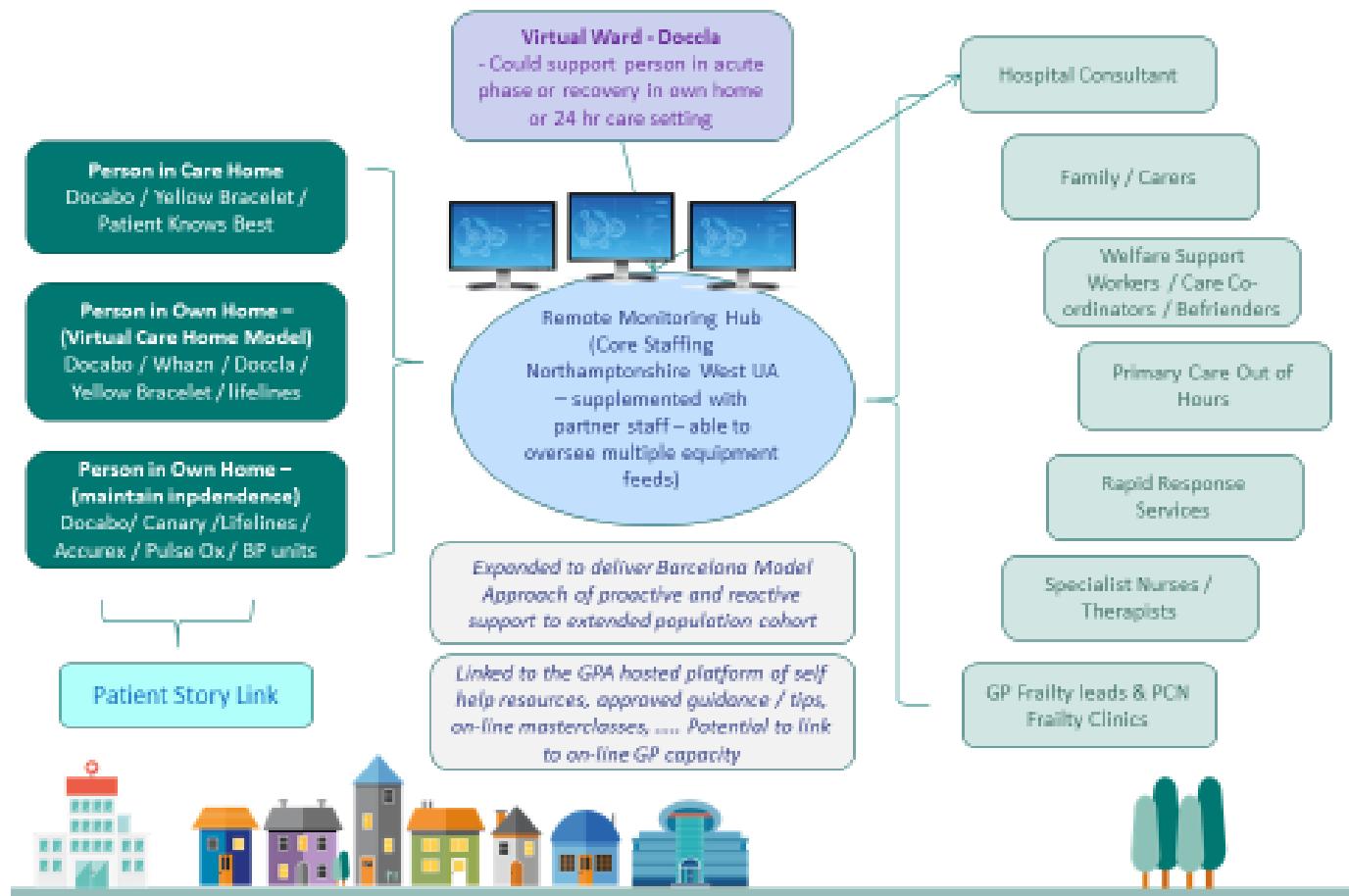
Northamptonshire
Health and Care Partnership



Appendix 4

Remote Patient Support – draft visual

Northamptonshire
Health and Care Partnership



Appendix 5

Current AT Provision Map – currently incomplete

Organisation	Service Offer	Commissioning Organisation	Provider
Assistive Technology Team	Countywide	CCG	NHFT
Call Care	Countywide	WNC	WNC
Vitalink	Corby	NNC	NNC
Grand Union Housing	South Northants	Grand Union Housing	Grand Union Housing
North Northamptonshire	Kettering	NNC	NNC
Greatwell Homes	Greatwell Homes Properties, Wellingborough	Greatwell Homes	Greatwell Homes
Longhurst Group	Longhurst Group Properties, East Northants	Longhurst Group	Longhurst Group
Beep Assist	Futures Housing, Daventry	Futures Housing Group	Futures Housing Group
Electronic Assistive Technology Service (eats)	Countywide	CCG	Lincolnshire Community Health Services, NHS
Yellow Bracelet	Countywide	CCG	CCG

Appendix 6

Current Response Provision Map – currently incomplete

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WEST NORTHAMPTONSHIRE COUNCIL CABINET

18 JANUARY 2022

**CABINET MEMBER WITH RESPONSIBILITY FOR COMMUNITY SAFETY &
ENGAGEMENT, AND REGULATORY SERVICES: COUNCILLOR DAVID
SMITH**

Report Title	Northamptonshire Domestic Abuse Strategy 2022 - 2025
Report Author	Joanne Barrett, Assistant Director Housing & Communities Joanne.barrett@westnorthants.gov.uk

Contributors/Checkers/Approvers

West MO	Catherine Whitehead	05/01/2022
West S151	Martin Henry	22/12/2021
Other Directors/Officers	Stuart Lackenby (as Chair of the West Northamptonshire Community Safety Partnership)	05/01/2022
Communications	Marie McCormack	6/01/2022

List of Appendices

Appendix A: Northamptonshire Domestic Abuse Strategy 2022 – 2025

Appendix B: Equality Impact Screening Questionnaire

1. Purpose of Report

- 1.1. To seek approval of the Northamptonshire Domestic Abuse Strategy 2021 - 2025.

2. Executive Summary

- 2.1 The Domestic Abuse Act was given Royal Assent on 29 April 2021 and for the first time places a statutory duty on Tier 1 Authorities to provide support. The Act aims to transform the response to domestic abuse to better protect and support victims and their children, as well as pursuing abusers.
- 2.2 The Act places a duty on each tier 1 local authority in England to appoint a multiagency Partnership Board to:
 - Assess the need for accommodation-based domestic abuse support for all victim-survivors in their area, including those who require cross-border support
 - Develop and publish a strategy for the provision of such support to cover their locality, having regard to the needs assessment
 - Give effect to the strategy (through commissioning/ de-commissioning decisions)
 - Monitor and evaluate the effectiveness of the strategy
 - Report back to central government
 - Require local authorities to have regard to statutory guidance in exercising their duties
- 2.3 The multi-agency Partnership Board for West Northants Council is established and the stakeholders involved in the Board have been instrumental in the development of this strategy, along with other key partners and service providers. The strategy (Appendix A) has been compiled to improve support to vulnerable people to ensure that we work together to prevent, tackle and reduce abusive behaviour and the impact it has on the children, adults and families in our county.
- 2.4 An Equality Screening Questionnaire has been completed for the strategy. This document is included as Appendix B.

3. Recommendations

- 3.1 To approve the Northamptonshire Domestic Abuse Strategy 2022-2025 for adoption and implementation by the West Northamptonshire Community Safety Partnership

3.2

4. Reason for Recommendations

- 4.1 Approval of the strategy will mean the council:
 - is compliant with the new statutory duty to publish a strategy
 - Supports a co-ordinated response to Domestic Abuse improving services and outcomes for all those affected.

5. Report Background

- 5.1 The current county-wide strategy covering both Domestic Abuse & Sexual Violence 2019-2022, was not due to expire until the end of March 2022. However, the legislative changes have introduced a requirement to review and revise the strategy.
- 5.2 In addition, there have been societal and national events that need to be considered for the refresh of the strategy.
- 5.3 The Covid-19 pandemic and lockdown restrictions put in place to reduce the spread of infection, which commenced 23 March 2020, have had a huge impact on those affected by domestic abuse. While demand for some domestic abuse services reduced initially, because of access issues, it has since returned to pre-lockdown levels and has continued to rise.
- 5.4 The murder of Sarah Everard resulted in Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary and Fire & Rescue Services (HMICFRS) producing a response to violence against women and girls. The report describes statistics on domestic abuse and violence against women and girls as evidencing 'an epidemic of violent and abusive offending against women and girls in England and Wales'. The report recommends a radical change of approach across the whole system, involving the police, criminal justice system, local authorities, health and education.
- 5.5 A separate Sexual Violence Strategy will follow and will reflect any changes in legislation.
- 5.6 Northamptonshire County Council (pre-unitary) received £100,000 funding from the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG) from the Domestic Abuse Capacity Building Fund. The funding has been allocated nationally for the purpose of preparing for the domestic abuse statutory duties arising from the new Domestic Abuse Act.
- 5.7 Northamptonshire utilised this funding to commission Red Quadrant to undertake research and deliver a report ('Northamptonshire domestic abuse accommodation and support pathway review') to establish our baseline data and qualitative information.
- 5.8 The Red Quadrant report has been utilised, alongside a refreshed Needs Assessment and further consultation with service providers and key stakeholders to produce the new strategy that has been developed for Northamptonshire.
- 5.9 The new strategy is a single document for the whole county, to reflect that many of the key stakeholders and service providers operating in this field, do so across the whole

county. Individual action plans for West Northamptonshire and North Northamptonshire will be developed to reflect any locally specific issues and opportunities.

5.10 The strategy for 2022-2025 has 5 priorities.

- Driving Change Together.
- Early Intervention and Prevention.
- Provision of Services.
- Minimising Harm.
- Justice, Recovery and ongoing protection.

5.11 The Domestic Abuse strategy has also been informed by, and will support the delivery of:

- West Northamptonshire Council Corporate Plan 2021-25
- Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Strategies for Daventry District Council, South Northants Council and Northampton Borough Council and the emerging Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Strategy for West Northants Council
- Northamptonshire Joint Health & Wellbeing Strategy 2016-20
- Local Community Safety Partnership Priorities

6. Issues and Choices

6.1.1 There is no alternative to developing this new strategy as it is a requirement of the new Domestic Abuse Act.

6.1.2 There is a requirement for Tier One local authorities to prepare strategies to provide support for victims of domestic abuse.

6.1.3 Between March 2020 and April 2021, which included the periods of lockdown there was an average of 49 incidents every day. Without a co-ordinated response to address this the numbers are likely to increase, putting more adults and children at risk of serious harm or death.

7. Implications (including financial implications)

7.1 Resources and Financial

7.1.1 Financial implications relate to the commissioning that will be required to deliver the strategy. Currently there is government funding allocated annually to deliver a response to domestic abuse and this will fund the actions set out in the strategy and subsequent action plans.

7.1.2 For 2021-22 The Council received an allocation of £765,068 against the following criteria:

- Revenue expenditure relating to the functions set out in the new statutory duty on Tier 1 Local Authorities relating to the provision of support to victims of domestic abuse and their children residing within safe accommodation
- To ensure continuity in provision, where existing domestic abuse safe accommodation support services (which are meeting a need in that area) are already commissioned, to maintain equivalent commissioned services until the needs assessments have been completed and the new strategies are in place on which future commissioning decisions can be based

7.1.3 The Council has committed some of this funding to ensure continuity of currently commissioned provision through our refuge and wraparound support providers EVE and Northamptonshire Domestic Abuse Services. The remaining funds will be allocated to support the delivery of this Strategy.

7.1.4 The Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence Partnership Board is responsible for developing and implementing the Domestic Abuse Strategy and the action plan. The Board will report to Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities (DLUHC):

- That a local Partnership Board has been established.
- Evidence a needs assessment has been conducted
- Evidence that strategies are in place and working effectively
- Evidence that commissioning is informed by the Needs Assessment and strategy
- Provide a breakdown of allocated funding

7.2 Legal

7.2.1 Part 4 of the Domestic Abuse Act 2021 places a legal duty to have a strategy in place.

7.2.2 The strategy meets our Public Sector Equality Duty under the Equality Act 2010 as it supports addressing inequality by identifying and removing barriers faced by victims with relevant protected characteristics and / or multiple complex needs.

7.3 Risk

7.3.1 There are significant risks if the strategy is not approved as this will impact on co-ordination and delivery of services and possible deaths. Those most at risk and in need of accessing services will be impacted greatly.

7.3.2 If the Council does not have a strategy in place, then they are liable to incur reputational damage and financial penalties.

7.4 Consultation

- 7.4.1 Part 4, section 57.4 of the Act states Tier One authorities must consult with the Board, Tier Two authorities within the area and such other persons as they consider appropriate, before publishing their strategy.
- 7.4.2 The organisations which sit on the North Northants and West Northants Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence Partnership Boards and the North Northants and West Northants Community Safety Partnership Boards have been extensively consulted, and changes have been incorporated into this strategy.
- 7.4.3 Such organisations include:
 - Northamptonshire Police
 - Northamptonshire Children's Trust
 - Voluntary sector organisations supporting victims
 - Clinical Commissioning Group (NHS)

7.5 Climate Impact

- 7.5.1 There are no specific climate and environmental impact that may arise from implementing the strategy. However, the provision of local refuges allows victims escaping domestic abuse to remain and receive support in their local areas, thus reducing journey times. This of course is dependent on their personal safety by staying in local refuges.

7.6 Community Impact

- 7.6.1 The new strategy should have a positive impact on the local community as it considers the needs and specific barriers of victims that may fall into more than one protected characteristic and who have complex needs.
- 7.6.2 We will be required to provide specialist safe accommodation which provide dedicated specialist support to victims with protected characteristics and/or complex needs, such as specialist refuges for BAME, LGBT, and disabled victims and their children.

8. Background Papers

None



Northamptonshire Domestic Abuse Strategy 2022-25

[Document subtitle]

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Foreword

Reducing domestic abuse and sexual violence is everyone's business.

Our ambition for North Northamptonshire and West Northamptonshire is that everyone, regardless of their gender, sexual orientation, age, disability, race, religion or belief or any other personal characteristic can live safely and experience healthy relationships without the threat of domestic abuse or sexual violence. We recognise that every person is a unique individual with their own needs and that many people face barriers to accessing support.

Utilising external funding and maximising opportunities whilst working with our wider voluntary organisations will be essential. Using an informed approach to commissioning services and being intelligence-led will ensure that the needs of the local area are met. A key part of this will be data collection and analysis alongside evaluation to determine if this strategy is delivering its objectives.

This strategy reflects what we have learnt from our needs assessment and the review of the domestic abuse accommodation and support pathways in Northamptonshire conducted on our behalf by Red Quadrant.

Stuart Lackenby

**Chair of West Northamptonshire
Community Safety Partnership**

**Deputy Chief Executive and
Executive Director for Adults, Communities
and Wellbeing (DASS)
West Northamptonshire Council**

David Watts

**Chair of North Northamptonshire
Community Safety Partnership**

**Executive Director of Adults, Communities
& Wellbeing (DASS)
North Northamptonshire Council**

Introduction

Domestic abuse is any incident or pattern of incidents of controlling, coercive or threatening behaviour, violence or abuse between those aged 16 or over who are or have been intimate partners or family members regardless of gender or sexuality. This can include but is not limited to the following types of abuse:

- physical
- emotional
- psychological
- sexual
- financial

This definition includes honour-based abuse and forced marriage and is clear that victims are not confined to one gender or ethnic group.

On 29 April 2021, a key piece of legislation relating to domestic abuse, the Domestic Abuse Act 2021, received Royal Assent. The Act has placed some statutory duties on Local Authorities which include setting up a Domestic Abuse Local Partnership Board, completing a Needs Assessment to identify gaps in support, especially for those who are in specialist domestic abuse accommodation having left an abusive relationship.

The introduction of the new statutory duties comes at an ideal time for Northamptonshire to make significant improvements in how organisations can work together to prevent and respond to domestic abuse. On 1 April 2021 the two-tier system of local government in the county was replaced by two new unitary councils: North Northamptonshire Council and West Northamptonshire Council. These new arrangements provide opportunities for strengthening governance, strategic commissioning and more joined up working across historical district/borough and county council services. Alongside the transition to the unitary councils, the increasing integration across the NHS and local government presents further potential to improve our response.

The statutory duties have provided North Northamptonshire Council and West Northamptonshire Council with the opportunity to review our existing strategy and work in collaboration with our partners, the Local Partnership Board and take on board the voices of survivors of domestic abuse to bring together our next strategic plan.

Both West Northamptonshire and North Northamptonshire have Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence Partnerships within their Community Safety Partnership structures. These are partnerships between Northamptonshire Police, West Northamptonshire Council, NHS Clinical Commissioning Group, Northamptonshire Childrens Trust, Office of the Northamptonshire Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner, Housing Providers and a number of Community and Voluntary Sector organisations.

The group works together to meet our shared priorities, defined through this strategy, on preventing and responding to domestic abuse and sexual violence.

Alongside the strategy sits the Domestic Abuse Strategic Need Assessment (completed on a countywide basis) and Action Plans will be developed for West Northamptonshire and North Northamptonshire to drive the operational delivery of our commitments.

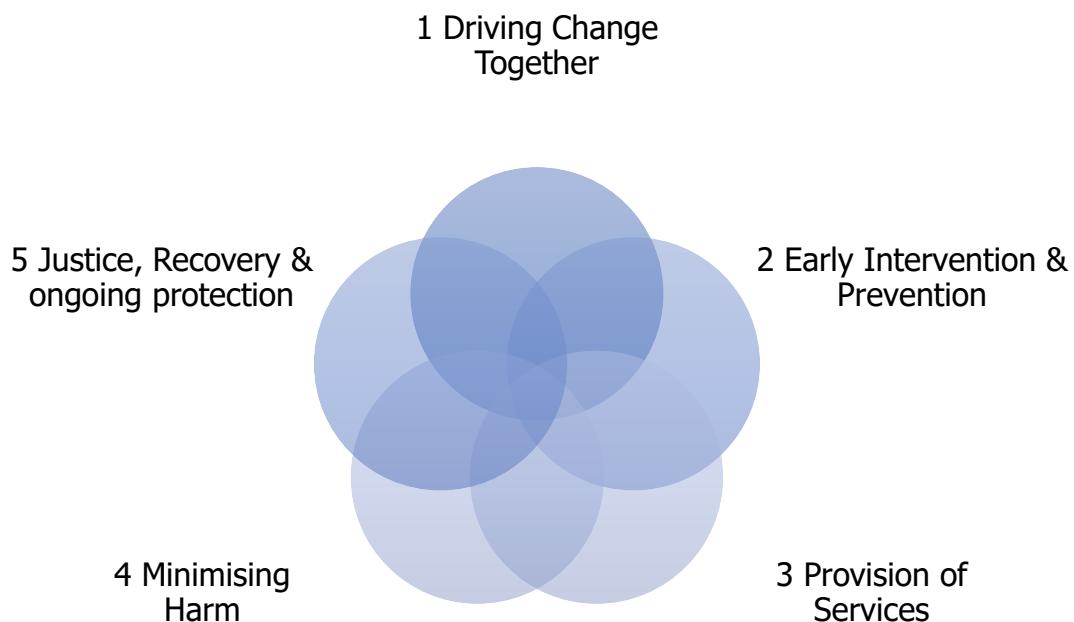
The strategic assessment brings our data together in one place and helps us understand what is working well in North and West Northamptonshire and what needs to be improved. The strategic assessment will be updated annually to a rolling timetable and will be used to inform our commissioning and action planning.

The action plans will bring together the identified commitments and actions which need to be completed to implement this strategy and will be overseen by the respective Partnership Boards who have the responsibility of ensuring progress. The strategy and action plans are intended to be 'live' documents that will evolve over time. Accordingly, each year the objectives will be evaluated each year and documents will be updated.

Commitment to change

Our aim is to reduce domestic abuse, and to ensure that where domestic abuse takes place, all those affected get the right support, quickly.

We have identified 5 priorities which are detailed further in this document.



Our strategic priorities

This strategy is constructed around five key priorities which are designed to contribute to the overall vision of the North Northamptonshire Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence Partnership Group and West Northamptonshire Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence Partnership Group. These priorities and commitments will form our key areas of work as we move forward over the next three years.

Priority One – Driving Change Together

This priority focuses on strengthening our governance processes and improving the way that we work together.

Working together with professionals from voluntary and statutory agencies to ensure an individual's or family's needs are met with effective support and shared goals and outcomes achieved.

We acknowledge that more can be done to promote integrated working across all sectors.

What did the strategic needs assessment tell us?

Varying prioritisation, accountability and practice creates inconsistency, duplication of effort and gaps in delivery. Commissioning is not strategic or coordinated. Funding for providers is fragmented, inconsistent and uncertain. Target outcomes are not consistently monitored.

The overall level of economic and social costs due to domestic abuse in Northamptonshire is estimated at £1,081m per year. £91m of these costs falls on public sector and voluntary and community sector organisations. The average costs are £37k per victim-survivor per year, of which public services incur around £4.3k.

As outlined earlier, the new unitary authorities provide opportunities to improve delivery mechanisms for integrated services and greater strategic oversight. Continuation of the Northamptonshire Against Domestic and Sexual Abuse (NADASA) Forum will be reviewed once the Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence Partnership boards are established.

Our commitment is:

- All agencies will reaffirm their commitment to working together to provide co-leadership, pool resources, take a more strategic and effective response to domestic abuse, and actively engage in meeting our collective aims and objectives, working through governance structures at an appropriate level.
- Partners will work collectively to bring together comparable, accurate and consistent data on areas such as commissioning, provision, and gap analysis in a Strategic Assessment. This information-sharing will work to strengthen our understanding around under-reporting and ensuring we learn lessons and draw out the right narratives from the evidence. Where possible we will commission research where gaps in knowledge exist.
- All agencies will ensure they participate in the Domestic Homicide Review process, and that learning from this, Rapid Reviews and Child Safeguarding Practice Reviews are proactively shared with the wider workforce.

Priority Two – Early Intervention & Prevention

This priority aims to increase the focus on early intervention and prevention.

This will be achieved through promoting better knowledge and understanding of violence and abuse, promoting healthy relationships, and early intervention for those at risk of harm.

We will encourage staff and volunteers to have professional curiosity to explore and understand what is happening more widely within a family, think about whether other services should be involved, or connections made, and not necessarily take things at face value.

We will ensure that staff and where possible, volunteers have appropriate training and supervision and are supported in their work.

We will provide effective support which will make the links to targeting wider vulnerabilities such as child exploitation, mental health, honour-based abuse and violence, gangs and substance misuse.

What did the strategic needs assessment tell us?

There is no universal understanding of the wider aspects of domestic abuse, particularly coercive control. There is a lack of confidence amongst many frontline professionals, in being able to respond appropriately to domestic abuse.

There is a need for a co-ordinated, mandated and accredited training programme for staff, professionals, commissioners and decision makers, to be embedded within all relevant agencies.

Our commitment is:

- Deliver a programme of public-facing campaigns and culturally relevant communications, which raise awareness of abuse in all its forms, how it is everyone's business and educate on how to get support from local and national services. This will be driven by data to focus on specific locations and populations.
- We want anyone affected by domestic abuse and sexual violence to know that it is ok to talk about it and where to access support - we will listen, we will give you choices, we will support you to be in control.
- Enable friends, family, and neighbours to be aware of what domestic abuse and sexual violence is and are confident to reach out to those experiencing it safely and know what services are available locally.
- We want to increase numbers of people disclosing domestic abuse to services (including demographics we believe are most underrepresented). Professionals need to be aware of services available and referral pathways to support quicker access to help that is needed.
- Ensure a wide range of support is available at the earliest opportunity which can be tailored to individual needs. This will also include during and post-abuse support offers to help rebuild lives through multi agency working.
- Working proactively with schools as prevention starts with changing attitudes. We will develop a toolkit for primary and secondary schools and deliver targeted work with children from a young age to raise their awareness, understand healthy relationships and to not tolerate unhealthy behaviour.
- Develop a comprehensive service map to maintain a clear overview of service provision, to ensure that the development of provision meets changing needs within the community and that we can quickly identify any gaps.
- We will remind employers of their duty of care and a legal responsibility to provide a safe and effective work environment. Preventing and tackling domestic abuse is an integral part of this. We will work with businesses to ensure that they have access employer toolkits and information on how to support staff members who may disclose abuse. All partner organisations on the Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence Board will be 'best in class' as an exemplar employer helping lead the way and ensuring upskilling all of the workforce.

Priority Three – Provision of Services

This priority focuses on preventing further abuse of those survivors and families who have or are experiencing abuse or are at risk.

All agencies should work together to build more responsive services which meet needs quickly.

Services will range from victim support, perpetrator programmes, child-centred approaches, couple and whole family interventions, safe accommodation options and criminal justice interventions.

Family members and co-workers, professionals, volunteers, community workers and faith leaders should all be able to recognise signs and symptoms and be able to access information and advice to assist individuals in accessing appropriate services.

When services are working with survivors, they will address both the physical and mental health needs of the individual and their family.

What did the strategic needs assessment tell us?

Total refuge provision within the county can accommodate 48 adult victim survivors and 56 children. There is minimal space for anyone with any form of mobility issue and none within the specialist refuge. None of the provision can accommodate someone with more than four children. There is limited provision for teenage boys to be accommodated with a parent in refuge. There is limited capacity for language and communication support within all specialist services. Two people who have No Recourse to Public Funds can be supported within refuge at any one time. Refuge provision within Northamptonshire is 36% below recommended capacity. 7% of households presenting as homeless do so for reasons of domestic abuse and most are housed in temporary accommodation rather than refuge. There is limited capacity for specialist outreach to support those housed outside of refuge.

Most victim-survivors prefer to remain safe in their own homes. However, arrangements to ensure this are inconsistent across landlords and target-hardening budgets are often underspent.

There are variations in approach and support for refuge residents seeking to move on. Complications result in long stays and exacerbate shortages taking up spaces which are no longer needed. Support for resettlement is patchy and not strategically commissioned.

Our commitment is:

- The commissioning and provision of services will be informed by the views of those who have been affected by domestic abuse or are at significant risk of it.
- To map the investment in services to accommodate and support those affected by domestic abuse across the public sector and explore the potential for pooled budgets across organisations.
- Commission across the partnership to meet the diversity and emerging needs of client groups, and ensure clear signposting and referral mechanisms, particularly for addressing minority or complex needs and supporting those with multiple vulnerabilities.

- All partners will work together to ensure staff and volunteers understand the landscape of domestic abuse provision, using and referring to services effectively. This includes understanding the thresholds for referring to Children's and Adults' Services are well understood and applied and when it may be appropriate to refer to other service provision.
- Understand the needs of those who need access to safe accommodation and ensure a wide range of safe accommodation options are available for victims, survivors, and their children, both those within West Northamptonshire and whose original residence was located out of county. MHCLG define Relevant and Safe Accommodation as:
 - Refuge accommodation
 - Specialist safe accommodation for BAME, LGBTQ+, and disabled victims and their children
 - Dispersed Accommodation
 - Sanctuary Schemes
 - Move-on and second stage accommodation
 - Other forms of domestic abuse emergency accommodation

Priority Four – Minimising Harm

Minimising harm is about making sure that services are accessible and meet the needs of everyone and recognising the barriers to reporting. We will learn from past experiences and improve services.

This priority is also about the support which may be needed to come to terms with what has happened and to manage the longer-term consequences of domestic abuse. Support comes in many forms and can include educational support services, housing support, outreach and advocacy services and improving access to more specialist psychological interventions.

When services are working with survivors, they will address both the physical and mental health needs of the individual and their family.

What did the strategic needs assessment tell us?

The five Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conferences (MARAC) are viewed positively. However, cases can take too long to be referred (three months compared to a benchmark of two weeks) and MARAC case numbers are relatively high. With 40% of MARAC cases being repeat, this is the upper limit recommended by SafeLives and far higher than the national average of 33% of cases being repeats.

The Multi Agency Daily Risk Assessment (MADRA) process is in place to strengthen child safeguarding. However, pre-school aged children are less visible than school age children due to the closure of Children's Centres. There is no similar process for adults, particularly those without children, creating a risk for those who do not meet the MARAC threshold.

During 2020-21 of almost 9,000 social care assessments completed, 40% had 'Domestic Violence' recorded as a factor of concern.

The Youth Offending Service assessed that 44% of young people had evidence of family behavioural or situation concerns, which can include domestic abuse. Of these, 23% also had gang associations identified. Of those without assessed concerns, only 10% had gang associations identified.

There is some individual support to children within refuge and in the community, but it is not available consistently across the county. During 2020-21, 31 children were supported while in refuge and 40 within the community. Over recent years not all providers have been funded to offer children's programmes but some will start these again in early 2022.

Our commitment is:

- We will work with the community to strengthen community capacity to support those who have experienced domestic abuse.
- We recognise that domestic abuse may impact in the longer term. We will continue to develop longer term support mechanisms using the voice of those affected to shape provision.
- All agencies will consider transitional safeguarding issues for adolescents and young people who are exposed to, or are perpetrating, domestic abuse, to ensure there is no disconnect between services for children and adults.
- All agencies will review service provision and support to survivors from minority groups, focusing on understanding and reducing barriers to reporting, how best to reach and engage with minority groups and ensure that support meets need.
- Local Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conferences will be used effectively to reduce repeat victimisation. Partners, children, and family members will be supported and included in these programmes and their voices will be heard.
- We will continue to develop and deliver practices and interventions, based on the latest research and best practice, to effectively address harmful, violent, and abusive behaviour within different contexts.

Priority Five – Justice, Recovery, and Ongoing Protection

This priority focuses on reducing the impact of domestic abuse and reducing the likelihood of future incidents, whether through pursuing perpetrators through the criminal justice system, via civil outcomes, through working with families to change behaviour or through rehabilitation.

All agencies should recognise that the harmful and violent behaviour of perpetrators needs to be addressed.

All agencies must recognise that approaches to domestic abuse are changing and be open to innovation and new ways of working.

What did the strategic needs assessment tell us?

Fifty domestic crimes and incidents were reported to the Police in Northamptonshire daily during 2020-21. For 2019-20 Police data recorded an average of 32% cases as 'Repeat Victims'. 40% of cases heard at Northants MARAC were repeat cases. This is the upper limit recommended by the national domestic abuse organisation SafeLives and far higher than the national average of 33% of cases being repeats.

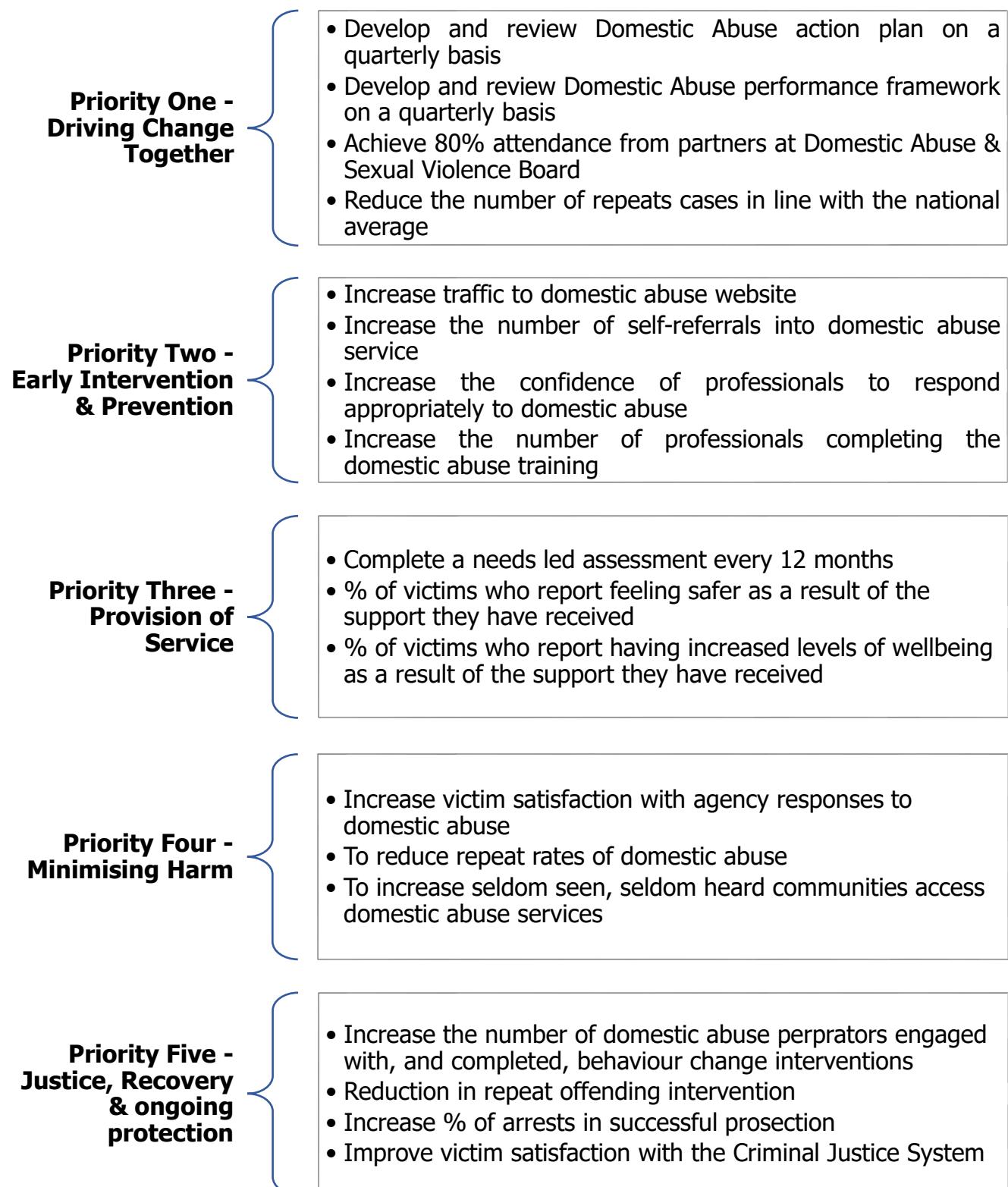
Big Lottery funding has enabled the delivery of the Evolve programme for perpetrators to work on behavioural change. There is no alternative provision for addressing perpetrator behaviour.

Further investigation is needed in relation to the available legal tools and powers to monitor awareness of access to and appropriate use.

Our commitment is:

- Focused protection, support, and information
- will be available for all survivors throughout the Criminal Justice System process. All agencies should ensure that the survivors' voice is heard throughout these processes and used to improve and enhance service provision.
- All agencies will work together to ensure that there is a robust approach to perpetrators. This will include understanding the behaviour of the perpetrator, supporting interventions.
- We will support individuals and families through a whole system, criminal justice journey from arrest through to prosecution and beyond to ensure the timely, meaningful delivery of justice and work to reduce further harm and provide sustainable outcomes.
- Ensure staff and volunteers understand the legal tools available, and how they can be put in place quickly and effectively.

Performance Framework



Achieving our priorities – How will we deliver?

This strategy is intended to be an overarching document setting out a common understanding and commitment from key partners to address domestic abuse and sexual violence across Northamptonshire. Accountability for this strategy sits with the West Northamptonshire and North Northamptonshire Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence Boards.

This strategy will be supported by a place based joint action plan agreed to and championed by each partner within the North Northamptonshire Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence Partnership and West Northamptonshire Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence Partnership and signed off by these Partnerships. Actions developed will be directly linked to our identified outcomes and commitments.

Below this each partner will choose whether to develop bespoke individual action plans to capture the actions that they, as an organisation will have responsibility for. Each agency will ensure that they have effective inspection mechanisms in place.

Feedback from those who use interventions and services will form a vital part of service development, our commissioning, and our monitoring procedures. We will work to ensure that the voice of survivors, of families affected by domestic abuse and of perpetrators who have interacted with our services informs and continually improves our provision.

The Partnership Group will provide annual monitoring reports to the North Northamptonshire Community Safety Partnership, West Northamptonshire Community Safety Partnership and safeguarding boards across Northamptonshire children's and adults services, setting out progress against our outcomes and identified commitments.

The strategy, strategic assessment and joint action plan will be regularly reviewed by the West Northamptonshire and North Northamptonshire Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence Partnership Groups.

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Equality Screening Assessment

The Equality Screening Assessment form must be completed to evidence what impact the proposal may have on equality groups within our community or workforce. Any proposal that results in a negative impact must have a full Equality Impact Assessment completed before approval is sought.

1: Proposal

Requirement	Detail
Title of proposal	Domestic Abuse Strategy
Type of proposal: New policy / change to policy / new service / change to service / removal of service / project / event	Adoption of a new Domestic Abuse Strategy, replacing the previous Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence Strategy 2019-2022.
What is the objective of this proposal?	To fulfil our statutory duties under Part 4, Section 5,1, b of the Domestic Abuse Support Act 2021: 57. Support provided by local authorities to victims of domestic abuse (1) Each relevant local authority in England must— (b) prepare and publish a strategy for the provision of such

Requirement	Detail
	<p>support in its area, and</p> <p>The strategy will clearly set out an agreed approach to addressing the barriers identified to ensure all victims are able to access the support they need when they need it.</p>
<p>Has there been any consultation on this proposal? (list all the groups/ communities, including dates)</p>	<p>Yes, as per part 4, Section 4</p> <p>4) Before publishing a strategy under this section, a relevant local authority must consult—</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) the domestic abuse local partnership board appointed by the relevant local authority under section 58, (b) any local authority for an area within the relevant local authority's area, and (c) such other persons as the relevant local authority considers appropriate <p>Discussed at Domestic Abuse & Sexual Violence Partnership Board 23/11/21 (held workshop) & 21/12/21</p> <p>To be circulated to the Community Safety Partnership electronically.</p>
<p>Did the consultation on this proposal highlight any positive or negative impact on protected groups? (if yes, give details)</p>	<p>Comments from workshop on 23/11/21 have been incorporated and a decision made for a separate Sexual Violence Strategy to follow at a later date. This will ensure that greater regard is given to the differing types of abuse, victims/ survivors and specific groups affected by these crimes.</p>

Requirement	Detail
What processes are in place to monitor and review the impact of this proposal?	<p>The Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence Partnership Board is responsible for developing and implementing the Domestic Abuse Strategy and the action plan. They will report to Department of Levelling Up, Housing and Communities (DLUHC) that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A local Partnership Board has been established. • Evidence a needs assessment • Evidence that strategies are in place and working effectively • Evidence that commissioning is informed by the needs assessment and strategy • Provide a Breakdown of allocated funding <p>The board will also report to the West Northants Community Safety Board.</p>
Who will approve this proposal? Committee, CLT	Strategy is to be presented to Executive Committee on 13th January 2022.

2: Equality Consideration

Consider in turn each protected group to ensure we meet our legal obligations of the Equality Act (2010).

Protected Groups	General Equality Duty Considerations:	Changes	Impact
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Include factual evidence of how some people in this group may be affected. • Consider the outcomes and processes. • Does this seek to eliminate discrimination? • Does this promote fostering good relations? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What changes can be made to mitigate any negative impact. • Are there opportunities to remove possible barriers or disadvantages that a group may face. 	Delete as appropriate. There can be more than one answer per protected group.
Age	The Needs Assessment for this strategy, identified a broad range of ages, from pre-birth to 84yrs who have needed to access domestic abuse services.	Action plan will focus on more consistent data collection between statutory agencies,	Positive

Protected Groups	General Equality Duty Considerations:	Changes	Impact
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Include factual evidence of how some people in this group may be affected. Consider the outcomes and processes. Does this seek to eliminate discrimination? Does this promote fostering good relations? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> What changes can be made to mitigate any negative impact. Are there opportunities to remove possible barriers or disadvantages that a group may face. 	Delete as appropriate. There can be more than one answer per protected group.
Different age groups that may be affected by the proposal in different ways.	Northampton General Hospital IDVA's (Independent Domestic Violence Advisors) reported referrals for those aged 16-84yrs. Refuge provision includes a number of placements for parents with children.	<p>providers and other partners, to improve understanding of need and barriers of specific groups.</p> <p>Action plan will target awareness raising to improve identification of the issue and those at risk, among all age groups and also identify needs for specific provision and access to this.</p>	
Sex Is one sex affected more than another or are they affected the same?	<p>Statistically women are disproportionately more affected by DA than men. 94% of those supported by the Sunflower Centre (high risk victims) in 2020-2021 were female. Therefore, these services will proportionately have a more positive impact on females.</p> <p>Whilst males are affected by domestic abuse, provision of services is very limited. Within county, there are 3 of the 20 male refuge spaces within England.</p>	<p>Action plan will focus on more consistent data collection between statutory agencies, providers and other partners, to improve understanding of need and barriers.</p>	Positive Neutral
Disability It is likely to have an affect on a particular type of disability? why?	Those with a disability may be more vulnerable to being victims of abuse. 34% of those in refuge in 2020-21 reported having a disability but there is	Action plan will focus on more consistent data collection between statutory agencies,	Positive

Protected Groups	General Equality Duty Considerations: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Include factual evidence of how some people in this group may be affected. Consider the outcomes and processes. Does this seek to eliminate discrimination? Does this promote fostering good relations? 	Changes <ul style="list-style-type: none"> What changes can be made to mitigate any negative impact. Are there opportunities to remove possible barriers or disadvantages that a group may face. 	Impact Delete as appropriate. There can be more than one answer per protected group.
	very limited provision of refuge accommodation for those with any form of mobility need. The strategy aims to remove barriers for those accessing services	providers and other partners, to improve understanding of need and barriers.	
Gender Reassignment Will there be an impact on trans males and/or trans females?	The Needs Assessment for the Strategy has identified that this is a knowledge gap and further work will follow. This activity supports improving services for this protected group	Action plan will focus on more consistent data collection between statutory agencies, providers and other partners, to improve understanding of need and barriers.	Positive
Race Are people from one ethnic group affected more than people from another ethnic group?	Migrant victims who experience domestic abuse, will include those who have 'no recourse to public funds' (NRPF), which is a further barrier to accessing refuge and services. We are in the process of gathering data on the need for and take up of services from women and families with NRPF and access to move on accommodation, to ensure there is a through-flow of spaces for funded support. We are aware that we have no data on the prevalence of domestic abuse among Gypsy,	Action plan will focus on more consistent data collection between statutory agencies, providers and other partners, to improve understanding of need and barriers.	Positive

Protected Groups	General Equality Duty Considerations: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Include factual evidence of how some people in this group may be affected. Consider the outcomes and processes. Does this seek to eliminate discrimination? Does this promote fostering good relations? 	Changes <ul style="list-style-type: none"> What changes can be made to mitigate any negative impact. Are there opportunities to remove possible barriers or disadvantages that a group may face. 	Impact Delete as appropriate. There can be more than one answer per protected group.
	Roma and Traveller communities, and other minoritised communities who are likely to be under-represented in statistics on access to legal remedies to stop or prevent abuse and to and support services.		
Sexual Orientation Are people of one sexual orientation affected differently to people of another sexual orientation?	Domestic abuse can happen to anyone regardless of sexual orientation and there is limited data in obtaining the accurate prevalence. There are no official figures of domestic abuse in those identifying themselves as other than heterosexual. Research suggests rates of under-reporting are between 60-80% (Galop, 2020) which is consistent with the national underreporting rate of 79% according to the Office for National Statistics (2018)	Action plan will focus on more consistent data collection between statutory agencies, providers and other partners, to improve understanding of need and barriers.	Positive
Marriage & Civil Partnership Are people in a Marriage or Civil Partnership treated less favourably?	For the year ending March 2019, the Crime Survey for England and Wales (CSEW) showed that adults aged 16 to 74 years who were separated or divorced were more likely to have experienced domestic abuse than those who were married or civil partnered, cohabiting, single or widowed	Action plan will focus on more consistent data collection between statutory agencies, providers and other partners, to improve understanding of need and barriers.	Positive

Protected Groups	General Equality Duty Considerations: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Include factual evidence of how some people in this group may be affected. • Consider the outcomes and processes. • Does this seek to eliminate discrimination? • Does this promote fostering good relations? 	Changes <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What changes can be made to mitigate any negative impact. • Are there opportunities to remove possible barriers or disadvantages that a group may face. 	Impact Delete as appropriate. There can be more than one answer per protected group.
Pregnancy & Maternity Are people who are pregnant, or have a baby of 6 months or less, affected by this proposal?	Evidence supports that pregnancy or recently having a child increases the risk of domestic abuse, and a significant proportion of women are first abused during pregnancy. More than 320,000 women are abused by their partners during pregnancy each year	The action plan will include promoting campaigns and signposting to support services to increase awareness to groups highlighted as being at risk.	Positive
Religion or Belief Does the proposal affect people differently depending on whether they have or do not have a religion or a belief?	The Needs Assessment highlighted the gap in this data set, we know that 'Honour Based Violence' & abuse affects certain religious groups. This would be part of work going forward to collate this.	The action plan to deliver the strategy will include activity to obtain data and increase awareness on the support available	Positive
Health & Wellbeing 1. Health behaviours: diet, exercise, alcohol, smoking. 2. Support: community cohesion, rural isolation. 3. Socio economic: income, education. 4. Environment: green spaces, fuel poverty, housing standards)	The Strategy will ensure there is alignment to other Strategies (Health & Wellbeing, Community Safety Partnership) and through the Board will co-ordinate activity and commissioning. Of the 1,274 presenting as homeless in the county for January-March 2020 there were 92 (7%) citing domestic abuse as the reason. There is a gap in data for people who may be involved in sex work or modern slavery.	The work delivered around the strategy will provide a greater understanding of the barriers experienced by marginalised groups and the action plan can begin to address these, making services more inclusive.	Positive

3: Equality Impact

Question	Response
What overall impact does the proposal have on the protected groups? If a negative impact is identified in section 2, the response will be a Negative Impact.	Positive Impact
Does a Equality Impact Assessment need to be completed? (Yes, if any negative impact is found)	No
Copy attached to Committee Report?	Not required
Copy attached to Options Appraisal?	Not required

4: Ownership

Question	Response
Department	Adults, Communities & Wellbeing
Section	Housing & Communities
Lead Officers Name	Joanne Barrett
Lead Officers Title	Assistant Director: Housing & Communities
Lead Officers Contact Details	Joanne.Barrett@westnorthants.gov.uk 01327 322369 07794 249203
Lead Officers Signature	<i>J. Barrett</i>
Date completed	20 December 2021