



West Northamptonshire Health and Wellbeing Board

A meeting of the West Northamptonshire Health and Wellbeing Board will be held at the Maybin Room, One Angel Square, Angel Street, Northampton, NN1 1DN on Tuesday 15 November 2022 at 3.00 pm

Agenda

1.	Apologies for Absence and Notification of Substitute Members
2.	Notification of Requests to Address the Meeting The Chairman to advise whether any requests have been received to address the meeting.
3.	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.
4.	Chair's Announcements To receive communications from the Chair.
5.	Minutes from previous meeting 8th September (Pages 5 - 16)
6.	Action Log (Pages 17 - 18)
7.	Integrated Care System PLACE development (Pages 19 - 74) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Integrated Care Partnerships Strategy • Local Area Partnerships – pioneer sites

8.	Health Inequalities Funding (Verbal Report)
9.	West Northamptonshire Housing Strategy (Pages 75 - 110)
10.	Combating Drug Partnership (Verbal Report)
11.	Northamptonshire Safeguarding Childrens Partnership Annual Report (Pages 111 - 140)

Catherine Whitehead
Proper Officer
7 November 2022

West Northamptonshire Health and Wellbeing Board Members:

Councillor Matt Golby (Chair)

Chief Superintendent Ashley Tuckley

Councillor Fiona Baker

Alan Burns

Anna Earnshaw

Colin Foster

Stuart Lackenby

Toby Sanders

Neelam Aggarwal

Jean Knight

Councillor Wendy Randall

Wendy Patel

Dr Philip Stevens

Sally Burns

Councillor Jonathan Nunn

Dr Jonathan Cox

Naomi Eisenstadt

Assistant Chief Fire Officer Dr Shaun Hallam

Russell Rolph

Colin Smith

Michael Jones

Dr Andy Rathbone

Professor Jacqueline Parkes

Nicci Marzec

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 Cheryl Bird, Health and Wellbeing Board Business Manager via the following:

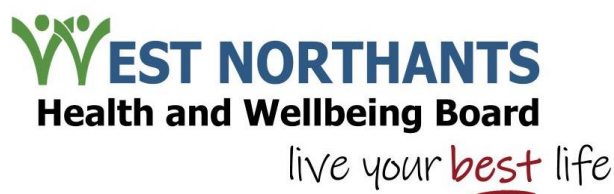
Tel: 0300 126 3000

Email: Cheryl.Bird@northnorthants.gov.uk

Or by writing to:

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

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WEST NORTHAMPTONSHIRE HEALTH & WELLBEINGBOARD
Minutes of the meeting held on 8th September 2022 at 1.00 pm
Venue: Francis Crick House, Moulton Park, Northampton, NN3 6BF

Present:

Councillor Matthew Golby (Chair)	Cabinet Member for Adults, Health and Wellbeing, West Northamptonshire Council
Sally Burns	Interim Director of Public Health, West Northants Council
Anna Earnshaw	Chief Executive, West Northants Council
Naomi Eisenstadt	Chair Designate, Northamptonshire Integrated Care Board
Colin Foster	Chief Executive, Northamptonshire Childrens Trust
Michael Jones	Divisional Director, EMAS
Jean Knight	Chief Operating Officer, Northamptonshire Healthcare Foundation Trust
Stuart Lackenby	Deputy Chief Executive, Director for Adult Social Services, West Northants Council
Professor Jacqueline Parkes	Professor in Applied Mental Health, University of Northampton
Wendy Patel	Healthwatch Northamptonshire
Cllr Wendy Randall	Opposition Leader, West Northants Council
Russell Rolph	Chief Executive, Voluntary Impact Northamptonshire
Toby Sanders	Chief Executive, Northamptonshire Clinical Commissioning Group
Dr Santiago Dargallonieto	Chair, Northampton GP Locality Board
Colin Smith	Chief Executive, Northamptonshire Local Medical Committee
Dr Philip Stevens	Chair, Daventry and South Northants GP Locality

Also, Present

Cheryl Bird, Health and Wellbeing Board Business Manager

Katie Brown, Assistant Director Safeguarding and Wellbeing Services, West Northamptonshire Council
Dionne Mayhew, Director of Communications, Northamptonshire Healthcare Foundation Trust
Vicki Rockall joined via Teams, Head of Community Safety and Engagement, West Northamptonshire Council
Ashley Le Duc, Assistant Director Quality and Performance, West Northamptonshire Council
Rhosyn Harris, Consultant in Public Health, West Northamptonshire Council

29/22 Apologies

Chris Kiernan, Director of Childrens Services, West Northants Council
Dr Andy Rathborne, Primary Care Network
Assistant Chief Constable Ashley Tuckley, Northamptonshire Police
Alan Burns, Chair University Group of Hospitals, Northamptonshire
Neelam Aggarwal-Singh, BAME representative
Cllr Fiona Baker, Cabinet Member for Children, West Northamptonshire Council
Dr Shaun Hallam, Assistant Chief Fire Officer, Northants Fire and Rescue
Michael Jones, Divisional Director, EMAS
Dr Philip Stevens, Chair Daventry and South North Locality Board
Dr David Smart, Chair Northampton Health and Wellbeing Forum
Nicci Marzec, Director of Prevention, Office of Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner

30/22 Notification of requests from members of the public to address the meeting

None received.

31/22 Declaration of members' interests

None received.

32/22 Chairman's Announcements

As part of the ongoing work to support delivery of PLACE the Board are asked to endorse as Board members, Nicci Marzec, representative from the Office of Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner and Dr David Smart as Chair of the Northampton Health and Wellbeing Forum.

There are some changes to Board membership:

- Wendy Patel is replacing Professor Will Pope as the Healthwatch Northamptonshire to the Board
- Dr Santiago Dargallonieto is replacing Dr Darin Seiger as the Northampton Locality Board.
- Professor Jacqueline Parkes will be replacing Nick Petford as the University of Northampton representatives.

RESOLVED that: representatives from the following organisations are co-opted to membership of the Board:

- **Office of Police Fire Crime Commissioner**
- **Chair of the Northampton Health and Wellbeing Forum**

33/22 Minutes from the Previous meeting 7th June 2022

RESOLVED that: minutes from the previous meeting held on the 7th June 2022 were agreed as an accurate record.

34/22 Action Log

The Board reviewed the actions from the previous meeting:

- The Prevention Concordat be circulated to the Board. **Completed, this has been circulated to the Board.**
- The detailed spend for individual DFG grants be circulated to the Board. **The Director of People to follow up this action with Chris Stopford.**

35/22 Better Care Fund 2022/2023

The Chair advised Health and Wellbeing Boards have a statutory duty to endorse a Local Better Care Fund (BCF) Plan before submission. The Assistant Director Quality and Performance and Chief Executive West Northants Council gave the Board an overview Northamptonshire BCF Plan 2022/2023 and highlighted the following:

- The Integrated Care Across Northamptonshire (iCAN) collaborative is being brought into the joint funding arrangements.
- NHS England requested some changes be made to the BCF plan, which are currently being actioned. These were around evidence for the aspirations about reducing hospital admissions and reducing length of stay in hospital. The metrics are to be included from when we started and what the numbers are, also inequalities in the core 20+ national plan to be referenced specifically in the plan.
- The current plan does not include Age Well funding as this is paid directly to GPs, but the iCAN is aligned to Age Well and included as part of the discussion about future plan for the Age Well Programme. The Age Well funding could underpin work in the iCAN collaborative.
- The aim of this plan is provide better outcomes for people, focusing on improvements with hospital discharge pathways, becoming smoother which will provide better outcomes for people and the provide the ability to remain independent for longer
- The Northamptonshire BCF arrangements have historically been a transactional relationship between partners, by combining the iCAN Collaborative and BCF there will be a genuine pooling of resources.

The Board discussed the item and the following was noted:

- Northamptonshire is an outlier for stranded and super stranded patients and there is a need to keep a clear focus on the discharge work. A core purpose of this Board is to consider how the BCF can help address those challenges.
- The BCF as a mechanism to drive change and there are performance indicators that outline our aspirations on preventative work and to address the issue with hospital discharges.
- When the BCF end of year performance report is presented to the Board, there is a need to understand why metrics may not have been met and to challenge schemes that may be underperforming to assess whether they are still suitable in order to drive improvement.
- Primary Care Networks (PCNs) need to have more occupational therapists.
- Age Well has been very successful in stopping crisis escalating at the time of referral.

RESOLVED that the Board:

- a) **Give delegated authority once the agreed amendments are made and reviewed by NHS England to the Chair and Director of People to sign off the BCF Plan on behalf of the Board.**
- b) **Agreed for an agenda item at the next meeting to discuss the current position, including data, the impact on schemes and what more could be completed.**
- c) **Note that detailed plans have been submitted to NHS England for moderation.**
- d) **Note that West Northamptonshire Council and North Northamptonshire Council have undertaken a review of the schemes to better align the BCF to the Integrated Care Across Northamptonshire (iCAN) programme and these proposals have been agreed with Northamptonshire Integrated Care Board.**
- e) **Note that the mechanism for paying the iCAN delivery partner will be via the BCF pool, however the funding of those payments will need to be matched by corresponding income from constituent partners to pay the delivery partner against agreed milestones.**

36/22 Health Equality Grant

The Chief Executive of Voluntary Impact Northamptonshire (VIN) gave an overview of the Health Equality Grant and highlighted the following:

- VIN has been working closely with NHS Voluntary Partnerships Team and the National Lottery to secure an Integrated Care System (ICS) health equality grant of £448k for Northamptonshire over the next 3 years, with the aim to embed the voluntary sector into the ICS.
- VIN is the broker and project manager of the grant, and the grant will be ran by an oversight group comprising of voluntary sector statutory organisations.
- The grant will enable the voluntary sector to work more closely with the Directors of PLACE in West and North Northamptonshire Councils, and to complete more engagement with communities where voluntary sector input is required.
- NHS guidance suggests there should be a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between the ICS and voluntary sector which highlights a series of responsibilities in the way we communicate with each other.
- This grant will be presented to the NHS Northamptonshire Integrated Care Board at a future date.
- This grant will make a huge difference with the support the voluntary can give the emerging Local Area Partnerships (LAPs), and contains funding to mobilise the voluntary sector to help engage with communities
- The Outcomes Framework should not only be driven by data, but also include lived experiences told to the voluntary by local communities.
- The measure of social return on investment is still to be developed, with a process of social auditing or accounting to be adopted by the voluntary sector and statutory partners.
- The Community Engagement Framework, is not just about asking the question it is also so what happens next. LAPs will be able to tailor services for communities and there is a try to analyse the social impact these services created.
- Thanks were extended to Julie Curtis, Sally Burns and Katie Brown for their support with in negotiating with the National Lottery.

The Board discussed the item and the following was noted:

- There is an ambition within the emerging Outcomes framework for people to be accepted and valued for who they are, which will be difficult to measure, it is important collectively to work out how this can be achieved.
- Professor Richard Hazenberg is Director of the Institute of Social Impact and Innovation Measurement at the University of Northampton and be useful.
- The MoU is not explicit in who the parties involved are. NHS Northamptonshire ICB will be a formal signatory to this grant.
- Thanks were given to the Chief Executive, VIN for securing the grant.

RESOLVED that:

- **Jacqueline Parkes to send the Chief Executive, VIN the contact for Professor Richard Hazenberg.**
- **Endorse the Health Equality Grant Memorandum of Understanding and become signatory to the grant.**

37/22 NHS Northamptonshire Integrated Care Board update

The Chair and Chief Executive of NHS Northamptonshire ICB gave an update and highlighted the following:

- There is a new Secretary of State for Health and Social Care who has outlined their key priorities as:
 - ambulance,
 - backlog
 - care
 - dentistry
 - doctors
- The difficulty within the work of the ICB is political pressure in seeing improvement quickly, compared to the longer term work needed to create partnerships and joint working need for the prevention agenda. Although urgent work is needed it should not be at the cost of preventative work to reduce demand on health and social care services in future years.
- There are some big challenges around production of the Outcomes Framework, and the ICB 5 year plan.

A suggestion was made to invite the new attorney general to these meetings in order to convey the pressures Northamptonshire will face this winter and to galvanise support to implement the changes needed.

RESOLVED that:

- **ICB update be removed as a standing agenda item for future meetings.**
- **The Chair, Director of People and Leader of West Northamptonshire Council to discuss inviting the new Attorney General to Board meetings.**
- **The Board noted the update.**

38/22 Outcomes Framework

The Consultant in Public Health gave an overview of the development of the Outcomes Framework (OF) and highlighted the following:

- There is a need to have a longer term view on what we want to achieve in preventing some of the increasing demand on our services by focusing on the wider determinants of

health by shaping our environments to be healthier and help communities to be more resilient and thrive.

- The OF will look at the wider determinants of health by using the 'Live Your Best Life' 10 ambitions, with each ambition linked to priority outcomes that need to be worked on as a partnership over the next 10-15 years.
- Sitting under the OF will it more detailed scorecards to show more narrative to help shape outcomes, each with a named executive director leads.
- The ambition we have struggled to get outcomes for is the timely access to health and social care.
- The PLACE Directorate have provided feedback on the metrics they would like to see in the OF.

The Board discussed the Outcomes framework, and the following was noted:

- Some of the measures are about service access which is not an outcome.
- Education should be part of children and young people, with schools needing to take more social responsibility for outcomes for children and young people.
- NHS Northamptonshire ICB will need a clear framework for where to invest and agree corporate outcomes that we all contribute to.
- It would be beneficial to have 5-10 indicators for each outcome, where data can be matched data to show the current position for the county and PLACES.
- There is a need to focus on the 5 indicators that can make a difference for local people as soon as possible.
- There is gap in outcomes for children's mental health, metrics need to be included to identify what is causing the rise in mental health related conditions in children and young people, particularly with eating disorders.
- Looked after children need to be included as they fit into every grouping.
- How do we evidence the wider community investment and role of schools?
- Need to liaise Early Help Partnership Board, which reports to the Children and Young People (CYP) Collaborative, and Safeguarding Childrens Board and are developing a set of metrics.
- Access to a poor service is not a good outcome.
- The input needs to be structured and be clear about requirements in order to achieve the outcomes.
- There are 1370 voluntary sector organisations in West Northamptonshire, 76 sit in thematic assembly for Children and Young People and not part of the CYP collaborative.
- The indicators used to populate the draft outcomes framework were compiled following engagement with partners and to influence activity moving forwards. At the NHS Northamptonshire ICB workshop, these will be discussed to if these are right and which are the ones could be elevated to have a priority focus.

RESOLVED that:

- **The Consultant in Public Health to look at metrics for mental health related conditions for children and young people**
- **Change 'health assessments' to read initial health assessments and review health assessments.**
- **Add looked after children to the Outcomes Framework**
- **Endorse the first iteration of the ICP Outcomes Framework to present for approval to the Integrated Care Partnership.**

39/22 Joint Strategic Needs Assessment Summary

The consultant in Public Health gave an overview of the Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (JSNA) summary and highlighted the following:

- The summary identifies challenges in the West and North of Northamptonshire.
- Two of the challenges for West Northamptonshire is access to green space and air quality.
 - A large proportion of the West Northamptonshire population is located in areas where access to green space is poor.
 - Air quality management areas are likely to increase due to increase in nitrogen dioxide levels. Changing air quality needs the input not just from the highways team but the wider public and voluntary sector.
- Local insight data will be available online and members of public can view metrics within boundary areas.
- The next re-iteration of the JSNA summary will include local area plans.

The Board discussed the JSNA summary and the following was noted:

- Local Insight data will be good for looking at fuel poverty as this contains measures for energy efficiency in domestic buildings, which can be linked to Anti Poverty Strategy and energy efficiency work in areas of higher deprivation.
- If the data highlights the quality of some of our properties is poor, then how this can be addressed in the short, medium and long term can be addressed in the Housing Strategy.

RESOLVED that the Board endorsed publication of the Integrated Care Partnership JSNA summary.

40/22 Integrated Care Partnership Strategy

The Assistant Director Safeguarding and Wellbeing Services provided an update on the Integrated Care Partnership (ICP) Strategy and highlighted the following:

- National guidance for creation of the strategy was published on the 29th July 2022.
- Core membership of the ICP needs to be finalised in order for the strategy to be progressed. Leaders from across the local system having being working collaboratively on how the strategy should look for the Northamptonshire ICS.
- The strategy needs to be based on the JSNA summary, linked to the OF, and must consider how:
 - The integrated care strategy must set out how the assessed needs from the JSNA are to be met by the functions of the ICB
 - The ICP must consider whether the needs could be effectively met with an arrangement under section 75
 - The strategy may include a statement on better integration of health or social care services with 'health related' services
 - In preparing the strategy the ICP must have regard to the NHS mandate
 - The preparation of the strategy must involve local Healthwatch organisations and people who live and work in the area
 - The ICP must publish the strategy
 - The ICP must consider revising the strategy whenever they receive a JSNA
- Areas to consider in strategy are
 - Personalised care
 - Disparities in health and social care
 - Population health and prevention
 - Health protection

- Babies, children, young people, their families and healthy ageing
- Workforce
- Research and innovation
- 'Health-related' services
- Data and information sharing
- Approaches and mechanisms
- Shared outcomes
- Quality improvement
- Joint working and section 75 of the NHS Act 2006
- As the strategy will be underpinned by the JSNA and OF that gives us a clear sight of what we are achieving strategically.
- There are 11 existing strategy maps from organisations across the system that will serve as an anchor for the strategy.
- As a system we have a number of commitments that underpinned by evidence of what we want to prioritise in Northamptonshire.
- The approach for developing the strategy is underpinned by the 'Live Your Best Life' 10 ambitions and OF.
- Phase 1 of the strategy development is:
 - Health inequalities mapping to Strategy
 - Completion of strategic outcomes framework and JSNA refresh
 - Continued community engagement and coproduction
 - Strategy shared with Health & Wellbeing Forums
 - November 2022: Health & Wellbeing Board recommendation
 - December 2022: Approval by ICP
- There are massive interdependences in the system but there is a need to be clear as a system what we are focusing on.
- An early draft of the strategy will be forwarded to Board members before December.

The Board discussed development of the strategy and the following was noted:

- It would be beneficial to have a joint workshop in December where the initial mapping work can be reviewed and a strategic sense check completed.
- The existing ICS structure should be used to support underpinning elements of the strategy.
- The voluntary sector will have a more comprehensive understanding of what our priorities are as a system and contribute in a more holistic manner than previously seen.

RESOLVED that the Board noted the update.

41/22 Local Area Partnerships

The Assistant Director Safeguarding and Wellbeing Services provided an update on the development of the Local Area Partnerships (LAPs) and highlighted the following:

- In West Northamptonshire there will be we have 9 LAPs 5 sitting under the Northampton Health and Wellbeing Forum and 4 sitting under the Daventry and South Northants Health and Wellbeing Forum.
- The LAPs are based on community areas collaborating across organisational barriers to engage and coproduce services with local people. Using Local Area Profiles to provide insight for priorities.
- Two pioneer LAPs have been identified to accelerate and test how the model might work:

DSN4

Bugbrooke
Towcester and Roade
Deanshanger
Hackleton and Grange Park

N4

Dallington Spencer
Castle
Abington and Phippsville
St George

- General Practice and PCNs have been mapped to the LAPs and the Director of PLACE in West Northamptonshire is reaching out to GPs to create relationships.
- Adult social care services are to be mapped to the LAPs and a meeting will take place with other council services in West Northamptonshire requesting they adopt a LAP approach for delivery of services where possible.
- The pioneer LAPs will focus on 2 or 3 specific priorities which will enable discussions with VIN about what VCSE organisations are needed.
- The 3 priorities for N4 is employment, education and child poverty.
- The following developments will also take place:
 - Police “beats” arranging themselves into LAPs.
 - Links to iCAN welfare support teams to enhance access to services
 - Local Area Profile data to inform LAP priority setting.
 - Asset mapping of LAPs.
 - Asset based community engagement and coproduction.
 - Links to WNC Anti-poverty Strategy Action Plan, where there are clear workplans and strategies to join these up at a local level to work towards tackling these priorities.

The Director of Public Health advised at the next Health Inequalities workshop there will be an exercise using data to see how we can work together and use health inequalities funding to get focus in the initial partnership working. The Chair added development of the LAPs is a good opportunity for elected members to bring the ICS into communities.

RESOLVED that:

- **The Chief Operating Officer, NHFT and Assistant Director Safeguarding and Wellbeing to discuss NHFT services linking into the LAPs.**
- **The Board noted the update.**

42/22 West Northamptonshire Anti Poverty Strategy Action Plan

The Head of Community Safety and Engagement gave an update on the West Northamptonshire Anti Poverty Strategy action plan and highlighted the following:

- The strategy was approved by West Northamptonshire Cabinet in April 2022, since then the Public Health team and Healthier Communities team have been working with the Anti Poverty Oversight Group (APOG) and other partners to turn the strategy into a series of measurable actions.
- The intention of the action plan is to collate the work already taking place across West Northamptonshire to identify any gaps and establish a partnership where we can collaborate and add value to the work already taking place.
- The strategy focuses on three key priorities
 - Supporting people who are struggling with poverty now
 - Preventing people from falling into poverty
 - Continue to influence the government and other national organisations to get the best deal for communities in west Northants.
- These priorities are supported by 8 strategic objectives and 32 commitments.
- The membership of the APOG consists of elected members, public health housing, Poverty Truth Commission, voluntary and community sector, to ensure we reflect the voices and involvement of people with lived experiences of poverty.

- Through continuous engagement an action plan was produced in June 2022 containing over a 100 actions, with agreement of the APOG and partners priority actions to focus on in the first year has been developed. Partners across the system are working collaboratively to deliver the priority actions.
- The cost of living crisis has continued to worsen since the publication of the strategy, so the challenge is how do we measure success when the cost of living is increasing. Looking at developing performance measures to monitor activity.
- The intention is to update the board on regular basis as actions are developed and delivered.
- Working groups and collaborative groups have been focused on outcomes defined within the strategy to ensure we are led by data, local intelligence and need of communities.
- Below is an update on some of the priority actions:
 - Establishing a West Northants Social Welfare Alliance, to provide training sessions for anyone who has regular conversations with residents who are presenting with a range of social welfare issues. There are 2 soft market testing events in October to build specification, followed by a tender process with implementation early 2023.
 - Distribution of the household support fund. We have linked with Northamptonshire Community Foundation to reach the most financially vulnerable residents in West Northants through distribution of vouchers by local community groups and charities.
 - A working group is focusing on fuel poverty and winter pressures. The focus of this group is going to be on immediate actions prior to winter season commencing, one being having warm welcoming spaces. Discussions are ongoing around suitable building assets available.
 - Work continues with the Food Aid Alliance, there are over 40 food aid providers giving practical support to people in poverty across West Northamptonshire, focusing on immediate aid and longer term support.
 - Ensuring those in hardship know where to access support services. A cost of living web page has been developed by the Communications Team containing information about support and services available. The Communications team are also supporting development of a communications and engagement strategy to support delivery of strategy. Looking to build on the work undertaken during COVID19 and continued engagement with the Anti Poverty Truth Commission and community leaders.
 - A money and debt working group has been established to look at money and debt information advice services. A large number of benefits remain unclaimed and ensuring those facing hardship have access to these services.
 - There is working group looking at a sustainable approach to address the shortfall in immigration support and advice. Ensuring all eligible residents achieve settled status. A citizens map will be created to understand the immigration issues residents face, identify gaps and resources available.
 - A mental health task and finish group in conjunction with the Mental Health Learning Disability and Autism collaborative and Public Health to implement services and support in community settings to vulnerable residents.
 - Continue to support existing neighbourhood hubs, building on 'Host Ukraine' and the Well Northants programmes, focusing on our highest deprived areas.
- The project team is in the process of developing a performance framework with indicators to measure the impact against the outcomes within the strategy.

The Board discussed the action plan and following was noted:

- We need to ensure that agencies going into residents homes are able to signpost residents to support available.
- A report will be presented to West Northamptonshire Cabinet and Full Council, detailing plans for a refresh of the APSOG to bring in wider group of partners to consolidate the interventions and communicate to wider groups of staff.

- It would be beneficial to have a register or helpline to help agencies identify residents who may be in need of support.
- There is increasing evidence highlighting the link between poverty and poor health and poor mental health and this work will link in with the OF.

RESOLVED that:

- **An update on the action plan and work relating to fuel poverty will be brought to the meeting in January 2023.**
- **The Head of Community Safety and Engagement to arrange for a fact sheet to be developed providing details of support available for agencies who could into residents homes.**
- **The Board noted the update.**

43/22 Community Engagement Framework

The Director of Communications presented the Community Engagement Framework developed on behalf NHS Northamptonshire ICB and highlighted the following:

- This framework is co-produced and co-designed with partners across the county, with the aim to work collaboratively to support our communities and the framework will be used to bring accountability and accessibility.
- There are different segments of our communities that have different needs, by working together more robustly and forging links in a strategic way through the framework we can understand and integrate into our working practice.
- Through development of the framework we have listened to experiences in how our communities have wanted to engage. T
- The framework will need to align with the emerging structures of the ICS and we have developed four key themes to ensure we embed our framework as a way of working through 2022 to 2025:
 1. Embedding a consistent approach to co-production
 2. Ensuring genuine diversity and inclusion is at the core of our approach
 3. Making best use of our insight around the health and wellbeing of all our people and communities
 4. Evaluating what we do, sharing the learning and celebrating our successes
- Some projects have been devised and worked together to talk what would really make a difference in years 1 and 2
 - Project 1: Listening and working together to inform our strategic plans
 - Project 2: Moving from hearing to doing
 - Project 3: Work together to embed equality through emerging Health and Wellbeing forums at Integrated Care Partnership levels
- A recurring theme heard whilst developing the strategy has been the need to build trusting relationships.
- NHS Northamptonshire ICB will continue to review and update the strategy.
- Phase 2 is centred around planning to make this framework live by setting the blueprint and bringing the voice of the community into our strategic plans. Ensuring we are committed to hearing what people say, prioritising the needs and issues that are important to people in communities.
- A desk research project is being worked on with partners across the system, completing a thematic analysis on gaps, which will be available to those developing the strategy. This process aligns with development of the LAPs.
- Engagement will continue as national guidance around ICB forward planning is released to ensure there is alignment.

The Director of Public Health gave an update on the Well Northants programme and highlighted the following:

- This is a community development programme which began in 2021 in some pilot areas.
- Focusing on having asset the conversations in communities in the 20% most deprived communities and inclusion health communities.
- West Northamptonshire and North Northamptonshire both have Community Development Teams and the model used by these teams is to community profiling, look at evidence for the community, complete door knocking, host a world café event, produce an action plan and begin implementation.
- Small amounts of funding is available to be able to shape solutions such a developing apprenticeship and training opportunities for people in the local community to support the programme.
- Feedback received during the engagement has been mapped to the 'Live your Best Life' 10 ambitions.
- Work is needed with the voluntary and community sectors to get a richness of discussions in rural and urban areas.
- There is a need to consider how we can add parish councils into the framework and people who live on their own and may be isolated.

RESOLVED that the Board:

- **Noted the Integrated Care Board's Draft Community Engagement Framework**
- **Agreed to support the ongoing development of the Framework and its priority programmes to ensure they embed across health and care**

There being no further business the meeting closed at 3.35 pm.

West Northamptonshire Health and Wellbeing Board Action Log

Action No	Action Point	Allocated to	Progress	Status of Action
070622/01	The detailed spend for individual grants will be circulated to the Board.	Chris Stopford	Awaiting update from Chris Stopford. Update 08.09.22 Stuart Lackenby to chase with Chris stopford	
080922/01	An agenda item at the next meeting to discuss the current BCF position, including data, the impact on schemes and what more could completed.	Matt Golby	Matt Golby to email Toby Sanders for this to be discussed at a later meeting.	
080922/03	Matt Golby, Stuart Lackenby, Jonathan Nunn to discuss inviting the new Attorney General to Board meetings.	Matt Golby, Stuart Lackenby, Jonathan Nunn		
080922/08	An update on the action plan and work relating to fuel poverty will be brought to the meeting in January 2023.	Vicki Rockall, Phil Veasey		

Actions completed since the 8th September 2022

Action No	Action Point	Allocated to	Progress	Status of Action
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WEST NORTHAMPTONSHIRE HEALTH AND WELLBEING BOARD

15th November 2022

Report Title	Draft Integrated Care Northamptonshire Live Your Best Life Strategy
Report Author	Julie Curtis, Place Director, West Northants Council

Contributors/Checkers/Approvers		
Contributors/Checkers/Approvers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • System Strategy Development Board • ICP Tripartite Chairs • Chair of Northampton Health & Wellbeing Forum • Chair of Northampton GP Locality • Chair of Daventry and South Northants GP Locality • Chair of GP ICS Board • NHFT Board • University Hospitals of Northamptonshire (UHN) NHS Group Board • Healthwatch • VCSE 	Strategy Development Board: 27 th October 2022 Minutes confirm recommendation to Health & Wellbeing Board
Other Director/SME	Director of People WNC Director of Public Health People Directorate SLT WNC ELT WNC EPB	4 th November 2022 7 th November 2022 7 th November 2022

List of Appendices

Appendix A – Draft Integrated Care Northamptonshire Live Your Best Life Strategy

Appendix B – Local Area Profile Pioneer Sites progress report

1. Purpose of Report

- 1.1 In July 2022 the systemwide Strategy Development Board adopted the responsibility to produce the draft Integrated Care Northamptonshire (ICN) Strategy. The Strategy Development Board recommend the draft ICN Strategy to the West Northants Health & Wellbeing Board.
- 1.2 To share the new Draft ten year Integrated Care Northamptonshire Live Your Best Life Strategy (ICN Strategy) with Members for review, endorsement and recommendation to the ICP.

2. Executive Summary

- 2.1 On 29th July 2022 the Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC) published statutory guidance on the preparation of integrated care strategies: Guidance for integrated care partnerships on integrated care strategies. The guidance states that Integrated Care Partnerships will be expected to publish an initial interim strategy by December 2022 which will align and influence integrated care board (ICB) five-year joint forward plans and local health and wellbeing strategies in April 2023.
- 2.2 The high-level draft ICN Strategy is the initial interim part one of the local strategy development work which will continue to iterate throughout 2023.
- 2.3 Please note the draft ICN Strategy still requires final proof reading and some additional content e.g. Foreword, Executive Summary, updated workforce section and addition of research and development section.
- 2.4 The draft ICN Strategy provides details of the following:
 - 2.4.1 Introduction to the draft ICN Strategy
 - 2.4.2 Identification of the system partners committed to the delivery of the ambitions and outcomes included in the draft ICN Strategy
 - 2.4.3 Shared vision, ambitions and outcomes underpinned by the Outcomes Framework, Community Engagement Framework and the ICN Operating Model
 - 2.4.4 Case for change
 - 2.4.5 What we plan to do together; where we are now, our approach, what we want to achieve and public feedback (where available at this point) for each of the 10 ambitions
 - 2.4.6 Our delivery approach through the system operating model; System, Place, Localities, Local Area Partnerships and Collaboratives
- 2.5 Throughout November 2022, the draft ICN Strategy is being taken through the appropriate governance channels in all partner organisations to secure commitment and endorsement.
- 2.6 The Integrated Care Partnership (ICP) is where the ultimate approval will be made and the ICP will receive the final version of the ICN Strategy at the meeting on 1st December 2022 for review, approval and adoption.

3. Recommendations

- 3.1. To review and consider the draft ICN Strategy and endorse the system direction of travel, vision, ambitions and outcomes.
- 3.2. To provide comments and feedback to the Place Director on fundamental points of difference.

- 3.3. To build upon the West Northants Health & Wellbeing Strategy and ensure alignment with the approved ICN Strategy going forward.
- 3.4. To recommend the adoption of the ICN Strategy to the Integrated Care Partnership on 1st December 2022.

4. Report Background

- 4.1 In June 2022 Members agreed the Live Your Best Life ambitions and the new ICN Operating Model which are the fundamental building blocks of the draft ICN Strategy.
- 4.2 In July 2022 the systemwide Strategy Development Board (SDB) took on the responsibility to produce the draft ICN Strategy. The members of the SDB include representatives from both West and North Local Authorities, NHFT, UHN, ICB, VCSE, General Practice, Pharmacy, Healthwatch, Public Health and supported by communications and engagement colleagues. Given the range of stakeholder involvement in the development of the draft ICN Strategy throughout the production period, all partners should endorse and commit to the 10 ambitions and delivery of their associated outcomes described in the document.
- 4.3 The draft ICN Strategy sets out the long-term vision, ambitions, outcomes framework and the ICN Operating Model and how they all interconnect to support successful integrated working.
- 4.4 Metrics in the form of a scorecard for each ambition are currently in development and although don't form part of the final ICN Strategy will help inform the delivery plans included in the Health & Wellbeing Strategy and the ICB 5 Year Joint Forward Plan. Measurement and reporting against the agreed metrics will demonstrate whether delivery of the outcomes included in the ICN Strategy are achieving success or whether activities and resources need to be refocused.

5. Issues and Choices

- 5.1 The DHSC statutory guidance requires all ICSs to publish an initial interim strategy by December 2022 which will align and influence integrated care board (ICB) five-year joint forward plans and local health and wellbeing strategies in April 2023.
- 5.2 The draft ICN Strategy has been developed and coproduced through the Strategy Development Board and as a result in partnership with a wide variety of stakeholders. All views have taken into consideration as part of the draft ICN Strategy production process.
- 5.3 The system ambitions and outcomes set out in the draft ICN Strategy are being recommended to all major partners in the NHS and Local Authorities across Northamptonshire. Engagement will continue throughout November to support final approval by the Integrated Care Partnership on 1st November 2022.

6. Implications (including financial implications)

6.1 Resources and Financial

- 6.1.1 There are no direct financial implications as a result of this report but looking ahead clearly the strategy will help the system to prioritise future investment approaches.

6.2 Legal

6.2.1 There are no legal implications arising from the proposal.

6.3 Risk

6.3.1 There are no significant risks arising from the proposed recommendations in this report.

6.4 Consultation

6.4.1 The DHSC guidance published in June 2022 includes a very comprehensive list of stakeholders that are expected to be engaged with. Although some of this work has commenced, the Community Engagement Framework included in the draft ICN Strategy (page 33) sets out the approach that will be taken to ensure engagement and feedback is undertaken throughout 2023.

6.4.2 There is no requirement for statutory consultation on the draft or final ICN Strategy.

6.5 Consideration by Overview and Scrutiny

6.5.1 It is anticipated that the progress of ICN, the strategy and outcomes framework will be part of the People Overview and Scrutiny work programme

6.6 Climate Impact

6.6.1 There is no climate/environmental impact.

6.7 Community Impact

6.7.1 As set out in the legislation the implementation of ICS and particularly ICP's is to positively impact on the health and wellbeing of local communities

6.7.2 The approach outlined in the strategy ensures that health inequalities and issues relevant to local area partnerships are the focus of how services work with local communities to improve outcomes as set out in the outcomes framework

7. Background Papers

7.1 DHSC Policy paper February 2021: Integration and innovation: working together to improve health and social care for all

7.2 DHSC Police paper updated 10 March 2022: Health and Care Bill: Integrated Care Boards and local health and care systems

7.3 DHSC Policy paper June 2022: Guidance on the preparation of integrated care strategies: Guidance for integrated care partnerships on integrated care strategies



Integrated Care Northamptonshire Strategy Live your best life

2022 / 23

Development overseen by
Northamptonshire strategy development board

Please Note

This draft strategy still requires further proofing of the language, content and images.

Version control: V3 10/22

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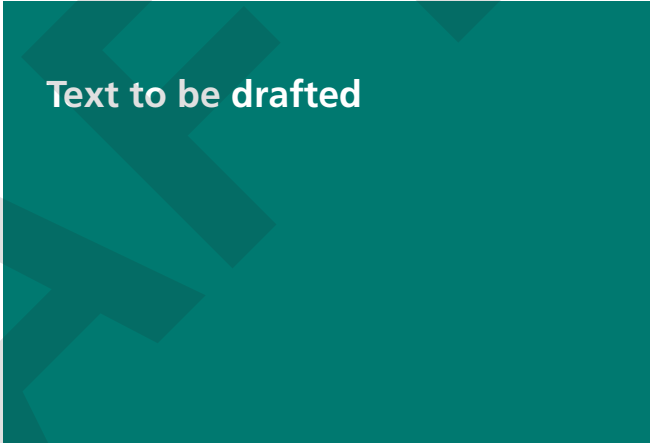
Foreward



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Executive Summary



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Introduction

We are delighted to launch our ten-year Live Your Best Life Strategy for the people and communities of Northamptonshire

Our strategy for us means people have equity of opportunity to be the best version of themselves and the best outcomes for everyone. We want you to have as healthy a life as possible. Every child should have the best start in life. We all want a good experience of ageing and at the end of life. None of us can achieve these things alone.

Our strategy outlines ten core ambitions key for the people of Northamptonshire to live their best life.

These are:

- The best start in life
- Access to the best available education and learning
- Opportunity to be fit, well and independent
- Employment that keeps people and families out of poverty
- Good housing in places which are clean and green
- Feel safe in homes and when out and about
- Connected to family and friends
- Chance for a fresh start
- Access to health and social care when they need it
- Valued for who they are



Our strategy focusses on improving a set of outcomes for the health, care and wellbeing of local people which will realise these ambitions.

These are identified because:

- It is these outcomes that really matter to people
- It is these outcomes that we are collectively responsible for
- It is these outcomes that we can only change by aligning our ambitions
- It is these outcomes that we can only change by aligning our resources and how we do this together



It is only by both working together with our communities across the whole of Northamptonshire, -whilst recognising their distinct characteristics - that we can make a real and lasting difference to the health, care and wellbeing of the more than 800,000 people that we serve who face different challenges and have different opportunities.

Our shared vision and aims will be delivered through our ambitions and strategic outcomes framework. As we deliver our 10 ambitions we will need to focus on prevention and wellbeing if we are to reduce inequalities and boost the economic and social wellbeing of Northamptonshire.

This builds upon the aims and priorities set out in many local health, wellbeing and care strategies already in existence across Northamptonshire providers and commissioners and outlines our intentions as an Integrated Care System moving forward. It is based on the available data and evidence locally, nationally, and internationally. We have taken into consideration our refreshed Joint

Strategic Needs Assessment, and health and wellbeing trends in Northamptonshire.

We recognise that the health, care and wellbeing of our population is proportionally impacted by the following estimates:

- the health and care received 20%
- lifestyle choice 30%
- population genetics and wider economic, physical and social environments 50%

Although estimates vary, it is the wider determinants of health that have the largest impact.

To enable our communities and residents to truly flourish, we need to understand what drives our health and wellbeing. The circumstances in which people are born, grow, live, work and age provide the foundations for people to live healthy or unhealthy lives.



Partners working together

in partnership with all our voluntary sector and social enterprises



West
Northamptonshire
Council



North
Northamptonshire
Council



Northamptonshire
Integrated Care Board



University Hospitals
of Northamptonshire
NHS Group



Kettering General Hospital
NHS Foundation Trust



Northampton General Hospital
NHS Trust



VOLUNTARY
IMPACT NORTHAMPTONSHIRE



Northamptonshire
Children's Trust

UoN
University of
Northampton



Northamptonshire Healthcare
NHS Foundation Trust

healthwatch
North Northamptonshire
West Northamptonshire





Partners working together

Who we are

- We're working together. An Integrated Care System is where community, local government, VCSE, universities, anchor institutions and NHS organisations work together to improve your health and wellbeing. You've told us how important this is and we are now committed to work together in this way.
- This is OUR Strategy. Every area in the country now has a strategy and ours is AMBITIOUS. We want to support you to live your best life by having the best health and care system in the country. We will do this by helping you to avoid ill health whilst also having access to excellent care when you need it.

Why we need to work together

- We've been listening and will continue to do so. A variety of different engagement exercises have taken place over the recent past by a full range of public services. We have used all the data from these engagements to build a picture of your views. You've told us you want quicker and easier access to GP appointments, hospital, community and mental health services. You want joined up services that are easy to navigate and continuity of care. You have also told that you want access to local activities and tidier green spaces. However, the biggest message by far from engagement was easy access to information about services, support and community activity.
- We will continue to listen to your views with an ongoing programme of community engagement to make sure we are responding to the issues which matter most to you.
- Our local population is changing. We are increasingly affected by significant population growth. Clearly, it's a good thing that we're all living longer – however more of us are living with multiple long-term conditions and dementia. We are also increasingly affected by deprivation.
- We're 'Thinking Differently'. New advances in digital and medical technology offer opportunities to radically change the ways we think and work. We will focus on research, development, innovation and evaluation so we can also make a difference by building better networks and relationships, opening access to services and information, and developing the potential in our local communities.



Anchor Institutions

We have already said that socio-economic factors play a huge role in determining people's long-term health, and contribute significantly to health inequalities. Anchor institutions are large organisations that are unlikely to relocate and have a significant stake in our local area. They have sizeable assets that can be used to potentially support our local community's health and wellbeing and tackle health inequalities, for example, through training, employment, professional development, and buildings and land use.

Anchor institutions are defined more by their link to a place than their sector. We will continue to explore the opportunities with the many private and voluntary sector organisations across Northamptonshire that hold a significant interest in the long-term development and health of our local areas.

Health Protection

Our local authorities, Public Health and UKHSA will work closely together as a single public health system through joint working, with clarity on roles and responsibilities, which is crucial for the safe delivery of health protection. The DPH will work with local NHS and Non-NHS partners to ensure that threats to health are understood and appropriately addressed.



Shared vision, aims and ambitions



Our shared vision and aims will be delivered through our ambitions which are underpinned by the:

- 1. Outcomes framework**
- 2. Community engagement framework**
- 3. Integrated care system operating model**



Shared vision, aims and ambitions

Shared Vision

We want to work better together to create a place where people and their loved ones are active, confident and enjoy good health and well being. A Northamptonshire where people can see and feel a bright future for themselves and their families, take personal responsibility for their own health and wellbeing, and can reach out to quality integrated support and services if and when they need help.

Shared Aims

- Improve the health and wellbeing of the population
- Reduce inequalities in health and wellbeing outcomes
- Ensure value for money
- Contribute to the economic and social wellbeing of Northamptonshire

Shared Ambitions

We want the people of Northamptonshire to have:

- The best start in life
- Access to the best available education and learning
- Opportunity to be fit, well and independent
- Employment that keeps them and their families out of poverty
- Housing that is affordable, safe and sustainable in places which are clean and green
- Safety in their homes and when out and about
- Feel connected to their families and friends
- The chance for a fresh start when things go wrong
- Access to health and social care when they need it
- To be accepted and valued simply for who they are

The detail of each of the ambitions are further expanded from page 21 of this document and sets out what good looks like for our population.



Our case for change



Our case for change

Population growth

Northamptonshire's location and setting make it an attractive county to settle in; over the last decade our population has grown at a faster rate than most local authorities not just in the region but in England.

While the population that has grown the most over that time is those aged over 70, we have also locally seen a big increase in the numbers of children aged 5 to 15. Conversely, the numbers of babies born in the county has been slowly decreasing over the last ten years.

This change in population presents real challenges for us as an integrated care system in terms of the likely continuing increase in demand for public services at the same time as a pull in our workforce being attracted to nearby commutable cities of London, Leicester and Birmingham.

If we are to meet these needs, we need to change how we work as a system.

In 2021 the population of West Northamptonshire was 425,700 and North Northamptonshire 359,500

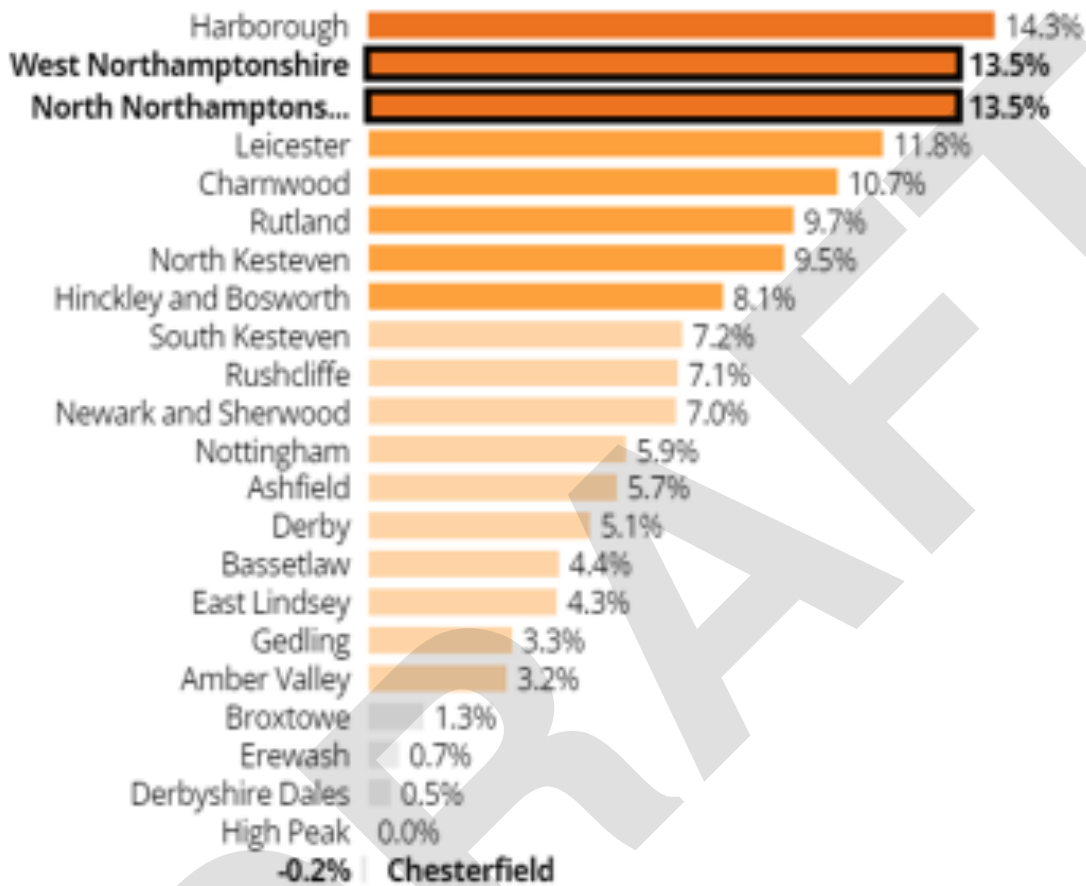
In the last 10 years the population has increased by over 42,000 in North Northamptonshire and over 50,000 in West Northamptonshire (an increase of 13.5%).

This is higher than the overall increase for England (6.6%), where the population grew by nearly 3.5 million and among the highest population growth in the region.

West Northamptonshire is now the 13th and North Northamptonshire the 21st largest local authority in England, out of 128 Local Authorities in England.

Population change of local authorities in the East Midlands between 2011 and 2021 (Percentage change)

Population change of local authorities in the East Midlands between 2011 and 2021 (Percentage change)



Source: How the population changed, Census 2021 - ONS













Demographics

We know that while the county as a whole is less diverse than the England population, there is huge variation in the shapes of our communities. This can very broadly be divided into much less diverse rural communities and much more diverse towns and urban areas. Understanding our communities better and how they differ will be key to ensuring that our integrated care system delivers better outcomes for all.


















Health and Wellbeing in North Northamptonshire, August 2022






Start Well

-  3,789 babies were born in 2021.
-  12.2% of mothers smoked at the time of birth in 2020/21. This is worse than the England average.
-  The population of North Northamptonshire was 359,500 in 2021.
-  70% of children achieved a good level of development at the end of reception class in 2019.
-  14% of children aged under 16 lived in low income families in 2020/21. This is better than the England average.
-  24% of children in reception class were overweight or obese in 2019/20. This is similar to the England average.*
-  34% of children in Year 6 were overweight or obese in 2019/20. This is similar to the England average.*
-  69% of young people gained a standard pass (4) in English and Maths GCSEs in 2021.
-  The Chlamydia detection rate was 1,330 per 100,000 in 15 to 24 year olds in 2020. This is below the national target range.
-  There were 14 pregnancies in females aged under 18 per 1,000 girls aged 15 to 17 in 2020. This is similar to the England average.

Live Well

-  A 2018 based projection estimated there were 150,136 households in North Northamptonshire in 2021.
-  The average salary (persons) in 2020 was £30,189. This was an increase of 9% compared to 2019.
-  79.6% of adults were employed in 2020/21. This is better than the England average.
-  10% of households experienced fuel poverty in 2018.
-  There were 323 new sexually transmitted infections per 100,000 population in 2020. This is lower than the England average.
-  62.6% of adults were physically active in 2020/21. This is worse than the England average.
-  53% of the population aged 16+ ate their "5-a-day" in 2019/20. This is worse than the England average.
-  70% of adults were overweight or obese in 2020/21. This is worse than the England average.
-  There were 431 alcohol related hospital admissions per 100,000 population in 2020/21. This is better than the England average.
-  18% of adults smoked in 2019. This is worse than the England average.
-  There were 11 suicides per 100,000 population in 2018-2020. This is similar to the England average.
-  There were 196 hospital admissions for self-harm per 100,000 population in 2020/21. This is worse than the England average.
-  There were 4 deaths from drug misuse per 100,000 population in 2018-2020. This is similar to the England average.
-  38 people were killed or seriously injured on roads per 100,000 population in the 2016-2018. This is better than the England average.
-  There were 28 deaths in under 75s from preventable cardiovascular diseases per 100,000 population in 2017-2019. This is similar to the England average.
-  There were 24 deaths in under 75s from preventable respiratory diseases per 100,000 population in 2017-2019. This is worse than the England average.
-  There were 60 deaths from preventable cancers per 100,000 population in 2017-2019. This is worse than the England average.

Age Well

-  There were 1,893 hospital admissions due to falls in people aged 65+ per 100,000 65+ population in 2020/21. This is better than the England average.
-  The average male life expectancy was 79.2 in 2018-2020. This is similar to the England average.
-  The average female life expectancy was 82.4 in 2018-2020. This is worse than the England average.

* Please note that figures on childhood excess weight should be interpreted with caution due to low 2019/20 NCMP participation.

Health and Wellbeing in West Northamptonshire, August 2022



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XXXX



XXXX



XXXX

Start Well



4,647 babies were born in 2021.



12.3% of mothers smoked at the time of birth in 2020/21. This is worse than the England average.



The population of West Northamptonshire was 425,700 in 2021.



72% of children achieved a good level of development at the end of reception class in 2019.



14% of children aged under 16 lived in low income families in 2020/21. This is better than the England average.



21% of children in reception class were overweight or obese in 2019/20. This is better than the England average.*



30% of children in Year 6 were overweight or obese in 2019/20. This is better than the England average.*



73% of young people gained a standard pass (4) in English and Maths GCSEs in 2021.



The Chlamydia detection rate was 1,417 per 100,000 in 15 to 24 year olds in 2020. This is below the national target range.



There were 10 pregnancies in females aged under 18 per 1,000 girls aged 15 to 17, in 2020. This is lower than the England average.

Live Well



A 2018 based projection estimated there were 170,103 households in West Northamptonshire in 2021.



The average salary (persons) in 2020 was £32,467. This was an increase of 2% compared to 2019.



78% of adults were employed in 2020/21. This is similar to the England average.



9% of households experienced fuel poverty in 2018.



There were 374 new sexually transmitted infections per 100,000 population in 2020. This is lower than the England average.



63% of adults were physically active in 2020/21. This is worse than the England average.



52% of the population aged 16+ ate their "5-a-day" in 2019/20. This is worse than the England average.



69% of adults were overweight or obese in 2020/21. This is worse than the England average.



There were 467 alcohol related hospital admissions per 100,000 population in 2020/21. This is similar to the England average.



15% of adults smoked in 2019. This is similar to the England average.



There were 8 suicides per 100,000 population in 2018-2020. This is lower than the England average.



There were 297 hospital admissions for self-harm per 100,000 population in 2020/21. This is worse than the England average.



There were 3 deaths from drug misuse per 100,000 population in 2018-2020. This is lower than the England average.



42 people were killed or seriously injured on roads per 100,000 population in the 2016-2018. This is similar to the England average.



There were 26 deaths from preventable cardiovascular diseases per 100,000 population in 2017-2019. This is similar to the England average.



There were 20 deaths in under 75s from preventable respiratory diseases per 100,000 population in 2017-2019. This is similar to the England average.



There were 54 deaths from preventable cancers per 100,000 population in 2017-2019. This is similar to the England average.

Age Well



There were 2,727 hospital admissions due to falls in people aged 65+ per 100,000 65+ population in 2020/21. This is worse than the England average.



The average male life expectancy was 79.8 in 2018-2020. This is better than the England average.



The average female life expectancy was 82.8 in 2018-2020. This is worse than the England average.

* Please note that figures on childhood excess weight should be interpreted with caution due to low 2019/20 NCMP participation.

Case for Change

Starting Well

It is in early childhood (and even earlier during pregnancy) that the foundations for future health and wellbeing are built. While for many of our children in Northamptonshire there are good opportunities for healthy development, for some more vulnerable, particularly those children who need support from health and care services (including looked after children, children with disabilities), those building blocks for healthy development (such as access to play and leisure activities, a supportive education environment) might be harder to come by. It is only by working together as a system that we can make sure all children in Northamptonshire have all they need to thrive.

Living Well

Our living and working conditions, the environment we live in and our relationships and social networks continue to shape our health and wellbeing through adulthood. The diseases that are responsible for most of the ill health and early deaths in Northamptonshire - cancers, heart disease, chronic lung disease, musculoskeletal diseases and poor mental health – are all hugely shaped by these social, economic and environmental factors. While rate of death and disability due to these conditions may be similar in scale to the national average in Northamptonshire, the volume of hospital care required is significantly higher than the national average suggesting that the county is much better at treating these conditions when they cause problems, than preventing them.

Ageing Well

In Northamptonshire, too many older people get admitted to hospital and stay too long, resulting in a greater chance of them losing their independence and not being able to return to their home or needing long term care and support. While the foundations for healthy ageing are laid in middle age, there are things that we can continue to do throughout older age to stay fit, well and resilient. There are huge opportunities in working together as an integrated care system to ensure that Northamptonshire provide the right condition for older people to avoid having to stay in hospital and leave their homes.

Resource utilisation

We recognise as a system that the way we utilise our collective resources and assets needs to change and this is our opportunity to do that more effectively to support delivering our ambitions. We are committed to work together to understand how we can further consolidate and strengthen the way we deliver financial sustainability and value for money for Northamptonshire.

Inequalities

Northamptonshire benefits from high employment levels and a beautiful rural setting but many in our communities face the same challenges affecting people nationally around poverty (including food poverty and fuel poverty), a lack of affordable housing, and crime and safety in our neighbourhoods as well as issues such as a lack of access to green space. These all have a significant impact on the health of our children, young people and adults alike and affect our ability to be able to engage in healthy behaviours like eating well, moving more, sleeping well, drinking less alcohol and stopping smoking.



Health inequalities are the **preventable, unfair and unjust differences** in health status between groups, populations or individuals that arise from the unequal distribution of social, environmental and economic conditions.

Some of our local communities and specific groups for example travellers, migrants, carers are among the most disadvantaged in England. It is unacceptable that life expectancy on average can be as much as 8.25 years less depending on where you live. The top 3 broad causes of death that contribute the most to the gap in life expectancy between the most and least deprived areas in Northamptonshire are Cardiovascular disease; Cancer and Respiratory disease. This is why we are committed to working together to tackle the health inequalities caused by deprivation.

You can find the strategy here:

www.icnorthamptonshire.org.uk/health-inequalities



What we plan to do together



Our strategy is focused on

- Our Ten ambitions that all partners across our system have collectively committed to delivering over the next 5 to 10 years.
- Our ten ambitions are underpinned by our Strategic Outcomes Framework where the outcomes are bold, ambitious and exciting and provide a focus for the forthcoming years.

To support our residents with these ten ambitions we have to collaborate, not just with our partners and local business but also with local people to ensure we understand the uniqueness of each of our communities and the people who live in them. Understanding this enables us to make sure the right support, environment and interventions are in place to help people to live their best life.

Our shared vision and aims will be delivered through our ambitions which are underpinned by the:

- a) Outcomes framework**
- b) Community engagement framework**
- c) Integrated care system operating model**

Our ten ambitions

1. Best Start in Life
2. Access to the best available education and learning
3. Opportunity to be fit, well and independent
4. Employment that keeps them and their families out of poverty
5. Housing that is affordable, safe, and sustainable in places which are clean and green
6. To feel safe in their homes and when out and about
7. Connected to their families and friends
8. The chance for a fresh start when things go wrong
9. Access to health and social care when they need it
10. To be accepted and valued simply for who they are

Outcomes Framework

We have developed the Outcomes Framework and its purpose is to outline priority outcomes, based on the needs identified in the joint strategic needs assessments. The Outcomes Framework provides a mechanism by which we can measure joint efforts in driving progress on the most important outcomes for our local population.

The Outcomes Framework has been shaped around the ten "Live Your Best Life" ambitions and fundamentally underpins this ICN strategy. It sets out the short, medium and long term outcomes the whole ICS will work together to achieve, and supports strategic planning by ensuring system improvement priorities and investment enable achievement of the outcomes. Our framework reflects a commitment that everyone should have the opportunity to make choices that support independence and wellbeing. We will be developing measures throughout our new operating model described in the next section. These will be at System, Place and LAP levels based on JSNA data, local insights data and what local people agree are priorities. This will allow us to measure and report whether we are successfully delivering our outcomes or whether we need to reorganise and refocus our resources.

Through this framework we will show:

- How outcomes for residents are being achieved across the system
- Focus plans and inform priorities on an annual basis through clearly articulated measures; and
- Support organisations to work as one system to deliver impact and continually improve.

The framework describes for each of our ambitions :

- Where we are now
- Our approach to achieving our ambition
- The outcomes we want to achieve

The best start in life

Where we are now

Our population aged 5-15 has grown by nearly 20% in the last 10 years but this is likely to slow in future as birth rates fall;

Risks of birth complications and poor health in newborns is higher than it ought to be due to high levels of smoking and obesity in pregnancy;

Looked After Children (LAC) in Northamptonshire get poorer access to regular health and dental checks than LAC in other areas;

Not enough children are starting school with the skills they need to succeed;

Organisational boundaries continues to be a barrier to better care for children and young people.

Our approach

Everyone will recognise their role in our collective responsibility to improve children and young people's health and wellbeing, including parents, families, friends and schools;

Our communities will raise children to become healthy adults, who themselves raise healthy families and are net contributors to a healthy society;

Young people want to make healthy choices and will seek support for their needs before they reach crisis;

Our children and young people will have a voice in the decisions that affect them, supporting them to be involved in the identification of problems and creation of positive solutions;

The services and support systems available to children and young people will be consistent and stable



Outcomes we want to achieve

Women are healthy and well during and after pregnancy

All children grow and develop well so they are ready and equipped to start school

You've said...

There needs to be better support for parents and children such as training and mentoring to support parents in dealing with life pressures.

That advice and care should be provided as close to home as possible and for care to be received at the right place, at the right time.

Waiting times need to be reduced and for services to be equitable for all who access them.

Access to the best available education and learning

Where we are now

Too many young people are not reaching their educational potential, which limits their future options;

We have an increasing gap in attainment between the least and most disadvantaged children;

Northamptonshire has a higher rate of permanent exclusions from school than the England rate;

There are also a large number of children in county electively home educated

Too many children with special educational needs or disabilities are being educated outside of the county or at home

Our approach

Schools in the county will be places that encourage not just academic achievement for all but also healthy social and emotional development

Families of all children, regardless of need, will be confident in the quality of the education they receive at schools within the county

Education settings will be trauma-informed environments so that those with challenging home lives and histories will not have their trauma compounded by school exclusions.

Further and higher education settings will provide the skills training that local employers are looking for in employees.



Outcomes we want to achieve

Education settings are good and inclusive and children and young people, including those with special needs perform well

Adults have access to learning opportunities which support them with work and life skills

You've said...

Access to special educational needs (SEN) support and education needs to improve.

There needs to be better support for parents and children such as training and mentoring to support parents in dealing with life pressures.

Opportunity to be fit, well and independent

Where we are now

Over one in four adults in the county are classified as physically inactive and almost two thirds are classified as overweight or obese;

Smoking is the single greatest risk factor for death and disability in the county with 16.4% of adults in the county being current smokers;

Around 90,000 adults in the county are estimated to be experiencing a common mental health disorder;

Too many young people have poor mental wellbeing and this is increasing

The severity of poor mental health in adolescence is also increasing resulting in high rates of admission to hospital for self-harm and eating disorders

Our approach

The county's built environment and infrastructure will support people to be more active and make healthier food choices easier to make.

Taking up smoking will not be an easy or attractive choice for young people and adults who smoke will be supported with treatment to help overcome the addiction.

Long term conditions and their risk-factors will be spotted early and treated appropriately.

People recognise and have opportunities for all of the factors that promote mental wellbeing including: parenting and early years support, good relationships, good education, stable, secure, good quality and affordable housing, good quality work, a healthy standard of living, accessible safe and green outdoor space, arts and cultural activities.



Outcomes we want to achieve

Children and adults are healthy and active and enjoy good mental health

People experience less ill-health and disability due to lung and heart diseases

You've said...

Bring people together by offering local activities and events to support healthier lifestyles and to support those in inclusion groups to connect with others.

The opportunity to receive care in your own homes to support independence is something that is important to you.

You would like to see better communication, so you can stay informed and up to date on what is going on, as well as having a clear understanding of where to go for support on grants, benefits and opportunities.

Employment that keeps people and families out of poverty

Where we are now

We have relatively high rates of employment in the county but a large proportion of work available is very low paid;

Many people and families are not claiming financial support they are eligible for;

There are large gaps in employment for vulnerable communities such as those with serious and enduring mental illness and those with learning disabilities



Our approach

Training and education settings, employers and recruiters as well as the job centres will work more effectively in collaboration to ensure that skills match.

The economy of Northamptonshire grows in a way that is sustainable not just environmentally, but also socially;

meaning that the increase in the county's revenue doesn't increase inequalities or create more environmental damage.

The right support will be given for those in groups who are under-employed to access jobs and remain in employment.

People, especially in under-served communities, get good information and advice on financial and other support available to them.

Outcomes we want to achieve

More adults are employed and receive a 'living wage'

Adults and families take up benefits they are entitled to

You've said...

You would like to see better communication, so you stay informed and up to date on what is going on, as well as having a clear understanding of where to go for support on grants, benefits and opportunities.

Good housing in places that are clean and green

Where we are now

The population of Northamptonshire has grown by over 13% in the last decade which represents among the highest growth in the country:

We have among the least affordable housing in the East Midlands with over 9,000 people were on a waiting list for social housing in the county;

While the county is largely green and rural, with much of land usage in the county agricultural, access to green spaces for man who live in our urban centres is poor;

Air quality in our largest towns is particularly poor and contributing to poor heart and lung health;

Our approach

Our built environment will support and encourage more people to walk and cycle.

As well as more active travel, more transport via electric vehicles will ensure that air quality, particularly in our urban areas, is improved.

Our local housing market and social housing offer will ensure that all people and their families (but in particular vulnerable groups such as care leavers) have access to affordable safe and good quality and accommodation.

While new homes are being built across the county, priority will be given to ensuring that these new developments are green, with plenty of access to open green spaces, urban trees and other green and blue infrastructure.



Outcomes we want to achieve

Good access to affordable, safe, quality, accommodation and security of tenure

The local environment is clean and green with lower carbon emissions

You've said...

Investment is needed in local public green spaces as well as a focus on reducing litter and fly tipping to increase civic pride in residential areas.

Feel safe in their homes and when out and about

Where we are now

Though the rate has been gradually reducing over the past ten years there are still over 130 young people (under 17) entering the youth justice system each year;

Twice as many entrants live in the most deprived areas as the least;

The rate of violent offences is higher than the national average, and has increased significantly in recent years; A significant proportion of violent crime in

Northamptonshire is domestic abuse and the rate of incidents is increasing year on year;

Too many young people are ending up in hospital due to injuries including deliberate injuries; the rate is increasing in contrast with national patterns

Our approach

People will feel safer walking around their communities and feel confident in being out and about in their local neighbourhoods.

Young people will grow up in families, communities and environments that are supported to be safe and nurturing, with plenty of opportunities for personal development and to have fun and enjoy.

Organisations will work together more effectively to ensure children and young people at risk of harm are identified at the earliest opportunity and protected.

Those who experience abuse at home and in their intimate relationships will be supported to have stability in their lives while being protected from perpetrators.



Outcomes we want to achieve

People are safe in their homes, on public transport and in public places

Children and young people are safe and protected from harm

You've said...

That community safety needs to be a focus and this includes improving the quality and safety of public spaces with improved safer footpaths, reducing anti-social behaviour as well as preventing gangs and grooming.

Connected to family and friends

Where we are now

Many of our neighbourhoods score poorly compared with the national average in measures of connectivity to key services, digital infrastructure and isolation

There is huge variation in digital exclusion across the county with high rates of exclusion both in our most deprived communities as well as less deprived rural communities

While lots of learning and positive action has been taken from the COVID-19 pandemic, social isolation remains an issue including for younger people in deprived urban centres.



Our approach

Not only will digital infrastructure and technology be available to those most vulnerable groups, people will have the knowledge and skills to be able to confidently use it.

As well as being better connected digitally, transport will be sustainable and affordable to connect those at greatest need.

People who care for friends and family will be connected so that they have social contact but also access to support and services for their own mental and physical health.

People will have stronger relationship networks within their communities so that they can share knowledge, experience and give each other support.

Outcomes we want to achieve

People feel well connected to family, friends and their community

Connections are helped by public transport and technology

You've said...

You would like to see better communication, so you stay informed and up to date on what is going on, as well as have a clear understanding of where to go for support on grants, benefits and opportunities.

Bring people together by offering local activities and events to support healthier lifestyles and to support those in inclusion groups to connect with others.

Chance for a fresh start

Where we are now

To many people in the county have experiences associated with 'deep social exclusion' – namely, homelessness, substance misuse, history of offending and 'street culture' activities (such as begging and street drinking).

Too many preventable and early deaths happen due to drug use or in people experiencing rough sleeping

Our approach

Rough sleeping in the county is prevented wherever possible, and where it does occur it is rare, brief and non-recurrent.

People with addictions have access not only to effective treatment and support but also stable accommodation and environments that support recovery.

Employers, landlords and community groups are inclusive so that people with experience of any features of social exclusion may be offered opportunities to thrive.



Outcomes we want to achieve

Ex-offenders and homeless people are helped back into society

People have good access to support for addictive behaviour and take it up

You've said...

We know we need to talk to you more about areas of focus to improve the 'chance for a fresh start', therefore we look forward to talking to you and hearing your feedback about this soon.

Access to health and social care when they need it

Where we are now

We are missing opportunities to prevent disability and early deaths through screening and vaccination

Groups such as adults with serious and enduring mental illness, adults with a learning disability and looked after children are missing out on opportunities for more focused preventative health and care services through regular health checks.

The demand for some services (e.g. adolescent mental health services) is such that there are long wait

Older and frail people are staying longer in hospital than necessary and as a result are leaving in poorer physical condition

Our approach

Organisations will be more health literate and recognise and address the barriers that people face in accessing preventative health services.

We will prevent chronic mental and physical conditions but also support those already diagnosed to have the skills and confidence to manage their own conditions.

People will be confident in managing minor illness at home but when acute care is needed, appropriate services will be staffed at a level to allow timely response

Hospital stays will be avoided where possible for those who are frail and be as short as possible for those who cannot avoid it..



Outcomes we want to achieve

People can access NHS services and personal and social care when they need to

People are supported to live at home for as long as possible and only spend time in hospital to meet medical needs

Services to prevent illness (e.g. health checks, screening and vaccines) are good, easy to access and well used.

You've said...

Communications with patients' needs to be improved to enable an open dialogue about care available.

The opportunity to receive care in your own homes to support independence is something that is important to you.

Improving access to services including GP's, mental health support services for children and young people, bereavement support and those with dementia is needed.

Waiting times for services needs to be reduced.

Valued for who they are

Where we are now

Early conversations with people communities about what it means to the, to “be valued” tells us that:

Belonging

People talked about wanting to feel connected, to feel like they had roots and a network in their community.

Being yourself

People talked about being respecting and celebrating differences and being comfortable to just “be who you are.”

Being considered

People talked about wanting their voice to be heard and to know that they are “thought of” in every decision.

Being needed

People talked about wanting to help and support each other and feel helpful and needed.

Our approach

People living and working in Northamptonshire will feel connected to their communities, respected and considered in decisions.

Stronger networks and relationships within our communities will mean that people are in a better position to be able to support each other.



Outcomes we want to achieve

People are treated with dignity and respect, especially at times of greatest need like at the end of their lives

Diversity is celebrated

People feel they are a valued part of their community and are not isolated or lonely

You've said...

Services need to be equitable for all who access them.

Bring people together by offering local activities and events to support healthier lifestyles and to support those in inclusion groups to connect with others.

Working together to include the voice of people and communities in all we do

Collaborating as Integrated Care Northamptonshire (ICN) offers a great opportunity for health and care to work together more effectively.

- We have developed a Community Engagement Framework to shape our shared approaches for involving and working with people and communities.
- Our framework is for everyone – it is our call to action for staff, practitioners, people and communities across Northamptonshire to work together to deliver the changes we have all said we want to see. Through having a framework, we have clarity on our direction of travel, accountability for our actions and agreement on our communication and engagement priorities.
- Shaped together through co-design, and in the true essence of co-production we will continue to shape and evolve our approach. It is ambitious, but together so are we.
- It sets out our expected ways of working, our shared vision and our highest priority projects to help us to work together with people and communities, not just in pockets or on an ad-hoc basis, but across all we do in better and more authentic ways.

This framework and our approach was developed by and for members of Integrated Care Northamptonshire (ICN), in partnership with Traverse – an independent social purpose consultancy – and with a wide range of local partners and people through a co-design and co-production process. We co-produced our vision, ambitions and values for working together with people and communities below:

Community Engagement Framework Our co-produced vision, ambitions and values

Our vision	Our ambitions	Our values
<p>“We work in partnership with people and communities in Northamptonshire, especially those affected by inequalities, on issues that are important to them. Everyone will know how their contribution has made a difference.”</p>	<p>We build trusting relationships and effective partnerships by embedding as consistent approach to co-production</p>	<p>Trusted</p>
	<p>We are all committed to genuinely hearing what people say, and feeding back the influence on our decisions and actions</p>	<p>Transparent</p>
	<p>We have genuine diversity and inclusion at all levels in the system, involving people-according to their needs and preferences</p>	<p>Authentic</p>
	<p>We prioritise the needs and issues that are important to people in communities</p>	<p>Accountable</p>
	<p>We evaluate what we do, share learning and celebrate our successes</p>	<p>Accessible</p>

You can read and find out more about the full Community Engagement Framework here: icnorthamptonshire.org.uk/involvement

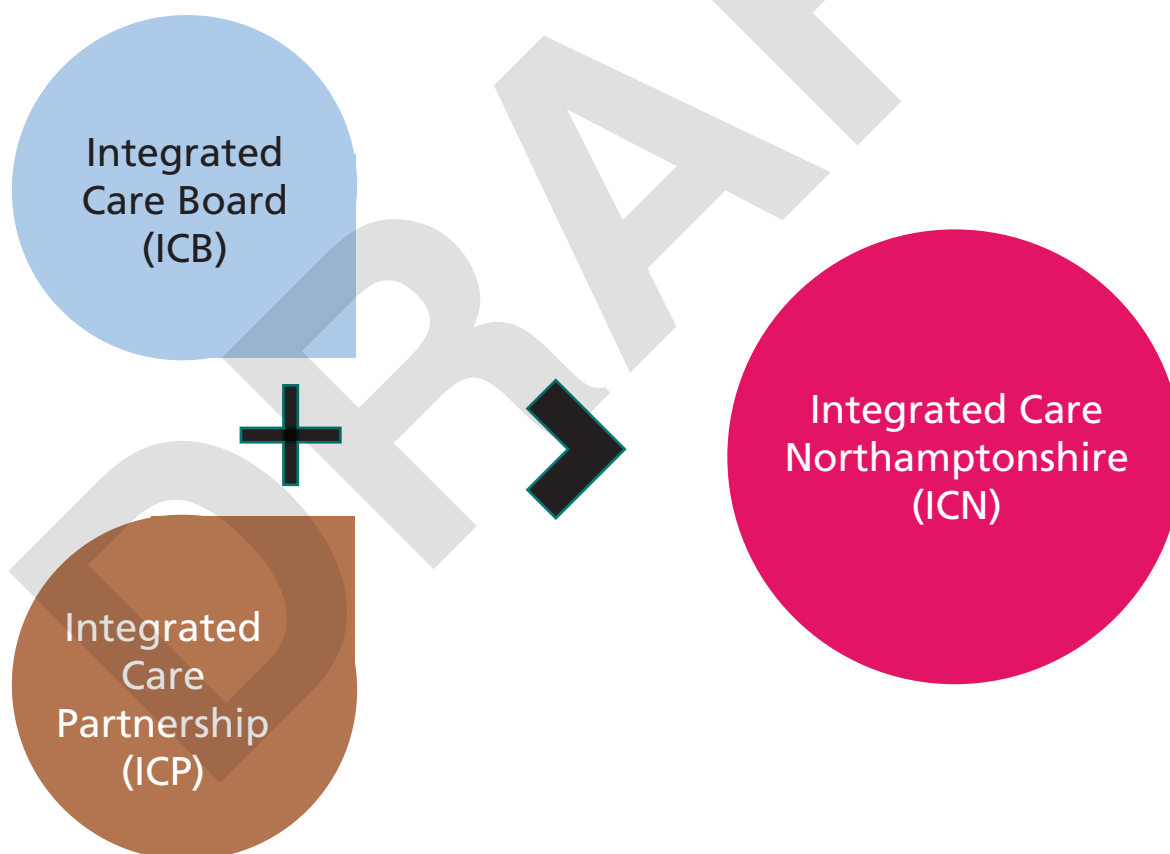
Our delivery approach

We will work in partnership to deliver the aspirations and outcomes through a new way of working together. As Integrated Care Northamptonshire we have new opportunities to bring together services and staff on a systemwide, place and local community level relating to the needs of the population.

We will combine skills, knowledge and expertise from across communities, commissioners and providers and based on intelligence and insights identify where resources should be focused to deliver our ambitions and reduce inequalities. We will deliver improved outcomes by ensuring services are integrated at the right place that make sense to our population.

Our Integrated Care system is in a privileged position in that we had the launch of our two new Unitary Authorities in 2021 and the introduction of the new Integrated Care Board and Integrated Care Partnership in 2022 providing us with opportunities to work together differently and focus on improving outcomes for the population we serve.

Our new integrated care system, Integrated Care Northamptonshire high level structure is illustrated below:



You can read and find out more about the full Community Engagement Framework here: icnorthamptonshire.org.uk/involvement

Our delivery approach

System operating model consists of the following components:

An Integrated Care Partnership (ICP)

- Members of the ICP include a wide range of key players from the two local authorities, the voluntary sector, the NHS, and other public bodies that are key to delivering our aims
- The partnership is responsible for agreeing this strategy to improve health and well-being across the whole of Northamptonshire. It will use the best insights from data available, built bottom-up up from local assessments of needs and assets identified at place level and Local Area Partnership level.
- Our Health and Wellbeing Boards will also use this strategy as the basis of their Health and Wellbeing strategy and delivery planning.

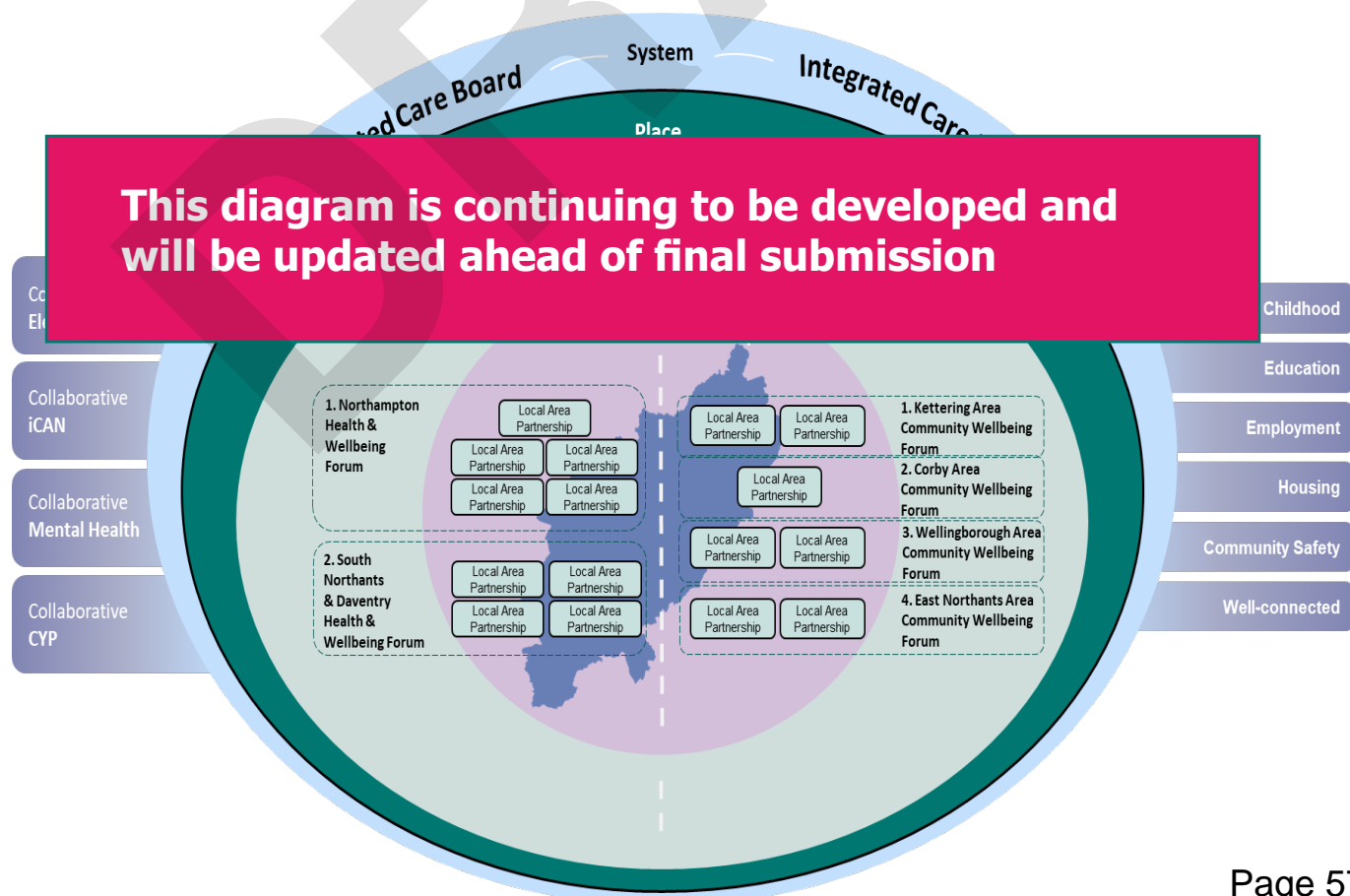
Both the ICP and the ICB work together to:

- Improve health and care outcomes
- Reduce inequalities in health and wellbeing outcomes
- Make best use of public funds
- Contribute to the social and economic wellbeing of our County

An Integrated Care Board (ICB)

- Members of the ICB include a Chief Executive and Chair, senior representation from each local authority, senior representation from NHS provider organizations (the Hospital Group, Northants Health Foundation Trust, and primary care) and four non-executive directors.
- The ICB is responsible for commissioning healthcare services for the population. This includes hospitals, GP Practices and wider primary care, mental health, community services, ambulance services and some specialised services.
- As our system further matures the functions and budgets associated with commissioning healthcare services could be delegated to our Collaboratives and Places. As we integrate services and blur organisational boundaries, we will ensure we will use pooled budgets under s75 agreements where it seems sensible and where evidence shows it provides additional benefit.

Service design and delivery is organised across the geography of the County:



Our delivery approach

Through our places

Two places - North and West Northamptonshire

- Six communities / localities: geographically smaller than the places, but are larger than the Local Area Partnerships (LAPs)
- Sixteen Local Area Partnerships

We aim to deliver our ten ambitions through a joined-up approach across all the organisations and services involved in supporting our population and communities.

This will be through a new very local approach with our communities central to our operating model – our local area partnerships (LAPs).

We will actively and collectively engage, involve and co-produce with local people and communities to understand needs and priorities. This will be supported by local intelligence and local profiles to assist with identifying needs, priorities and actions.

Local Area Partnerships:

- They represent local areas and give a voice to residents, translating strategy into local action.
- They empower residents to co-produce new services and solutions for their local area.
- They contribute to system-wide priorities by utilising strong evidence-based information and deep local insight from frontline services and communities.
- They empower local leaders to take accountability for local action.

Localities/Communities:

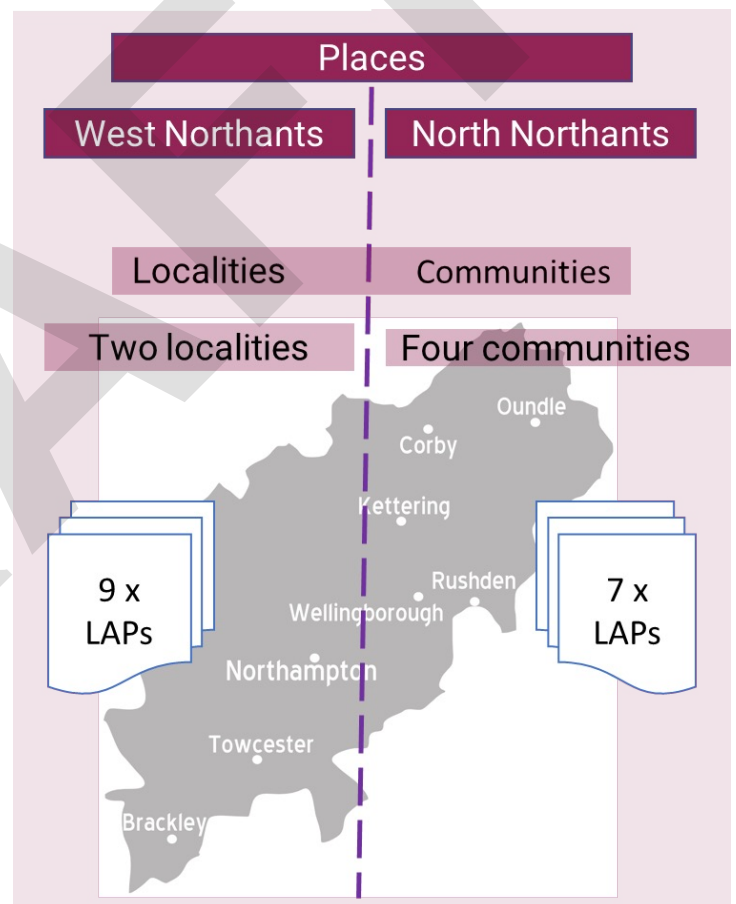
- They consolidate the views of residents, local providers and local area partnerships.
- They unblock challenges and identify at scale opportunities for their areas.,
- Through oversight of the Local Area Partnerships, they ensure their priorities are represented throughout the system.
- Local leaders influence policy to access the right resource and capabilities to deliver their functions.
- They support our collaboratives by identifying and co-ordinating community assets across health, care and wider determinant of health partners to co-produce services and pathway (re-) design

Places:

- The North and West Places in Northamptonshire mirror the two Unitary population footprints and boundaries.

Our Places:

- Initiate and encourage the integrated delivery of health, social care and other services with health and wellbeing related responsibilities such as housing, policing, education, leisure, planning, community activities.
- Understand and work with communities by joining up and coordinating services around the needs of people.
- Our two Health and Wellbeing Boards enable key leaders from across North and West Northamptonshire to secure better health and wellbeing outcomes for the local population, better quality of care for all patients and care users, better value for the taxpayer and reduce health inequalities by shaping the future of services through a more integrated approach to commissioning health and wellbeing related services.



Our delivery approach

Through our collaboratives that operate Countywide

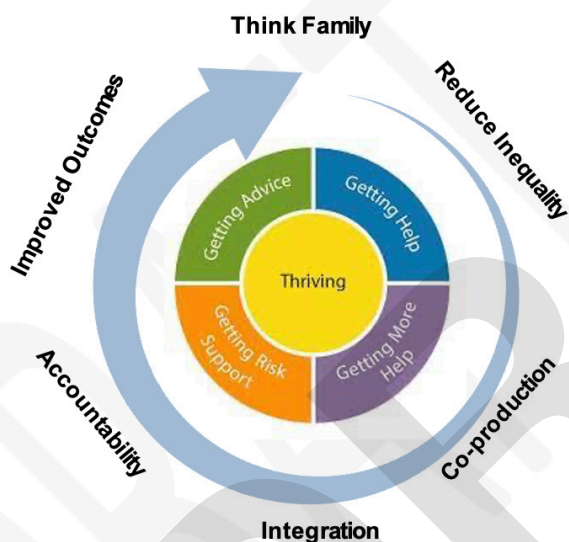
There is recognition that each of our four Collaboratives; Children’s and Young People, Elective Care, iCan, and Mental Health are at different stages of maturity and there are different planned approaches to delivery. However, their visions clearly demonstrate how by working in collaboration across identified populations they align and contribute to the delivery of our ten ambitions and underpinning outcomes framework.

Mental Health, Learning Disabilities and Autism Vision

To coproduce seamless, responsive pathways of integrated mental health and care services across Northamptonshire that feel meaningful; person centred; agile; integrated and intelligent.



Children and Young People Transformation Programme Vision;



iCAN Vision:

Our vision is to support more people to choose well, stay well and age well at home resulting in reduced unnecessary admissions to hospitals and better outcomes for people. Where they do experience a crisis, we will ensure that they get the right care at the right time and in the right place ensuring, where possible, they return to independence and ideal outcomes.



Elective Care Vision:

To improve health outcomes, inequalities and quality of life through all partners working together in a patient-centred approach, across the whole elective pathway. We will do this by transforming delivery of services to enable patients to be supported to keep well, but where required to ensure equitable access to timely treatment for patients across the county.

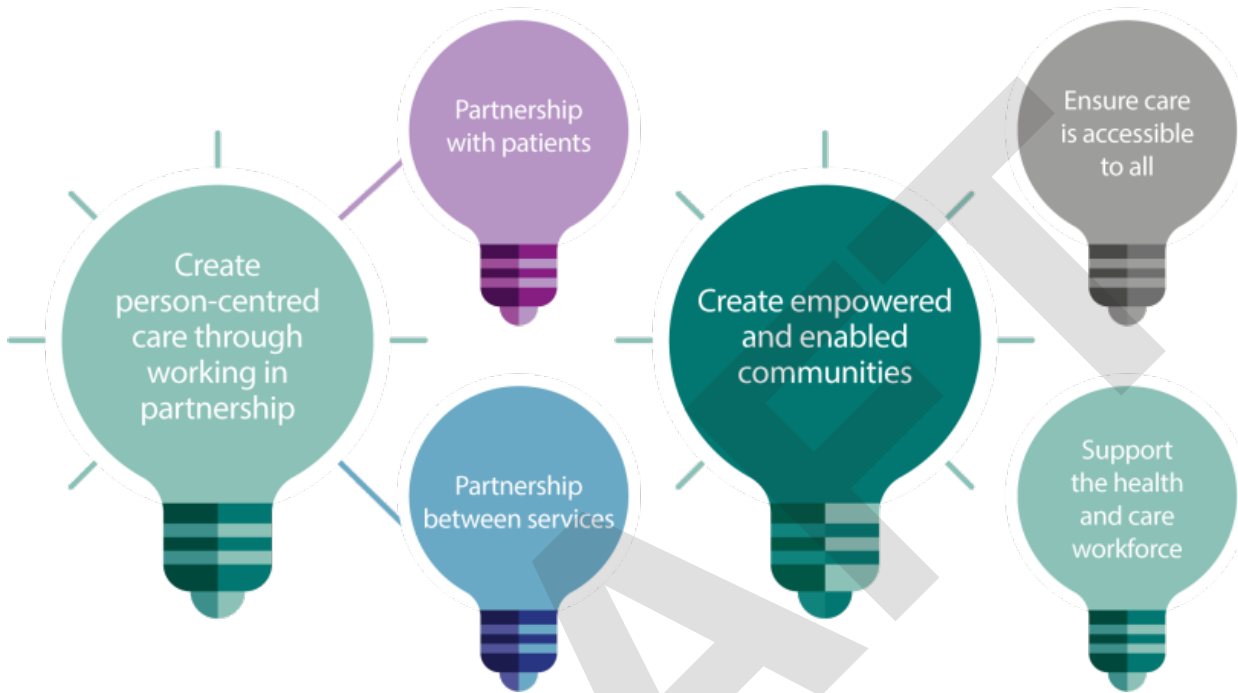




How we move forward together

Please Note - this section is under review and awaiting update

As the demographics of Northamptonshire's population changes, so does the demographics of the workforce.



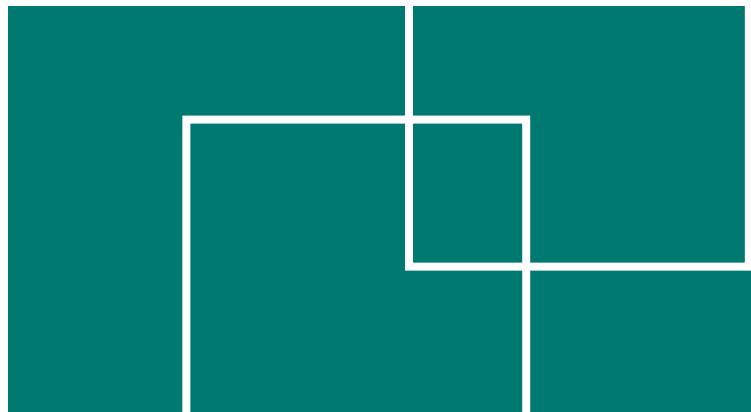
This text will be reviewed and updated prior to final submission

Population growth locally, and aging population, and a sharp increase in school age children with not only shape the needs of the population, but also the workforce required to support them.

In taking a population health approach and targeting wider determinates of health challenge, will require a shift in resources e.g. more social care skills recognised
Managing sickness and absence – our current absence is around 6%. This is higher than typical absence for this time of year (3-4%), but much improved from our early April position which peaked at 16%.

Workforce Planning - Our local Higher Education Institution has experienced disruption of student completion, as well as a challenge now facing our Trusts to retain and convert those brought in on Fixed Term Contracts to substantive posts. The disruption to 2nd and 3rd year students has impacted on our inflow of workforce for the coming year.

Vacancy rates are at well documented highs, especially in registered professions. This is a Northamptonshire issue, which will only be solved by working together.



Digital Transformation Across Northamptonshire

Our vision for Digital Transformation across Northamptonshire is to:

- Empower our population and workforce with access to digital solutions that are inclusive, integrated and high quality to revolutionise overall health, well-being and care
- Inclusive: Access to digital services that are easy to use and understand; supporting active management of health, care and wellbeing across diverse communities.
- Integrated: Access to digital tools that provide joined up health and care details; facilitating access to holistic information across care pathways.
- High Quality: Access to digital tools that are safe, reliable and efficient; enabling enhanced health, care and wellbeing experiences across our communities.

We have developed a Digital Transformation strategy to deliver our vision and meet digitisation requirements over the next three years and enable the effective delivery of integrated care.

For Northamptonshire, these ambitions were also considered in the context of:


- The 800,000 people that live in our county, all with different and distinct health and care needs
- High level and complexity of demands on our services that we are currently challenged to meet
- The desire to provide our population and workforce with the tools to proactively prevent and manage ill health
- The ability for digital solutions to enable a collaborative and seamless health and care experience
- How data can be utilised to best assess and identify ways to improve health and care outcomes
- The Digital Transformation programmes that have been implemented to date across ICS organisations



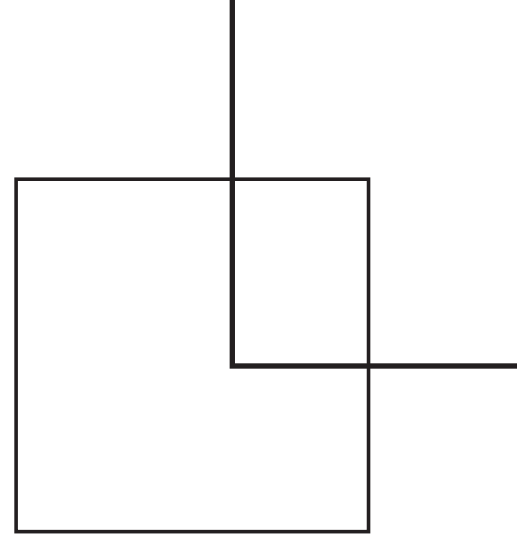
There are a number of core health, care and social drivers that have informed the need for transformation. These drivers reflect the key reasons why we need to transform and become more digital in order to provide the right care in the right setting across our communities and improve health and care outcomes for all. These transformation drivers include:

- Joining Up Health and Care Data
- Addressing Impacts of Covid-19
- Connecting Health and Care Pathways
- Developing Local Insights to Transform Care

With the possibilities of Digital Transformation in mind, it is the improved health, care and wellbeing outcomes for our population and workforce that remain at the heart of our continued transformation.



Thank you to those involved in creating this strategy and the feedback shared from residents of Northamptonshire to help shape our areas of focus. As we work together with partners, anchor institutions and voluntary sector and social enterprises, we will continue to strive to meet our vision and ambitions to help residents 'live their best life'.



**A signatory sign off page
will be included here
before final submission**



Contact details

XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX,
XXXXXXX,
XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX,
XXXXXXXXXX XXXXXX,
XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX,
XXX XXXX

Phone: XXXXX XXXXXXXXX

Web: icnorthamptonshire.org.uk

Email: xxxxxx@nhs.net



ICNorthamptonshire



@ICNorthants



Integrated Care Northamptonshire



ICNorthamptonshire

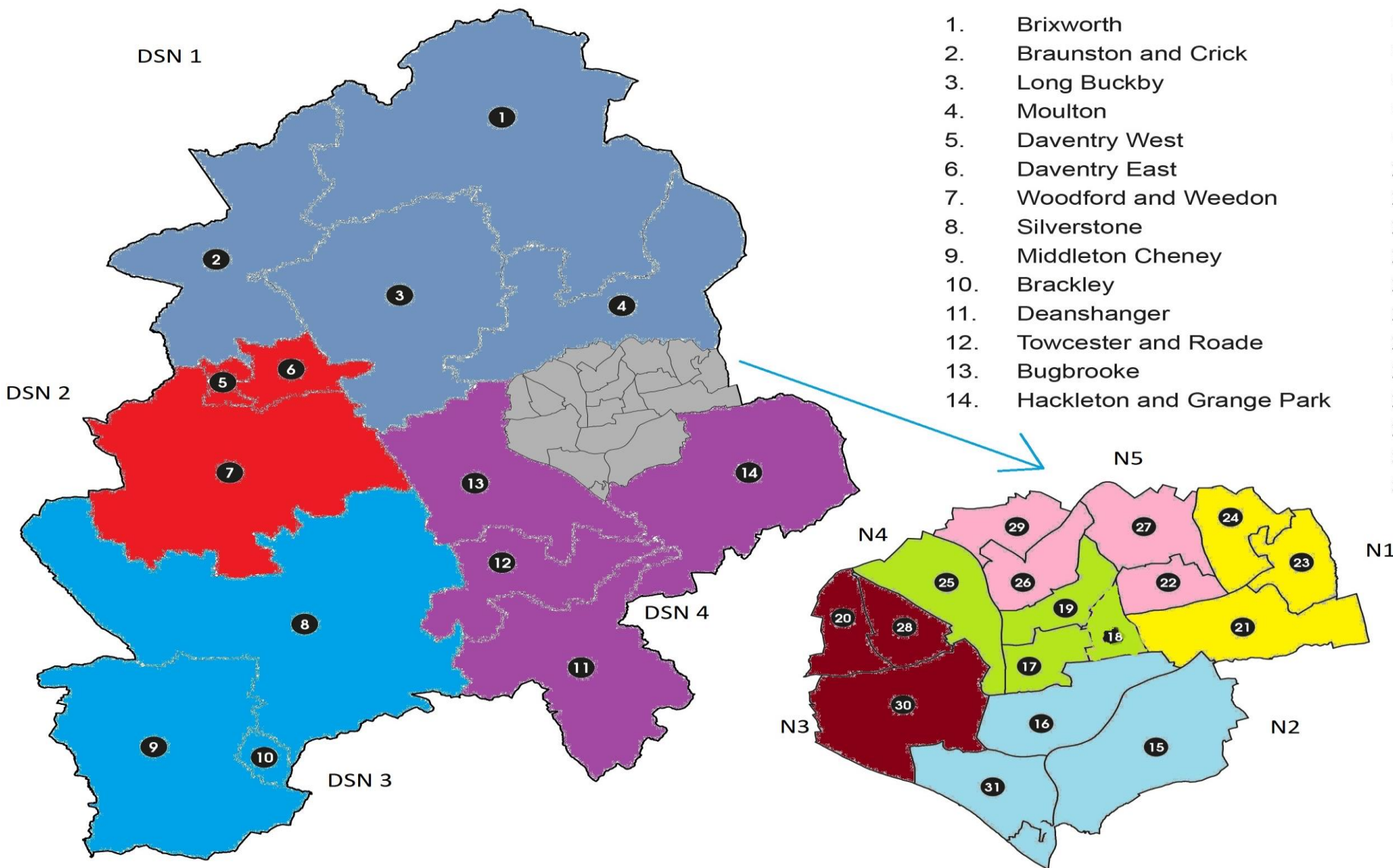
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West
Northamptonshire
Council

Local Area Partnerships Pioneer Sites Progress 15th November 2022

West Northamptonshire Unitary | Electoral Wards



- | | | | |
|-----|---------------------------|-----|-----------------------------|
| 1. | Brixworth | 15. | Nene Valley |
| 2. | Braunston and Crick | 16. | Delapre and Rushmere |
| 3. | Long Buckby | 17. | Castle |
| 4. | Moulton | 18. | Abington and Phippsville |
| 5. | Daventry West | 19. | St George |
| 6. | Daventry East | 20. | Duston West and St. Crispin |
| 7. | Woodford and Weedon | 21. | Riverside Park |
| 8. | Silverstone | 22. | Headlands |
| 9. | Middleton Cheney | 23. | Billing and Rectory Farm |
| 10. | Brackley | 24. | Talavera |
| 11. | Deanshanger | 25. | Dallington Spencer |
| 12. | Towcester and Roade | 26. | Kingsthorpe South |
| 13. | Bugbrooke | 27. | Boothville and Parklands |
| 14. | Hackleton and Grange Park | 28. | Duston East |
| | | 29. | Kingsthorpe North |
| | | 30. | Sixfields |
| | | 31. | East Hunsbury and Shelfleys |

N4 Lime Green Area
DSN4 Purple Area

Development of LAPs – story so far

- **Objective:** Health services, care services and wider determinates of health services integrated at a local level to focus on the needs of the community.
- 2 Pioneer sites identified to accelerate and test out how the LAP model might practically work.
- LAP N4 in Northampton, LAP DSN4 in Daventry & South Northants
- GPs mapped to LAPs.
- ASC on a LAP footprint.
- Council services adopting LAP approach where sensible.
- Neighbourhood Working Groups.
- VCSE engaged and will provide support to LAPs on a thematic basis.
- Police “beats” arranging themselves into LAPs.
- Links to iCAN welfare support teams to enhance access to services.
- Local Area Profile data to inform LAP priority setting.
- Asset mapping of LAPs.
- Asset based community engagement and coproduction.
- Links to WNC Anti-poverty Strategy Action Plan.

DSN4

Bugbrooke
Towcester and Roade
Deanshanger
Hackleton and Grange Park

N4

Dallington Spencer
Castle
Abington and Phippsville
St George

N4 LAP Membership

- Cllr Danielle Stone (Castle)
- Cllr Zoe Smith (Abington and Phippsville)
- Cllr Rufia Ashraf (Dallington Spencer)
- Cllr Catherine Russell (St George)
- Dr Catherine Massey (Abington Park Surgery)
- Dr Emma Donnelly (St Lukes Medical Centre)
- Dr Naomi Caldwell (Langham Place Surgery)
- Dr Darin Seiger (Moulton Medical Centre)
- Russel Rolph CEO Voluntary Impact Northamptonshire (VIN), VCSE
- Stuart Lackenby, Director of People (WNC)
- Sally Burns, Director of Public Health (WNC)
- Julie Curtis, Place Director (WNC)
- Invitees:
 - Cllr Matt Golby (Chair West Northants Health and Wellbeing Board)
 - Cllr Jonathan Nunn (Leader of WNC)

N4 LAP

Recent Discussions

- Improving access to Talking Therapies
 - Leaflets in food parcels and warm spaces
- Facilitate contact between WNC Community Development Workers in N4 with
 - GP Practices (including Patient Participation Groups) and
 - Elected Members
- COPD: Initiatives for black women; Children with asthma

Emerging Themes

- Intelligence led priority setting
- COPD: Double the national average emergency admissions for people with COPD
- Crime: ~50% of crime in Northampton is caused by people living in N4 – extended invitation to Police for representation on the N4 LAP membership
- Young people and unemployment still remain potential priorities

DSN4 LAP Membership

- Cllr Ken Prichard (Deanshanger)
- Cllr Maggie Clubley (Towcester)
- Cllr Karen Cooper (Bugbrooke)
- Cllr Stephen Clarke (Hackleton and Grange Park)
- Dr Graham Barter (Parks Medical Centre)
- Dr Rachel Parry (Bugbrooke)
- Dr Will Wall (Denton)
- Dr Philip Stephens (Chair Daventry & South Northants Locality)
- Russel Rolph, CEO Voluntary Impact Northamptonshire (VIN), VCSE
- Stuart Lackenby, Director of People (WNC) – Chair of LAP meeting
- Sally Burns, Director of Public Health (WNC)
- Julie Curtis, Place Director (WNC)
- Invitees:
 - Cllr Matt Golby (Chair West Northants Health and Wellbeing Board)
 - Cllr Jonathan Nunn (Leader of WNC)

DSN4 LAP

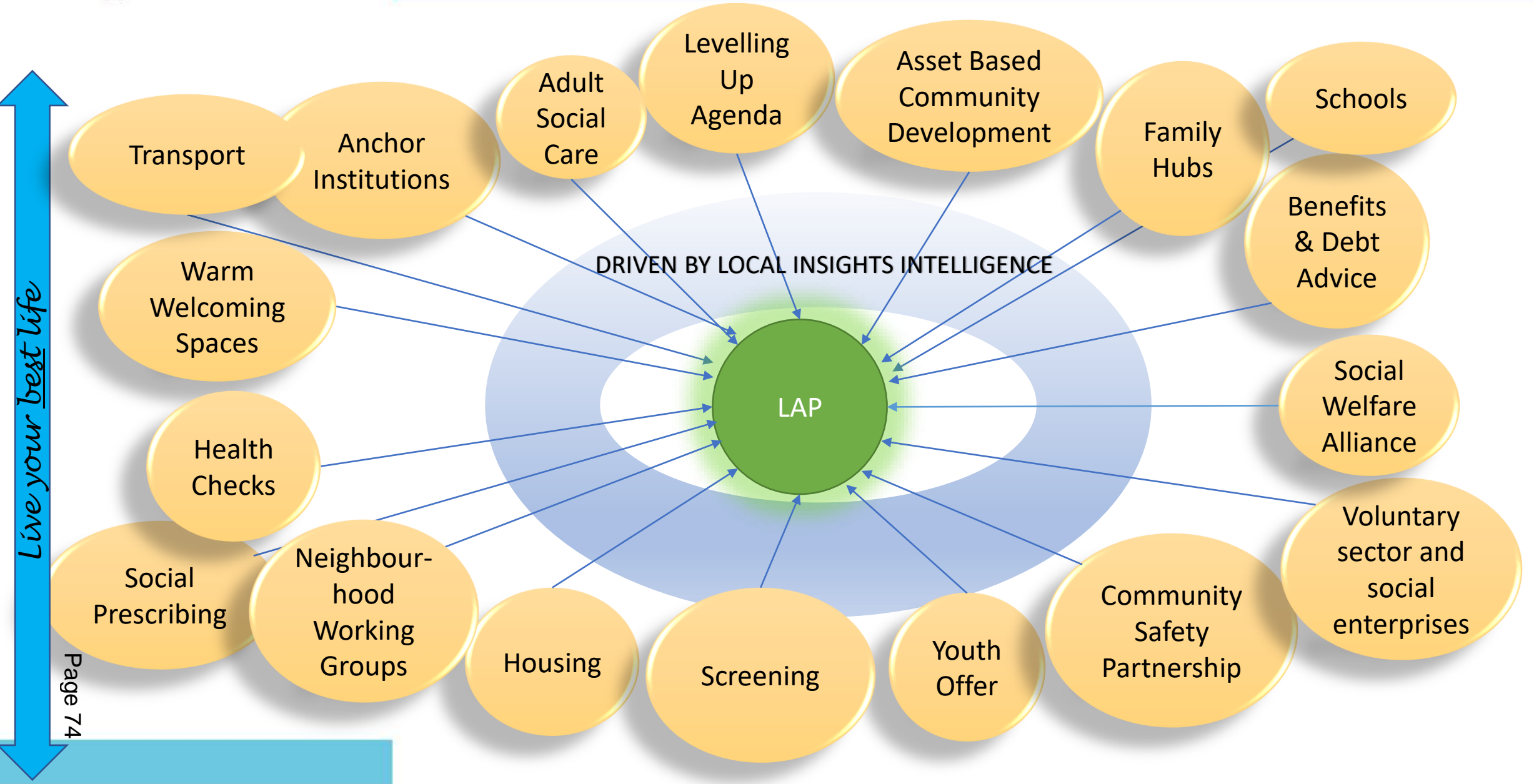
Recent Discussions

- Family hub in Towcester – Co-location at The Forum in Towcester - Birth registrations, 12 week scan, Midwifery, Health Visitors, early years, Childrens social care, mums & tots
- Access to Job Centre facilities in Towcester
- Cross border working challenges

Emerging Themes

- Family hub in Towcester
- Distance and travel times to key services
- 2nd meeting arranged for 8th November

The art of the possible



WEST NORTHAMPTONSHIRE HEALTH AND WELLBEING BOARD

15th November 2022

Report Title	West Northants Housing Strategy
Report Author	Jacqueline Brooks, Housing Services Manager, West Northants Council

Contributors/Checkers/Approvers		
Other Director/SME	Sally Burns	3rd November 2022

List of Appendices

Appendix A – West Northants Housing Strategy

1. Purpose of Report

- 1.1. To present the West Northants Housing Strategy 2022-2025 to the board and how the strategy aligns with the Live your best life ambitions and outcomes framework.

2. Executive Summary

- 2.1 The West Northants Housing Strategy was adopted by Cabinet on the 23 September 2022. The Strategy is a key high level strategic document that sets out the local authority's strategic priorities and vision for housing in their area. Whilst a housing strategy is not a statutory duty for the Council, it is a best practice approach and local authorities are encouraged to create a strategic document that states their housing ambition.
- 2.2 The Housing strategy will cover the period 2022-2025, which is considered to be a suitable duration to reflect the transitions and change that West Northants Council is still progressing through.
- 2.3 The Housing Strategy sets out four themes:
- Deliver homes people need and can afford
 - Improve the quality, standard and safety of homes and housing services
 - Support residents to live healthy, safe, independent and active lives

- Support thriving and sustainable communities

2.3 These themes are supported by 14 strategic priorities. Each of the strategic priorities identify a number of actions required to deliver the priority.

2.4 The Housing Strategy was developed through evidence gathering and consultation with members, internal council teams, the local community, our partners and wider stakeholders via validation workshops, stakeholder events and public consultation.

2.5 The formal public consultation on the draft themes and priorities for the Housing Strategy took place from 14 April – 24 May 2022. Feedback from the consultation was generally positive and there was a good level of support for the strategy's four proposed themes and their associated priorities.

3. Recommendations

3.1 To note the contents of the West Northants Housing Strategy and how it aligns with the Live your best life and the outcomes framework

4. Report Background

4.1 The Housing Strategy has been developed based on research and analysis of our evidence bases, the key issues identified have been summarised below:

- A need for more housing to meet the needs of our growing aging population
- Rising house prices and cost of living increases are adding to affordability pressures
- A need for more affordable housing, in particular a need for social rent
- Increasing housing needs on the Council's housing registers/waiting lists
- High number of households living in temporary accommodation
- A need to better understand the longer term need and demand for supported housing, housing care and support and other specialist housing options

4.2 The Housing Strategy sets out four themes:

- Deliver homes people need and can afford
- Improve the quality, standard and safety of homes and housing services
- Support residents to live healthy, safe, independent and active lives
- Support thriving and sustainable communities

4.3 We need to have ambitious plan to create homes people need alongside a thriving economy to ensure we meet the housing needs and demands of existing and future residents and achieve the best outcomes for our area.

4.3 Housing is a crucial component of wellbeing. Good quality housing provides a sound platform to build a good quality of life. Poor quality or inadequate housing tends to be associated with poorer outcomes for people.

4.4 As a key council document, the housing strategy has a significant impact with regard to place-shaping for our area. The strategy cuts across a significant part of many of the other services that the council provides, including adult social care commissioned services, children’s services and community needs, and impacts on a number of issues including housing need, affordability, economic growth, vulnerable people and social care provision. The effective delivery of the housing strategy is focussed on delivering positive housing outcomes for the area and its residents.

4.5 There are three key principles underlying the strategy:

- Partnership working – this is a critical thread as many of the priorities can only be achieved by partnership, collaboration and integration.
- Fairness and consistency
- Financial resilience

4.6 The tables below illustrate how the Housing Strategy and the four themes and associated priorities, align with live your best life and the outcomes framework.

Theme 1 – Deliver homes people need and can afford

Key considerations:

The supply of new homes is central to the economic and social prosperity of the area. The development and quality of homes have direct relationships with the health and wellbeing of individuals, hence the importance that we ensure the delivery of a range of housing options at the right price and in the right locations to cater to different needs both now and in the future.

The provision of delivering genuine affordable housing is a key concern, as high housing and living costs has the most direct impact on poverty and material deprivation. Affordability is a substantial driver of poor health and wellbeing.

New development of housing also needs to be supported with the right infrastructure.

To enable these things to happen we need to understand our local housing market and our housing need to help deliver what is appropriate and affordable, by catering for specific needs and different incomes and standards to increase choice and value.

Theme 1: Deliver homes people need and can afford	
Priorities	Live you best life / framework outcomes alignment
Develop an evidence base of the full range of housing need across West Northants and identify gaps with the current housing supply	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The best start in life • Access to the best available education and learning • Opportunity to be fit, well and independent

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Employment that keeps people and families out of poverty • Good housing in place that are clean and green • To feel safe in their homes and when out and about • Connected to their families and friends • The chance for a fresh start when things go wrong • Access to health and social care when they need it • Valued for who they are
<p>Increase the supply of social and affordable housing, including the delivery of council homes, and working in partnership with a range of providers and making the best use of the Council's land assets and resources</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The best start in life • Opportunity to be fit, well and independent • Employment that keeps people and families out of poverty • Housing that is affordable, safe ad sustainable in places which are clean and green, • To feel safe in their homes and when out and about • Connected to their families and friend • The chance for a fresh start when things go wrong • Valued for who they are
<p>Support the delivery of a range of housing to meet local needs, including private rent, housing for older people, low cost home ownership, intermediate rent and outright sale</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Housing that is affordable, safe ad sustainable in places which are clean and green • Employment that keeps people and families out of poverty • To feel safe in their homes and when out and about • Connected to their families and friend • The chance for a fresh start when things go wrong •

Theme 2: Improve the quality, standard and safety of homes and housing services

Key considerations:

Health outcomes are strongly linked to the condition of homes so it is vital that we maintain and invest in the housing stock and drive up standards to ensure the safety and wellbeing of residents.

The Social Housing White Paper (2020) focussed on rebalancing the relationship between tenants and landlords to ensure that tenants have good quality homes and neighbourhoods that they feel safe in. The Regulator for Social Housing (RSH) have a set of regulatory standards that contain specific expectations that registered providers of social housing must comply with and the outcomes that providers are expected to achieve.

People in the private sector should also expect good standard and access to the private renting should be available to anyone who needs it. A strong private rented sector made up of good quality homes benefits the who community. West Northants, and particularly Northampton is very reliant on the private rented sector for helping with housing needs and homelessness. Security of tenure and the perceived risk of eviction contribute to feelings of anxiety, stress and not feeling settled and at home affects wellbeing.

Theme 2: Improve the quality, standard and safety of homes and housing services	
Priorities	Live you best life / framework outcomes alignment
Deliver high quality services and standards to residents in social housing, and ensure residents are empowered to have a voice to help shape their local environment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Opportunity to be fit, well and independent. • Employment that keeps people and families out of poverty • Good housing in place that are clean and green • To feel safe in their homes and when out and about • Connected to their families and friend • The chance for a fresh start when things go wrong • Access to health and social care when they need it • Valued for who they are
Influence the private sector to improve standards and access to ensure safe homes for all	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Opportunity to be fit, well and independent. • Employment that keeps people and families out of poverty • Good housing in place that are clean and green

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To feel safe in their homes and when out and about • The chance for a fresh start when things go wrong
Have a consistent approach to the letting of social housing across West Northants	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Opportunity to be fit, well and independent. • Employment that keeps people and families out of poverty • Good housing in place that are clean and green • To feel safe in their homes and when out and about • Connected to their families and friend • The chance for a fresh start when things go wrong

Theme 3: Supporting residents to live safe, healthy, independent and active lives

Key considerations:

The cornerstone of delivering quality communities and neighbourhoods is understanding different needs across the area, enabling joint working and identifying opportunities to come together to solve challenging issues. This aligns with the Northamptonshire Integrated Care partnership which brings together health and social care partners to deliver quality care at the right time and in the right place.

The creation of 9 local area partnerships across West Northants will be the catalyst for this, to bring together geographically based partnerships to plan, co-ordinate and commission services. To do this effectively our plans need to be underpinned by an evidence base which clearly maps the different needs at a local level, which can be used to tailor accessible services at a local level to meet individual needs in a person-centred way. This work is beginning in the LAP N4 covering key wards in Northampton, with parts of this area having levels of deprivation. In terms of housing there is a mix of council estates, managed by Northampton Partnership Homes and areas where there are significant levels of HMOs. The LAP will be key in driving forward an integrated approach with support and interventions from housing, health, adult social care etc.

One of the key outcomes of this strategy is how we engage and reflect the voices of people with lived experiences and provide opportunities for engagement in decision that affect them. This will help reduce health inequality, improve health and wellbeing and reduce duplication and inefficiency at the point of delivery.

Theme 3: Supporting residents to live safe, healthy, independent and active lives	
Priorities	Live you best life / framework outcomes alignment
The effective integration of housing, health, adult social care and the Children’s Trust to deliver enhanced person-centred outcomes for all	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The best start in life • Access to the best available education and learning • Opportunity to be fit, well and independent • Employment that keeps people and families out of poverty • Good housing in place that are clean and green • To feel safe in their homes and when out and about • Connected to their families and friends • The chance for a fresh start when things go wrong • Access to health and social care when they need it • Valued for who they are
Ensure that residents who require specialist housing provision have access to homes and support services that allow them to live independently in an area that is right for them	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The best start in life • Access to the best available education and learning • Opportunity to be fit, well and independent • Employment that keeps people and families out of poverty • Good housing in place that are clean and green • To feel safe in their homes and when out and about • Connected to their families and friends • The chance for a fresh start when things go wrong • Access to health and social care when they need it • Valued for who they are
Develop services around the needs of residents by involving them in the process of shaping and commissioning housing options, services and support	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The chance for a fresh start when things go wrong • Access to health and social care when they need it • The chance for a fresh start when things go wrong • Connected to their families and friends

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Valued for who they are
<p>Tackling homelessness and rough sleeping in a way that delivers positive long-term outcomes for each individual</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The best start in life • Access to the best available education and learning • Opportunity to be fit, well and independent • Employment that keeps people and families out of poverty • Good housing in place that are clean and green • To feel safe in their homes and when out and about • Connected to their families and friends • The chance for a fresh start when things go wrong • Access to health and social care when they need it • Valued for who they are

Theme 4: Support thriving and sustainable communities

Key considerations:

The Council seeks to bring together a sustainability programme that covers social, economic and environmental issues and these factors should form the basis of our decision making. In addition, housing sits at the heart of all three of these areas and forms a strong link that binds them together.

The council has a new sustainability team who are mapping the activities and measures of the council against the 17 UN Sustainable Development Goals and are planning to establish baseline data in these areas, and then align our actions. As can be seen by the diagram below, the sustainability goals have strong links the role of housing and also the Live your best life ambitions.



This theme supports some of the other themes within the strategy, and as part of the implementation and delivery of the strategy an integral part will be identifying specific sustainability targets.

Theme 4:	
Priorities	Live you best life / framework outcomes alignment
<p>Contribute to achieving the pledges as set out in the Council’s sustainability strategy</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The best start in life • Access to the best available education and learning • Opportunity to be fit, well and independent • Employment that keeps people and families out of poverty • Good housing in place that are clean and green • To feel safe in their homes and when out and about • Connected to their families and friends • The chance for a fresh start when things go wrong • Access to health and social care when they need it

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Valued for who they are
Improve the energy performance of homes within the social housing sector	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Opportunity to be fit, well and independent • Employment that keeps people and families out of poverty • Good housing in place that are clean and green • To feel safe in their homes and when out and about
Have a positive impact on the energy performance of privately owned homes and homes in the private rented sector	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Opportunity to be fit, well and independent • Employment that keeps people and families out of poverty • Good housing in place that are clean and green • To feel safe in their homes and when out and about
Support thriving local economies and communities by linking local employment with suitable housing opportunities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Opportunity to be fit, well and independent • Employment that keeps people and families out of poverty • Good housing in place that are clean and green • Connected to their families and friends • To feel safe in their homes and when out and about

5. Issues and Choices

n/a

6. Implications (including financial implications)

6.1 Resources and Financial

6.1.1 The approval of the Housing Strategy does not in itself incur any new revenue or capital liabilities for either the Housing Revenue Account or the general fund.

6.1.2 The implementation of and delivery of the Housing Strategy requires significant investment of time and resource by existing council staff and its partners. The delivery action plan will need to be fully costed to set out the expected financial impact on the council. If the financial impacts cannot be covered within existing resources a further report will be brought back to Cabinet to determine if additional resources will be released and how they will be funded.

6.1.3 The delivery plan will be an ever-evolving document and if additional resources are required in the future they may be considered as part of the normal budget setting process.

6.1.4 Throughout the lifetime of the strategy there will be some specific projects and developments where decisions will need to be made and the full revenue and capital implications will be made clear at the time. None of the projects or development will be able to proceed until the appropriate funding is agreed and in place.

6.2 **Legal**

6.2.1 It is not a statutory requirement for the Council to adopt a housing strategy. However, it sets out objectives and targets and policies on how the Council intends to manage and deliver its strategic housing role and provides an overarching framework against which the Council considers and formulates other policies on more specific housing offices which relate to the delivery of the Council's housing functions.

6.3 **Risk**

6.3.1 There are no significant risks arising from the proposed recommendations in this report.

6.4 **Consultation**

6.4.1 The Housing Strategy has been developed through consultation with members, the local community, partners and wider stakeholders through the following channels:

- Evidence gathering – We collected a wide range of evidence across all areas which impact on Housing to understand the situation including trends and future predictions.
- Validation workshops – We held a number of workshops with different departments in the council and external organisations who will be involved with the delivery of the strategy to understand the context and delivery challenges they face.
- Stakeholder events – We brought together a wide range of people with an interest including local voluntary groups, members, officers and other organisations to get their feedback and input into the recommendations.
- Member involvement – We attended a number of committees with elected members to share the strategy as it was developed and to get their input into it. This included an all-member workshop in May 2022.
- Formal public consultation – We did a full public consultation to understand people's concerns and priorities so that we could ensure the strategy had the right focus and included actions which would address their concerns.

6.4.2 The formal consultation on the emerging themes and priorities ran from 14th April – 24th May 2022. We had nearly 600 responses analysed, with 257 completing the whole questionnaire and over 280 comments in total from a variety of groups and individuals including residents, registered providers, voluntary and charitable organisations, statutory bodies and parish/town councils. There was overwhelming support for each of the themes and the priorities to be progressed.

6.5 **Consideration by Overview and Scrutiny**

6.5.1 During the validation period of developing the strategy, a presentation was given to People and Place Overview and Scrutiny Committees, this provided an overview of the evidence base gathered and the draft themes and priorities to be consulted on. During the formal consultation period all members were invited to a Housing Strategy workshop. In August a pre-decision scrutiny of the draft Housing Strategy took place. The workshop was led by the People Overview and Scrutiny Committee but was open to members of the Corporate and Place Overview and Scrutiny committee to attend.

6.6 **Climate Impact**

6.6.1 Supporting thriving and sustainable communities is one of the four themes of the Housing Strategy. It sets out that the provision and management of housing plays a role in helping to deliver the overall sustainability goals the Council are seeking to achieve through its Corporate Plan and the recently adopted Sustainability Strategy.

6.6.2 The strategy recognises the need to achieve zero carbon will be a significant challenge

6.7 **Community Impact**

6.7.1 The Housing Strategy will have a positive direct and indirect on housing, health and wellbeing across multiple areas. It promotes the provision of healthy housing, good quality supported housing, aim to reduce homelessness, supports economic prosperity and provide support for those who need it. It also supports good quality environments and public spaces that also benefit are our mental health and wellbeing.

7.7.2 An Equality Impact Screening Assessment (EIA) was undertaken to inform the development of the draft Housing Strategy. The results of this screening process did not highlight any areas of concerns as the strategy document doesn't seek to introduce any policy change directly and any actions from the strategy that do introduce new policy or approach will be accompanied by their own EIA screening.

7. **Background Papers**

7.1 None



**West
Northamptonshire
Council**

West Northamptonshire

Housing Strategy

2022-2025



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Foreword

As a new unitary authority covering a wide geographical area that includes large urban centres and rural hinterlands, it is important that we detail how WNC and its partners will undertake the strategic housing role. It provides an opportunity to shape and deliver our vision for the West Northamptonshire area.

This is the first Housing Strategy for West Northamptonshire Council, forming one of the cornerstones for delivering the Council's Corporate Plan 2021-2025.

We recognise that there are challenging times ahead, the current energy crisis and the cost-of-living increases are causing severe financial difficulties to many households. It is critical that the housing strategy focusses priorities and actions that provide greater stability and support for households and communities that will help create sustainable and thriving communities for people living in West Northants.

This strategy sets out to tackle big issues like affordability, health, the supply of new homes and the environment. These are not easy things to solve, but we can make a real contribution to improved outcomes for many people by taking the right steps now.



This strategy is a high-level document setting out a clear vision with strong leadership for West Northants Council and its partners to ensure that housing, planning, health, economic development and regeneration work together to deliver and influence an integrated housing market. It is critical therefore that working in partnership and across boundaries forms part of our approach.

The strategy has been brought together by a wide range of people with different views so we have already started this journey.

Councillor Adam Brown
Portfolio Holder for Housing, Culture and Leisure





Our vision

is to make

West Northants

a great place

to live, work,

visit and

thrive:

A place where there is opportunity for all – where children are given the best start in life and vulnerable children are supported and protected. A place where all young people grow up qualified and inspired to succeed.

A place where people are proud to live, with strong sustainable communities, decent homes, a fulfilling job, and stress-free travel through well connected places.

A place where people are supported to live independent, self-sufficient lives and where everyone has the best life chances. A place where services are joined up and if you need a helping hand you'll get it.

A place with a thriving and prosperous economy that draws in investment, visitors and talent. A place where we have modern towns but where rural character is cherished.

A place at the forefront of action on climate change with clean air, sustainable growth and a flourishing natural environment.

Introduction

This strategy is built around four themes that connect strongly with this vision and the Council's Corporate Plan that sits alongside it.

As a local authority we want to be ambitious and deliver great outcomes for our residents and the area. We however need to ensure that this strategy is sustainable and financially resilient and we will only achieve our outcomes by working with partners and stakeholders across the area.

The themes of this strategy are:

- Deliver homes people need and can afford
- Improve the quality, standard and safety of homes and housing services
- Support residents to live healthy, safe, independent and active lives
- Support thriving and sustainable communities



The establishment and development of Northamptonshire's Integrated Care Partnership (ICP) presents an opportunity to shape the partnerships that will have a key role in supporting and working with our communities. A place-based approach will be implemented, with a focus on ensuring needs are understood and addressed at the most appropriate local level. Nine neighbourhood profiles are being developed across West Northants to inform the priorities and areas of actions for each of these neighbourhoods. These action plans will recognise the differences between and within places and neighbourhoods and ensure that services are targeted and appropriate to meet population need.

Live Your Best Life identifies ten ambitions which the Council and health partners hope to achieve through the Integrated Care System.

- Thriving Childhood
- Access to the best available education and learning
- Opportunity to be fit, well and independent
- Employment that keeps them and their families out of poverty
- Housing that is affordable, safe, and sustainable in places which are clean and green
- To feel safe in their homes and when out and about
- Connected to their families and friends
- The chance for a fresh start when things go wrong
- Access to health and social care when they need it
- To be accepted and valued simply for who they are.

These ambitions link to the ICP as a way of involving communities and community organisations in the design of services which meet health inequalities in its widest sense. Through the collaboration of partners to deliver the Housing Strategy will also contribute to the [Live Your Best Life](#) ambitions.

The 2022-2025 West Northants Housing Strategy will replace any housing strategies that the previous legacy councils had in place.

Context

This strategy cannot operate in isolation and in developing it with other stakeholders we have been mindful of changing conditions which will impact on its delivery. We have taken into account the following national, local and organisational factors.

National Policy

There is an increased emphasis on regulation nationally which will greatly impact the delivery and management of housing, with a particular emphasis on social housing, much of which stems from the enquiries into the fire at Grenfell. As a result of this we will see:

- New Social Housing (Regulation) Bill, which will:
 - Promote consumer standards and a greater level of intervention from the Regulator for Social Housing (RSH)
 - New tenant satisfaction measures
 - New complaint handling code and increased role for housing ombudsman
- A new regulator for Building Safety within the Health and Safety Executive (HSE) that will oversee the implementation of new regulations
- A New Homes Ombudsman for owners of new-build homes to escalate complaints
- New Government targets for environmental sustainability
- A new standard for Decent Homes
- Uplift in the energy efficiency of new homes through changes to Building Regulations and published Future Homes Standard

Local Policy

The Housing Strategy is designed to support the delivery of the objectives set out in the West Northamptonshire Corporate Plan and works in tandem with other strategies and plans including:

- Allocation Policies
- Anti-Poverty Strategy
- Better Care Fund plans to enable the delivery of the disabled facilities mandatory and discretionary regime
- Integrated Care Across Northamptonshire (ICAN)
- Joint Commissioning Strategy for people with a learning disability
- Local Plans and Neighbourhood Plans
- Northampton Town Centre Masterplan
- Northamptonshire Children's Trust – Looked after Children and Care Leavers strategy (2021-25)
- Sustainability Strategy

Sustainability and the Climate Emergency

Challenges in social, economic and environmental sustainability are critical to our future and need to be taken into account. The Government wants to deliver ambitious targets, particularly in relation to climate through local Councils and communities. West Northants has signed up to UK100 which seeks to deliver some of those targets ahead of Government deadlines and this strategy is aligned to these goals.

The Council has set three sustainability pledges

- To make the Council's own emissions net zero by 2030 and those of residents and businesses by 2045;
- Take a community leadership role for Sustainability across West Northants;
- Ensure Council strategies and policies are aligned to and contribute to the delivery of the United Nations Sustainable Development goals.

The role that housing plays in creating a better and fairer society is recognised, and can be instrumental in some of the other council priorities including tackling poverty and inequality and the impacts on people's health and security.

Context

Economic outlook

At the time of writing this strategy, there were a range of challenges which were making the economic outlook uncertain. Against a backdrop of a rapidly rising cost-of-living particularly in relation to food and energy costs, increased inflation and interest rates were affecting things like debt and mortgages. This in turn was creating an upward pressure on wages in public services and elsewhere.

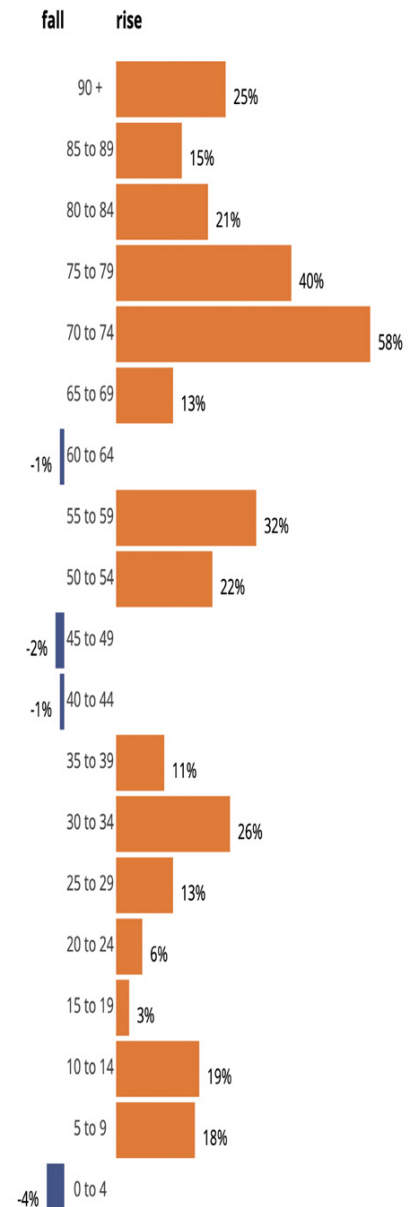
Reduced access to materials, food and energy was also likely to increase due to global difficulties relating to sanctions and the war in Ukraine. This has the potential in affecting the cost of new build homes, leading to a reduction in the volume of new homes being built.

A changing local population

West Northants is a growing area, with a population of 425,700 (2021 Census) residents, it is anticipated that the population will grow by 7% up to 2030, and the number of households is set to grow by 12% by 2030. Within that, the population aged 65 year and over is expected to grow by 9% which represents 76% of total population growth.

The latest census information confirms this trend with a population growth of 13.5% in the last 10 years (the second highest in the East Midlands and against a national average of 6.6%). Within this the data also reflects an ageing population as well as a growing population across almost all age groups:

Figure 1: Population change (%) by age group in West Northants (2011 to 2021)



We need to have ambitious plans to create the homes people need alongside a thriving economy to ensure we meet the housing needs and demands of existing and future residents.

West Northamptonshire also has an ageing population, so alongside the current and potential future public health challenges we need to have the right kind of support that can flex as the need arises. Identifying and responding to an individual's changing needs requires the integration of housing support and health services so that they are joined up from the perspective of the people using them. This challenge is within a context of increased pressure on Adult Social Care funding including recruitment difficulties.

Context

West Northants Council - a developing organisation

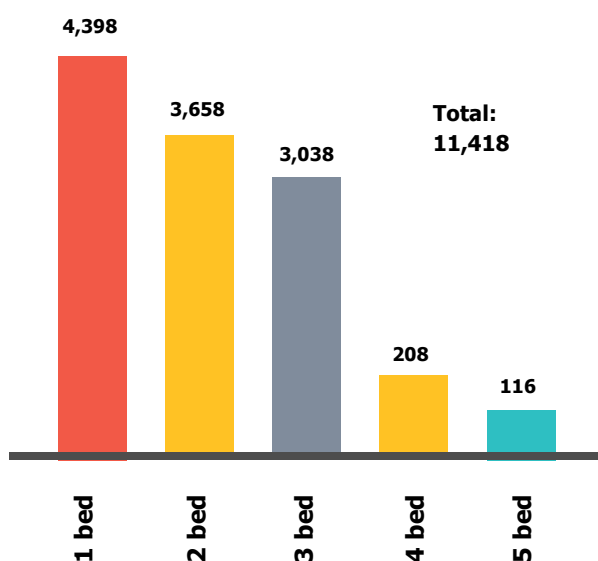
As a newly created unitary authority we are still making progress in harmonising the delivery of services and undertaking a full transformation programme. Over the next three years (the life of this strategy) the council will continue to develop a range of plans and strategies and when this strategy is reviewed in 2025 we will ensure that we are aligning the Housing Strategy goals with strategies that have been adopted during that period.

This strategy and the operational delivery plan will be clear on what priorities /action can be delivered within the lifetime of this strategy and those that are much longer term.

The Council as a landlord

Whilst this strategy covers all forms of housing including home ownership, private rented and social housing, West Northants Council owns over 12,000 homes (including leaseholder and shared ownership) with the majority of the homes managed by Northampton Partnership Homes (NPH), who are the Council's arms-length management organisation (ALMO).

Figure 2: A breakdown of the rental property types and sizes that NPH manage



As an owner of social housing, we are registered with the Regulator for Social Housing and we are also an investment partner with Homes England, which has enabled the development by NPH of over 325 new council homes.

As a provider of social housing, we will work in partnership with NPH to ensure that we set high standards and work effectively with other local registered providers (RPs) to drive both the supply of new affordable housing and the standards to which they are managed across the Council's area.

Theme 1 – Deliver homes people need and can afford

Context

West Northamptonshire is an area with significant growth and economic potential. It is a prosperous place, where people want to live and stay. It has an attractive and good quality housing offer, creating prosperous places and neighbourhoods, to attract and retain skilled people, investment, employment opportunities and new economic opportunities. The housing strategy presents an opportunity to improve the use of housing in the area as an enabler for economic growth and local economic development and make stronger links between housing and the economy at a local level.

The supply of new homes is central to the economic and social prosperity of any area. It is critical therefore that we ensure the delivery of a range of housing options at the right price and in the right locations to cater for different needs both now and in the future.

The feedback we have had (from the consultation for this strategy) was that affordability and supply of new homes was the most important issue for residents. All too often local people are priced out of the area and are forced to move away from family, friends and sometimes employment. The importance of delivering genuine affordable housing was a key concern. Also, the Council's adopted anti-poverty strategy highlighted that high housing and living costs had the most direct impact on poverty and material deprivation.

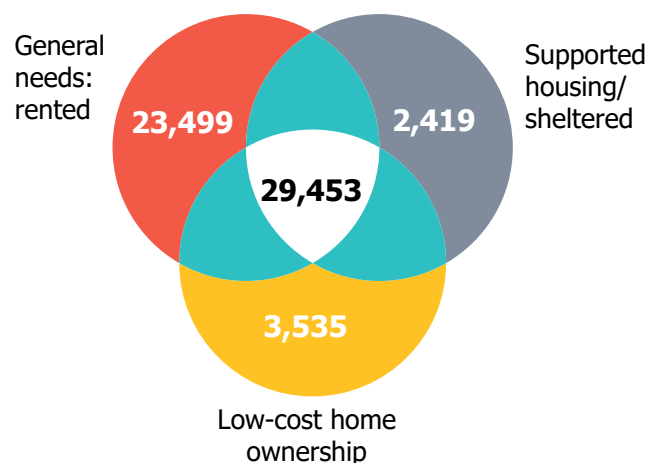
Alongside this, residents said that new development needs to be supported with the right infrastructure with people citing health, education and public transport as things which need to be considered. This ties in with the provision of a range of services that need to go alongside housing to bring about prosperity and improved community and health outcomes. This is covered more in Theme 3.

Of course, we recognise that in some areas affordability is the biggest challenge, whilst in other areas there is a need to add greater variety catering for different incomes and standards to increase choice and value. Therefore, we need to understand our local housing market and to help deliver what is appropriate and affordable.

Levering new investment into the area will be essential to meet our current and future needs and this strategy recognises that strong partnerships are needed to achieve this. As an investment partner, our relationship with Homes England will be crucial in how their funding can support greater certainty to deliver the homes we need.

Registered Providers across West Northants own and manage over 29,000 affordable homes across the area, which includes just over 12,000 council homes managed by our arm's length management company – Northampton Partnership Homes (NPH).

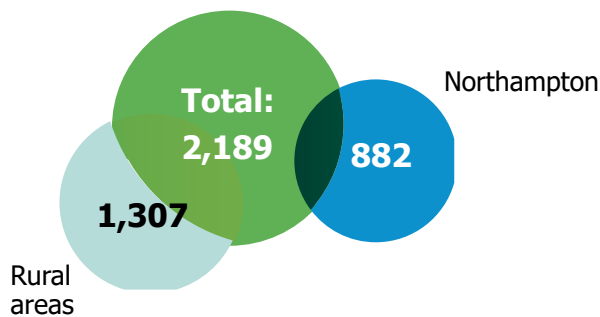
Figure 3: The number of affordable homes across West Northants (2021)



Theme 1 – Deliver homes people need and can afford

Registered Providers (RP) also develop new homes with an extra 2189 homes delivered over the last five years and an additional 973 due to complete in the next two years.

Figure 4: The number of new affordable homes delivered between 2016 – 2021



Working in partnership with affordable housing providers alongside Northampton Partnership Homes (NPH) who manage our Council homes is key to delivering the range of housing options needed by residents. As part of this, it is important that we fully understand our own portfolio of assets, including our housing estates, to identify opportunities for new development, under-utilised spaces or redevelopment of poorly performing properties.

A key focus of NPH's new housing delivery programme will be the regeneration of the Council's housing estates, which will deliver benefits to tenants and the wider community.

Although a large component of new affordable housing delivery is through S106 led development – a legally binding agreement or planning obligation as part of the granting of planning permission. It is important that NPH should only consider delivering S106 sites where this represents additionality and the best value in delivering new properties. There are RP partners working across the Council area who would purchase affordable housing through S106 led development.

The Council will play an active role in engaging with partners and developers in bringing

forward sites to ensure a pipeline of high-quality homes that also meet our ambitions for environmental sustainability. This will include supply chains for factory-built homes using modern methods of construction (MMC) to improve quality, reduce waste and shorten delivery times.

The availability and land development costs can be prohibitive and act as a barrier to development, the consideration of joint ventures is a proactive way that brings together the local authority, RPs, Homes England and other key partners to help scale up delivery, develop homes that are needed and are in right location and the ability to manage exposure, sharing risk and reward and help keep the costs of development in an uncertain market.

Planning Requirements

The planning policy requirements for new housing, including affordable housing, are set out in the West Northants Joint Core Strategy (WNJCS) (December 2014) and the part two Local Plans which have been adopted for the former Daventry and South Northants. The part two Local Plan for Northampton is expected to be adopted by the end of 2022.

The Council's Local Plans sets out the requirement for an appropriate mix of housing types, tenures and sizes, and the required percentage of affordable housing (subject to viability). It is important that to deliver truly sustainable and healthy communities the Council works with developers / applicants/agents etc to ensure that the size of accommodation that is delivered meets the reasonable expectations of the intended number of occupants and where possible aligns with nationally prescribed space standards. The WNJCS emphasises the importance of maximising development opportunities on brownfield land. Northampton provides the most opportunities for brownfield development, and several sites included in the emerging part two plan are on previously developed land.

Theme 1 – Deliver homes people need and can afford

West Northants Council is preparing a new West Northants Strategic Plan (WNSP) for the area (due to be adopted in 2025) which will replace the WNJCS and set out the spatial vision for the area up to 2041. This will include the range and amount of housing that needs to be provided across West Northants, including the proportion of housing that should be affordable.

Work undertaken so far in the Housing and Economic Needs Assessment which looked at the period to 2050, shows that 64,170 additional dwellings are needed (2,139 annually) by 2050, 37,869 of which would need to be affordable properties.

This compares to 2,189 new affordable homes delivered over the last 5 years, however the development of the WNSP will be an opportunity to review our planning policies in relation to affordable housing and ensure we maximise delivery of affordable homes through the planning system.

The WNSP will also seek to connect the supply of new housing to wider strategies and policies including the quality of place and town centres, infrastructure provision including schools and health facilities, as well as looking at utilities, transport, access to open space, flood risk and sustainability. The WNSP once adopted will give developers, landowners, Registered Providers and Investors a clear policy context to work within.

Theme 1: Our priorities

1.1 Develop an evidence base of the full range of housing need across West Northants and identify gaps with the current housing supply

1.2 Increase the supply of social and affordable housing, including the delivery of council homes through our ALMO (NPH), and working in partnership with a range of providers and making the best use of the Council's land assets and resources

1.3 Support the delivery of a range of housing to meet local needs including private rent, housing for older people, low-cost home ownership, intermediate rent and outright sale.

Theme 1: What do we plan to do

1.1 Develop an evidence base of the full range of housing need across West Northamptonshire and identify gaps with the current housing supply

- We will collect and make available evidence of our housing market intelligence that can be used by a variety of stakeholders to plan the delivery of the right housing in the right location
- We will outline the specific needs of various groups including young people, care leavers, older people, people with physical disabilities, people with mental health needs, marginalised ethnic groups, travellers and people with learning difficulties

1.2 Increase the supply of social and affordable housing, including the delivery of council homes through our ALMO (NPH), and working in partnership with a range of providers and making the best use of the Council's land assets and resources

- Through the Local Plans, we will drive developers' compliance in delivering the required percentage of affordable housing on all qualifying development sites
- We will engage with the development of the Strategic Plan to support the delivery of infrastructure and promote placemaking through quality of the environment, public realm, quality recreation and community space.
- We will maximise grant funding opportunities and ensure continual engagement with central Government departments including DLUHC, Homes England and BEIS
- We will review options to encourage a faster rate of delivery of new homes through modern methods of construction (MMC)

Theme 1 – Deliver homes people need and can afford

- We will work with partners to deliver more social rent and genuine affordable housing and set out a definition for affordability across West Northants
- We will co-create with NPH a Development Strategy to identify development opportunities to deliver 500 Council homes (2021-2025) and where feasible on a social rent basis
- We will work closely with the Regeneration team to identify sites that will support the delivery of new affordable housing opportunities
- We will create a development framework with affordable housing providers to focus the delivery of new homes in alignment with the Council's aspirations and priorities
- We will work with Assets and Regeneration to develop a Council Asset Management Strategy which encompasses opportunities for development on Council owned sites including disposal criteria that take into account social value.

1.3 Support the delivery of a range of high-quality housing to meet local needs and wider economic aspirations and prosperity, including private rent, housing for older people, low-cost home ownership, intermediate rent, self-build and outright sale homes.

- We will work with 'Build to Rent' providers to ensure the new provision of high quality private and intermediate rent properties in locations where they are needed
- We will work with Parish and Town Councils and community groups to deliver rural affordable schemes and community led homes for residents
- We will identify areas which will benefit from intermediate and low-cost home ownership and Government led schemes to increase supply in those areas

Theme 1: How we will measure our progress

We will monitor the following areas and report back on an annual basis to track our progress on following:

New Homes - the number of new homes delivered (all tenures)

Affordable Housing - The % of homes which are affordable on sites and meeting the local plan's threshold for affordable housing provision

New Council Homes - the number of new council homes delivered (500 by 2025).



Theme 2 - Improve the quality, standard and safety of homes and housing services

Context

Everyone living in a rented property should have well maintained homes and services that meet minimum standards and it is expected that we will use the powers we have across private rent and social housing to ensure this happens. Health outcomes are strongly linked to the condition of homes so it is vital that we maintain and invest in the housing stock and work together to drive up standards to ensure the safety and wellbeing of residents. Where we own the homes, as a council we will ensure we deliver the regulatory requirements and where these are changing, we will work across social landlords to ensure the new standards are met.

The Social Housing White Paper (2020) focussed on rebalancing the relationship between tenants and landlords to ensure tenants are safe in their home, that they have good quality homes and neighbourhoods to live in, and ensuring tenants voices are heard. This spans across all tenures and it part of our role whether renting from a social or private landlord to ensure the rights and responsibilities of landlords are protected.

The Levelling Up White Paper (2022) provides 12 missions to 'Level Up' the UK. From a housing perspective, Mission 10 seeks to ensure that renters will have a secure path to home ownership, and that the Decent Homes standard will be used to measure the quality of private rented properties.

Safe and Decent Homes

Keeping residents safe from fire and other hazards is critical and requires regular maintenance, and planned investment. This is reflected in the Building Safety Bill and Fire Safety Act 2021, which is overhauling the building safety framework and introduces sweeping changes to the control and

management of high-risk residential buildings which need to be adhered to.

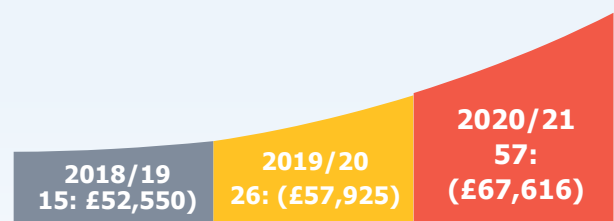
Where we own the homes, as a council we will ensure we deliver the regulatory requirements and where these are changing, we will work across social landlords to ensure the new standards are met. This is particularly applicable to the introduction of a new Decent Homes Standard for social housing where we will need to ensure compliance is delivered for Council homes within a reasonable timescale.

Private rented sector

The private rented housing sector is a valuable part of the housing market and it is growing across West Northants. It caters for a number of different types of housing need and demand, and for some it is the tenure of choice, however for others it is not, this is mainly due to affordability, concerns of security of tenure, bad management and property conditions. The Council have increased notices service on private landlords in recent years.

Figure 5: The number of Civil Penalty Notices (2018-2021)

Civil Penalty Notices:



Theme 2 - Improve the quality, standard and safety of homes and housing services

West Northants, and particularly Northampton is very reliant on the private rented sector for helping with housing needs and homelessness demand, however the availability and cost of good privately rented accommodation varies greatly across the area and is in limited supply. According to the Housing and Economic Needs Assessment the profile of the private rented sector in West Northants includes a much younger demographic profile and a high proportion of multi-adult households.

Houses in multiple occupation (HMOs) can form a vital source of housing, traditionally providing housing at the more affordable and transient end of the housing market. However, it is also acknowledged that HMOs often house the most vulnerable in society. They can present challenging management issues and can impact on the community. The extended definition of houses in multiple occupation also expands the local authority's role and therefore we need to ensure we have the capacity available to enforce and raise standards.

People should be able to expect good standards within the private rented sector with a greater degree of consistency, regardless of how strong the demand is for these homes. Access to private renting should also be available to anyone who needs it, including those in receipt of benefits or who might otherwise present as homeless. A strong private rented sector made up of good quality homes benefits the whole community.

Empty Homes

Empty homes are a wasted resource, and we need to do more to make best use of this resource to bring them back into residential use. An empty property is defined as a residential property that has been unoccupied for six months or more. The Council's Revenue and Benefits team monitor the overall number of empty homes and the length of time they have been empty. We will need to employ a range of

measures working with partners and also property owners to bring their properties back into use to meet housing need and demand.

Making best use of our affordable housing stock

The need and demand for social housing is considerable and this is reflected in the number of households on the housing registers operating cross West Northants. With three housing allocation schemes operating due to legacy LA policies, as a new unitary we need to adopt a consistent, effective and fair approach in how we allocate social housing stock.

We will work in partnership to drive up standards, stay compliant with changing regulation and have a consistent approach to the allocation of a social housing. As a strategic authority we will enable the delivery of these goals by creating the right expectations and conditions for both the Council and our partners to act.

Theme 2: Our priorities

- 2.1 Deliver high quality services and standards to residents in social housing, and ensure residents are empowered to have a voice to help shape their local environment
- 2.2 Influence the private sector to improve standards and access and ensure safe homes for all
- 2.3 Have a consistent approach to the letting of social housing across West Northants.

Theme 2 - Improve the quality, standard and safety of homes and housing services

Theme 2: What do we plan to do

2.1 Deliver high quality services and standards to residents in social housing, and ensure residents are empowered to have a voice to help shape their local environment

- We will create a Housing Partnership Board made up of strategic registered provider partners to share performance information and enable closer working to drive improvements for residents.
- We will work with Registered Providers who meet the Regulator's requirements and can demonstrate they offer high levels of customer satisfaction.
- We will work with NPH to deliver planned investments to maintain the quality of Council's homes.

2.2 Influence the private sector to improve standards and access and ensure safe homes for all

- We will commission a new stock condition survey to ensure that the Council understands and can focus its service delivery informed by the quality and standard of accommodation in West Northants.
- We will encourage sustainable and resilient communities by having targeted enforcement services that address rogue landlords and poor practices to ensure better standards of housing in the private rented sector.
- We will conduct a full review, look at options for selective licencing and pursue landlords of unlicensed houses in multiple occupation (HMO's).

- We will improve conditions on the private rented sector by implementing actions arising from HMO licencing responsibilities, our formal and informal enforcement interventions and our grant and loan work.
- We will work in collaboration with the Revenue and Benefits team in bringing empty properties back into use by working with property owners and where necessary take appropriate and proportionate enforcement action.
- We will strengthen the forum for private landlords so landlords can keep up to date with their legal duties and sources of help and support.
- We will support tenants facing eviction from their private rented homes, ensuring that evictions can only be undertaken on legal grounds, and that landlords seeking to exploit poor practices are targeted by enforcement services.

2.3 Have a consistent approach to the lettings of social housing across West Northants

- We will develop and implement a new West Northants Housing Allocation Policy
- We will explore ways to make best use of the Council's housing policies for the allocation of homes



Theme 2 - Improve the quality, standard and safety of homes and housing services

Theme 2: How we will measure our progress

We will monitor the following areas and report back on an annual basis to track our progress on the following:

Private Landlords - The number of enforcement notices served on private landlords

Good repair standard- RP and Council homes that do not meet the Decent Homes Standard

Housing Allocation Policy - The approval of a new West Northants Housing Allocations Policy (by April 2024).

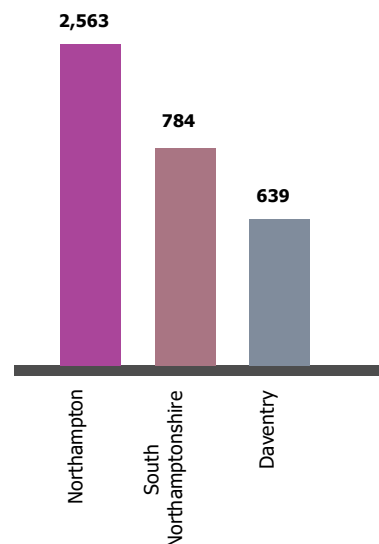
Theme 3 - Supporting residents to live safe, healthy, independent and active lives

Context

Good quality affordable housing is a cornerstone of any community, but to deliver thriving neighbourhoods, health and support services need to work alongside the right kind of housing provision including housing for older people, children living in or leaving care, housing that supports people with learning and physical disabilities, travellers and people escaping domestic abuse.

The pandemic has also brought into focus the importance of housing and how our homes are critical supporting people to live well, work, feel safe and take part in community life. However, for some, their home can be challenging and contribute to poor physical and mental health, whilst others may be experiencing homelessness or live in homes that have disrepair or a lack of security.

Figure 6: Households requiring advice about housing/homelessness (2020/21)



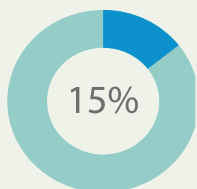
A network of services also means a network of providers. This strategy aims to bring partnership working to the fore and to leverage the contribution which each individual organisation can make in a way which delivers more than the sum of its parts. The Council plays a key role in understanding different needs across the area, enabling joint working and identifying opportunities to come together to solve challenging social issues relating to the everyday experience of living in your home.

Theme 3 - Supporting residents to live safe, healthy, independent and active lives

Creating the right services for the future

The Health and Housing Care Act 2022 is reforming the health and care system by bringing together geographically based partnerships to plan, co-ordinate and commission services. In effect this means creating hubs where housing, health, older people's services, adult social care and care leavers are brought together through locally integrated services.

To do this effectively, our plans need to be underpinned by an evidence base which clearly maps the different needs at a local level. This information can then be used to tailor accessible services at a local level to meet individual needs in a person-centered way. This work will form the basis of a new Supported Housing Strategy.



of people are living with a disability

One of the key outcomes of this strategy is how we engage and reflect the voices of people with lived experiences and provide opportunities for them to get involved in decisions that affect them with an aim to ensure that the services we deliver are both relevant and of value. Done in the right way, we can expect to see a reduction in health inequality, improved health and wellbeing across the wider population as well as reduced duplication and inefficiency at the point of delivery.

Reducing demand for health services

We know that people experiencing homelessness have far worse health and care inequalities than the general population. During the pandemic, local authorities, health services, and the voluntary and charity sectors worked in partnership to respond to homelessness, including the 'Everyone In' initiative. This showed that with appropriate funding, integrated working and systems, there are opportunities for positive change.

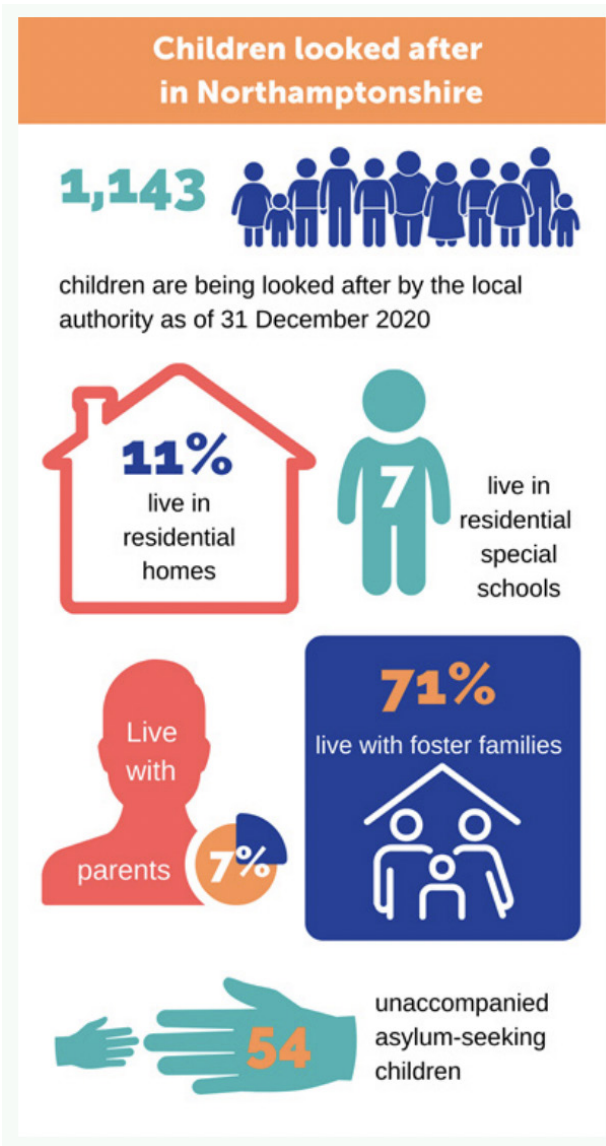
For this group and many others however, we need to have a better understanding of the impact on local primary health care and acute health provision so that we can identify opportunities for prevention which cost less in the long run. Through this work we will help statutory and voluntary sector organisations and housing providers to identify solutions using a multi-disciplinary approach and develop a more upstream prevention-based approach to homelessness.

This needs to be reflected in our commissioning role and reflects the approach set out in existing arrangements like the Commissioning Strategy for People with Learning difficulties.

We also need to ensure that the development of effective and integrated housing and health responses to an ageing population supports older people to return to their homes and provides practical assistance to reduce the likelihood of falls by, for example removing hazards or installing adaptations in the home to prevent hospital admission.

Similarly, the needs of young people need to be planned for in co-ordination with the Children's Trust and others to ensure access to housing for groups like care leavers who come from a range of situations and with varying needs that need to be addressed. Below is a snapshot of children currently being looked after.

Theme 3 - Supporting residents to live safe, healthy, independent and active lives



Theme 3: Our priorities

3.1 The effective integration of housing, health, adult social care, and the Children's Trust to deliver enhanced person-centred outcomes for all

3.2 Ensure that residents who require specialist housing provision have access to homes and support services that allow them to live independently in an area that is right for them

3.3 Develop services around the needs of residents by involving them in the process of shaping and commissioning housing options, services and support.

3.4 Tackling homelessness and rough sleeping in a way that delivers positive long-term outcomes for each individual.

Theme 3: What we plan to do

3.1 The effective integration of housing, health, adult social care, and the Children's Trust to deliver enhanced person-centred outcomes for all

- We will bring together teams from different disciplines including housing, health, adult social care and others to work out of the same locations close to the communities they serve
- We will map the different needs across the area to enable commissioners and providers to plan joined up service provision for the future
- We will create opportunities for collaboration and joint working to tackle areas where services cross over

3.2 Ensure that residents who require specialist housing provision have access to homes and support services that allow them to live independently in an area that is right for them

- We will assess levels of need for different types of supported housing and related services in order to identify the gaps in provision
- We will set up commissioning group for young people's accommodation in partnership with Northamptonshire Children's Trust to look at future provision for young people and people leaving care
- We will review housing for older people including low demand and 'end of life' supported housing and care homes and make recommendations for re-provision that also support related issues like hospital discharges

Theme 3 - Supporting residents to live safe, healthy, independent and active lives

- We will, in collaboration, develop a Supported Housing Strategy
- We will continue to meet the demand for adaptations to assist older and disabled people to remain living independently in their own homes.

3.3 Develop services around the needs of residents by involving them in the process of shaping and commissioning housing options, services and support

- We will develop consultation mechanisms for residents to feed into the provision of specialist housing and support services for their local area
- We will increase awareness of the range of front-line services and support available to residents
- We will review our advice and information systems to ensure residents are enabled and empowered.

3.4 Tackling homelessness and rough sleeping in a way that delivers positive long-term outcomes for each individual

- We will complete a review of Homelessness and complete a new West Northants Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Strategy
- We will reduce the number of households in temporary accommodation and improve the provision of temporary accommodation to ensure it is managed well, of a high quality and standard and is affordable
- We will develop integrated pathways in partnership with Housing, Adult Social Care, Health and the Children's Trust that reduce the risk of first time or repeated homelessness.

Theme 3: How we will measure our progress

We will monitor the following areas and report back on an annual basis to track our progress on the following:

Temporary accommodation - The reduction of the number of households in temporary accommodation

Resident engagement - Ensure NPH resident satisfaction views are taken into account

Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Strategy - The approval of a new Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Strategy (by April 2024).



Theme 4 – Support thriving and sustainable communities

Creating the right services for the future

In line with the United Nation’s agreed Sustainable Development Goals, the Council seek to bring together a sustainability programme that covers social, economic and environmental issues. Housing sits at the heart of all three of these areas and in many ways forms a strong link that binds them together.

It is critical therefore that the provision and management of housing plays its role in helping deliver the overall sustainability goals the Council are seeking to achieve.

The UN sustainability goals:



Within the environmental aspect, the council are also seeking to out-perform the Governments 2050 targets by signing up to the UK100 pledge which commits us to having net zero emissions by 2030 and to have the same for all residents and businesses by 2045.

The Government produced a policy document in October 2021 ahead of the COP26 summit in Glasgow that December, 'Build Back Greener', which outlined their strategy for Net Zero. The document outlines their ambition to have all homes achieve an energy rating on their Energy Performance Certificate (EPC) of level C by 2035. The introduction of Energy Company Obligation (Eco4) will support delivery of this ambition through targeted financial support for homes in energy efficiency rating bands E, F, and G. The table below shows that there is a lot of work to do to achieve level C for West Northants.

Figure 7: Energy Performance Certificates ratings (% of properties) (source: ONS)

Area	C+	D/E	F/G
Daventry	49	48	3
Northampton	49	50	1
South Northants	54	43	3
England	48	49	3

Theme 4 – Support thriving and sustainable communities

Future rounds of the Social Housing Decarbonisation Fund (SHDF) as well as initiatives aimed at the private rented and home ownership sectors will further aid delivery of this ambition. Initiatives to reduce carbon emissions in homes included heat pumps, hydrogen ready boilers and insulation backed with clear, easy to follow advice. The planned investment of Council homes delivered through NPH has focused on improvements to thermal performance, safety and security, comfort and well-being of residents. Successful funding bids through SHDFD has enabled the scope of planned investment programme to be optimised into a whole retrofit programme for a selection of properties, so far 150 properties with a further 429 as part of SHDF wave 1, with the aim of improving energy efficiency.

The Government also set out plans for a standard relating to new build homes that will reduce emissions by 31% compared to the current standard. This is due to be a regulatory requirement by 2025 through the Future Homes Standard.

Work has been undertaken within the Council to map the activities and measures of the Council against the 17 UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) and 169 associated targets. We plan to establish baseline data in many of these areas so that we can monitor progress and further align our actions with these goals.

The Role of Housing within Sustainability

Social – The UN sustainability goals include 1. No Poverty, 3. Good Health and Wellbeing, 4. Quality Education, and 11. Sustainable Cities and Communities. The chances people have in life can be enhanced for those on lower incomes through access to a secure home they can afford which allows children to have a

settled education and the wider family access to employment and support networks. These things can be made possible through provision of the right kind of housing in the right locations.

Environmental – The UN sustainability goals includes 12. Responsible Consumption and production and 13. Climate Action. The construction of new homes is critical in ensuring sustainable materials are used and that the design of homes allows for high levels of energy efficiency, re-cycling and biodiversity. Similarly, the way we manage, repair and refurbish our homes contributes to these outcomes either directly or through our supply chains.

Economic – The UN sustainability goals includes 8. Decent work and Economic Growth and 9. Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure. High levels of employment are only achievable if the local housing offer gives easy access to work and is affordable in relation to local wages. Aligning the housing needs of sectors like keyworkers in health and education with the local housing market will greatly enhance how well the local economy works, increasing the number of economically active households and generating more money in a local circular economy. Many local Housing organisations also work with their residents to increase the numbers in training and employment through a range of interventions.

Theme 4 – Support thriving and sustainable communities

Delivery

This theme supports some of the other themes including support for residents and the quality of homes. As such, we will ensure that as we work with partners to deliver this strategy, we will include sustainability within delivery plans as an integral part of overall delivery as well as identifying specific sustainability targets. There is a lot of work to do in this area and as baseline information becomes available, we will be able to prioritise and align actions with achieving the goals we have signed up to.

Theme 4: Our priorities

4.1 Contribute to achieving the pledges as set out in the Council's sustainability strategy

4.2 Improve the energy performance of homes within the social housing sector

4.3 Have a positive impact on the energy performance of privately owned homes and homes in the private rented sector

4.4 Support thriving local economies and communities by linking local employment with suitable housing opportunities.

Theme 4: What we plan to do

4.1 Contribute to achieving the pledges as set out in the Council's sustainability strategy

- We will continually review data coming out from the Council's work on sustainability to inform our priorities and work collaboratively to deliver the maximum impact when achieving our stated goals.

- We will work with Northampton Partnership Homes to develop and deliver a specific response to sustainability which aligns with the UN goals.

4.2 Improve the energy performance of homes within the social housing sector

- We will consider bids for future rounds of funding such as Social Housing Decarbonisation Fund (SHDF) and the Local Authority Delivery (LAD) funding from the Government and others in order to reduce emissions across all housing markets.
- We will work with local registered providers and Northampton Partnership Homes (who manage the council's homes) to support the investment in homes to bring them up to an EPC rating of C or higher.

4.3 Have a positive impact on the energy performance of privately owned homes and homes in the private rented sector

- We will actively build relationships with developers who have a good track record on sustainability and are seeking to achieve ambitious progress in reducing emissions in new build homes as part of our role in local planning. This includes the use of MMC (modern methods of construction) to improve the quality and air tightness of new homes.
- We will effectively promote and administer Government grants available to all tenures.

Theme 4 – Support thriving and sustainable communities

4.4 Support thriving local economies and communities by linking local employment with suitable housing opportunities

- We will undertake a review of opportunities to provide key worker accommodation in partnership with the local NHS Trusts
- We will work with the Regeneration team to identify the optimum delivery of housing to aid in the regeneration of our towns and communities
- We will seek to maximise the opportunities for local construction jobs and apprenticeships through the delivery of council backed housing developments.

Theme 3: How we will measure our progress

We will monitor the following areas and report back on an annual basis to track our progress on the following:

Energy performance - Percentage of NPH and RP homes with an EPC rating of D or lower

Funding - Number of NPH homes benefiting from central Government funding aimed at reducing carbon emissions

Grants - Number of private individuals benefiting from grants aimed at increasing energy performance of homes administered by WNC.



Bringing the Strategy to life

In order to have effective delivery of the strategy, we have identified three principles that need to be adhered to. By keeping focussed on the following three areas, we will be able to achieve greater impact and stronger foundations for the future.

The delivery principles

Principle one: Partnership working

Partnership working is a critical thread running through the strategy as without this we will not be able to tackle the big challenges which lie ahead. The Council sits at the centre of a wide range of stakeholders who need to come together and deliver outcomes that link back to the priorities set out here. The Council will create the leadership and conditions needed to for this to happen. This will include communicating the strategy, creating the right forums for collaboration, bringing together disparate groups and linking together complementary strategies across the Council.

Principle two: Fairness and consistency

Recognising and respecting diversity is key to everything the Council does. Fairness in areas like access to housing, distributing limited resources and targeting issues that affect some groups more than others like poverty and support forms part of the approach set out here. Ensuring fairness is however also about consistency where it matters and as the three legacy Authorities become integrated over the life of this strategy, we will have new and consistent use of policy.

Principle three: Financial resilience

Tackling the scale of the issues which face us will require some different solutions. As we innovate service models, explore new products and work with new partners we will always make sure that we minimise financial risk and carry out the necessary due diligence to ensure our activities as a Council are not loss making. Maintaining our financial strength will enable us to do more in the long term and continue to provide critical services for people who need them.

Delivering the Housing Strategy

This high-level strategic document highlights the priorities for the Council and high-level plans to deliver them. An operational delivery action plan will be developed with SMART actions which will be regularly monitored and reviewed. This will be developed after the strategy has been adopted and in collaboration with partners.

Monitoring of the Housing Strategy

The delivery action plan will be reviewed on a quarterly basis by officers and on an annual basis the delivery plan will be presented to Cabinet and People and Place Overview & Scrutiny committees to update on progress and outcomes and will feed into our annual budget process. In addition, the Health and Wellbeing Board and its remit around the wider determinants of health will also contribute to the implementation and progress of this strategy on an annual basis.

WEST NORTHAMPTONSHIRE HEALTH AND WELLBEING BOARD

15th November 2022

Report Title	NSCP Annual Report 2021-22
Report Author	Lisa Walsh, Business Manager, Northamptonshire Safeguarding Childrens Partnership

Contributors/Checkers/Approvers	
Other Director/SME	NSCP Strategic Leads: Stuart Lackenby, West Northants Council Annmarie Dodds, North Northants Council Colin Foster, Northamptonshire Childrens Trust Ivan Balhatchet, Northamptonshire Police Yvonne Higgins, NHS Northamptonshire Integrated Care Board

List of Appendices

Appendix A – NSCP Annual Report 2021-22

Appendix B – NSCP Annual Report 2021-22 Briefing Paper

1. Purpose of Report

- 1.1 To present the Northamptonshire Safeguarding Children Partnership (NSCP) Annual Report 2021-22, which outlines the partnerships achievements during the reporting period.

2. Executive Summary

- 2.1 It is a statutory requirement of Working Together to Safeguard Children 2018 to produce an annual report that provides an overview of the partnership's achievements against the NSCP Business Plan.

3. Recommendations

- 3.1 Under Working Together to Safeguard Children 2018, the three key strategic lead agencies are accountable for safeguarding children and young people, including the Local Authority, who in turn are required to publish an annual report.

This report provides assurance to the Council of the activities undertaken by the partnership and its agencies to safeguard children and young people across the county during the reporting period.

4. Report Background

- 4.1 The report has been developed with contributions from statutory partners and has been reviewed and approved by NSCP Strategic Leads.
- 4.2 This is the first annual report to be received by West Northamptonshire Council and informs future developments to safeguard children and young people in the West Northants area.
- 4.3 The report includes quantitative and qualitative data, key messages and impact of activities that relate to the three priorities set out in the NSCP Business Plan:
- 1) Taking positive action early enough to protect children.
 - 2) To support children, young people, and families at risk of exploitation; and
 - 3) To work effectively as a partnership and support our staff.

5. Issues and Choices

- 5.1 As above.

6. Implications (including financial implications)

6.1 Resources and Financial

- 6.1.1 There are no financial implications at the time of presenting this report, with partner financial contributions agreed for 2022-23.

6.2 Legal

- 6.2.1 As set out in paragraph 2.1.

6.3 Risk

- 6.3.1 There are no significant risks arising from the proposed recommendations in this report. The report sets out the achievements of Northamptonshire Safeguarding Children Partnership through 2021-22 and is a statutory requirement in Working Together to Safeguard Children 2018.

6.4 Consultation

- 6.4.1 There has been no public consultation in the writing of the Northamptonshire Safeguarding Children Partnership Annual Report 2021-22.

Statutory partners have provided their input in the writing of this report, which was approved by Strategic Leads on 5 October 2022.

6.5 Consideration by Overview and Scrutiny

- 6.5.1 N/A

6.6 Climate Impact

- 6.6.1 There is no climate impact arising from the NSCP Annual Report 2021-22 – it is shared on the NSCP website and not printed.

6.7 Community Impact

- 6.7.1 There is no known community impact arising from this report.

7. Background Papers

- 7.1 Working Together to Safeguard Children 2018 - www.gov.uk/government/publications/working-together-to-safeguard-children--2

Northamptonshire Safeguarding Children Partnership Annual Report 2021-22

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Northamptonshire Safeguarding Children Partnership

Northamptonshire Safeguarding Children Partnership (NSCP)



Annual Report April 2021 – March 2022



**North
Northamptonshire
Council**



**West
Northamptonshire
Council**



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1. Introduction

Demographics

Northamptonshire is located to the south of the East Midlands region, and is a county of mixed urban and rural areas, with populations focused around its larger towns, Northampton and Kettering.

As of 1 April 2021, Northamptonshire became two Unitary Authorities, known as North Northamptonshire and West Northamptonshire.

The population of Northamptonshire is in the region of 748,000 (approximately 44% in North Northamptonshire, 56% West Northamptonshire). Approximately 25% are Children and Young People.

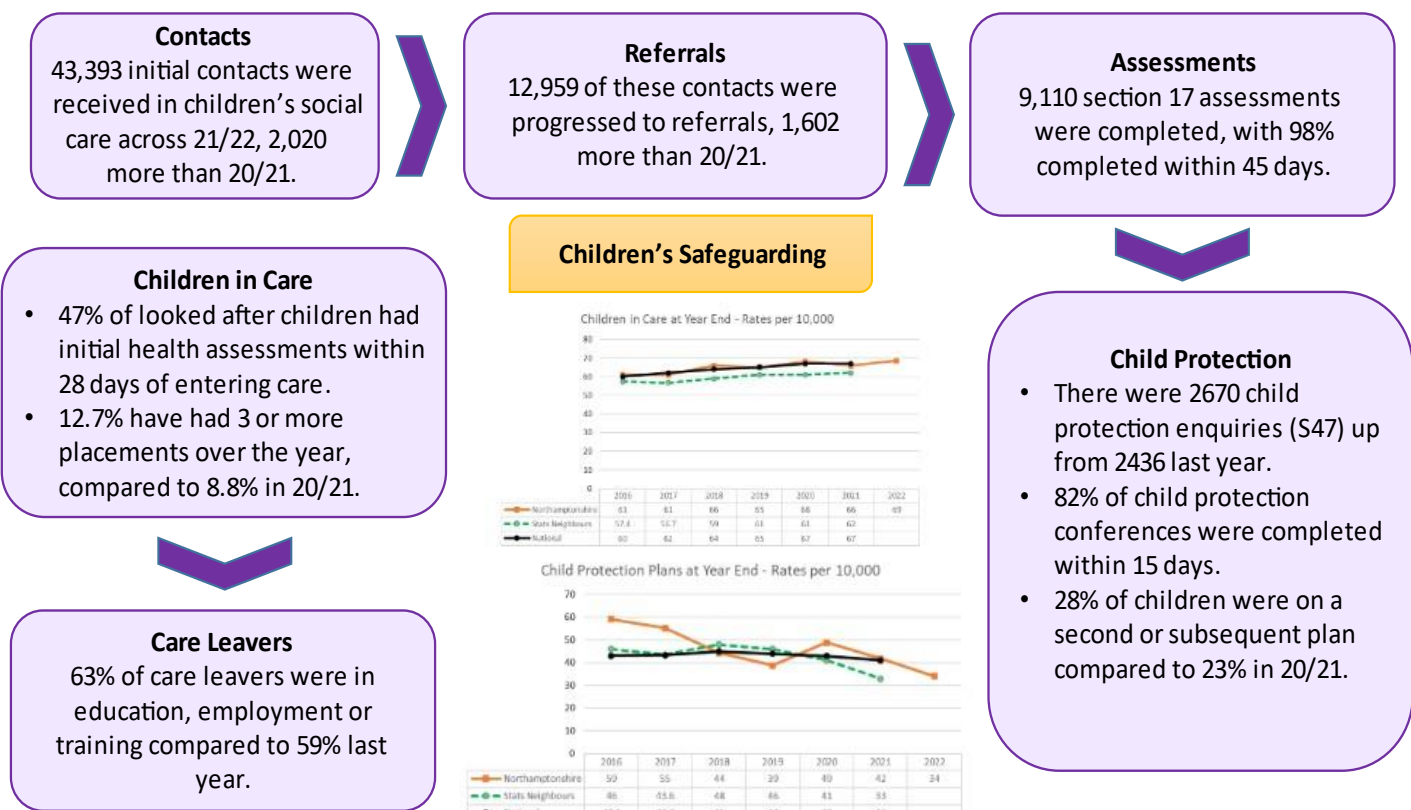
Since the previous Census in 2001 there had been an increase in non-white ethnic groups of 3.5%. It is also relevant to note a more rapid change in the number and proportion of those who describe themselves as 'White Other' becomes evident between 2001 and 2011. 'White Other' means not White British, Irish or Gypsy or Irish Traveller and therefore captures change within the predominantly 'White' EU population.



2. Progress through 2021-2022

During the year, as a consequence of the continued challenge posed by the pandemic and significant global events, there has been a continued need for the partnership's response to safeguarding children to be flexible and responsive to meet the demand, and support children and families effectively.

The below diagram sets out the numbers of contacts and referrals through Northamptonshire Children's Trust compared to the previous year:



Data shows a pattern of fluctuating demand experienced during covid lockdowns and school closures and as the pandemic restrictions have lifted, Northamptonshire Children's Trust has seen an increase in the number of safeguarding referrals.

43,393 initial contacts were received by children's social care through 2021-22, an increase of 2,020 on the previous year 2020-21. An increase was anticipated as the remaining pandemic restrictions were lifted. The referrals sent into the MASH present more complex issues experienced by families and children because of the impact of lockdown, combined with a reduction in support network and services available, has increased the pressure on the families and as such they have experienced greater levels of need.

In addition to that, as a direct result of Covid-19, Northamptonshire has seen the impact of poverty, anxiety, non-school attendance, poor child and adult mental health, loss and bereavement that have contributed to an increase in the number of families requiring support due to complexity of needs. The impact of the rising cost of living is also exacerbating the needs of families.

As part of an ongoing programme of review and improvement, a revised operating model was adopted to enable a better management of the contacts and referrals in the MASH (Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub) and achieve more consistency in decision making together with better application of thresholds. An initial evaluation by our Partners in Practice (Lincolnshire), along with feedback from professionals are positive.

An increase in child protection enquiries (S47) was highlighted in 2021-22 which reflects the national trend; however, a robust partnership response is ensuring that the vast majority of the initial child protection conferences take place within 15 days with good attendance from all professionals which ensures children, young people and their families receive the multi-agency support they need at the earliest opportunity.

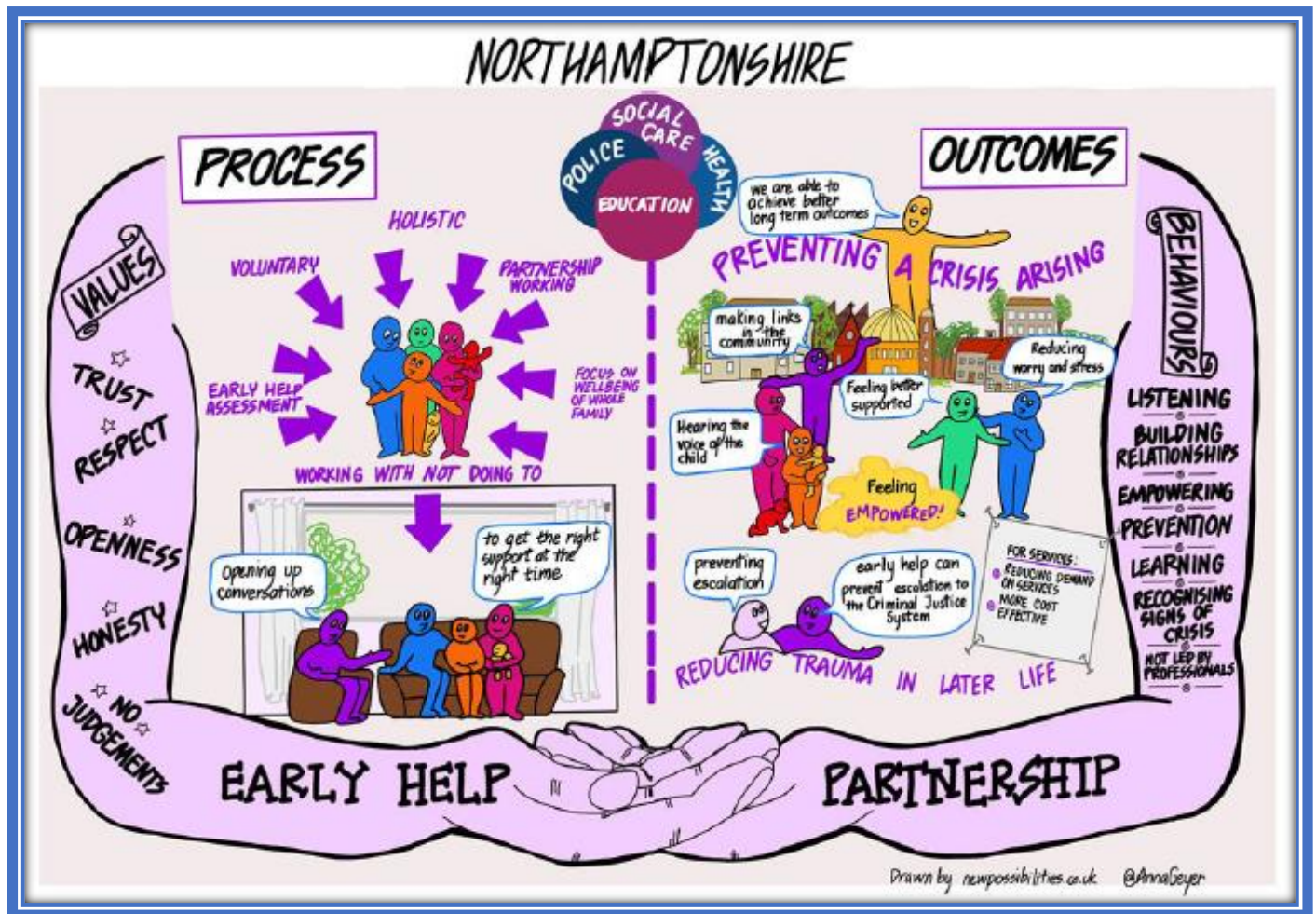


Progress through 2021-22 is set out against the partnership's three priorities:

- 1. Taking positive action early enough to protect children.**
- 2. To support children, young people, and families at risk of exploitation; and**
- 3. To work effectively as a partnership and support our staff.**

Priority 1. Taking positive action early enough to protect children

Early help is a collaboration not a service and in its simplest terms *everyone* is involved in the delivery of early help. This includes families, communities, voluntary groups, “universal” provision, schools, health and targeted support and this has been a priority area for the NSCP this year.



There has previously been an under-developed early help offer in Northamptonshire and the impact of this meant that children and families did not necessarily receive the right support at the right time and in some instances, this continues to have an impact on children’s outcomes. It also meant agencies were more likely to refer to children’s social care although a child may not be at risk of significant harm because they did not feel there was sufficient early help available. This contributed to a poor reputation for Northamptonshire which can influence our partnership working, community engagement, and attraction of social workers and other professionals.

Northamptonshire Children’s Trust (NCT) Early Help has been redesigned as Children and Family Support Services (CFSS) with a focus on developing and supporting the partnership to provide more effective early support to families. A multi-agency Early Help Partnership Board has been developed, that will be multi-agency and managed by the Trust. The Early Help Partnership Board will report to both the NSCP and Children and Young People’s Transformation Delivery Group as part of the Integrated Care System (ICS). Terms of Reference and governance arrangements are drafted ready for this board to go live early in 2023, with strategic membership in place to strengthen focus on early help provision ensuring children, young people and their families will receive earlier intervention and support.

West and North Northamptonshire Early Help Partnership networks have now been successfully established including a revised simpler early help assessment and Team around the Family Support plan.

There is strong commitment from the partnership to enable the right and timely support for families and improvements are starting to be noted. Rates of referral to Early Help have increased from 12% in November 2020 to 21% in October 2021.

Neglect

The impact of neglect in the lives of Northamptonshire children is not underestimated and neglect continues to be the main Abuse Category in Child Protection Plans and also the highest category for children who come into care.

Following the successful rollout of the Graded Care Profile 1 toolkit, and in order to support practitioners in identifying and addressing neglect, a partnership decision was made to invest in NSPCC's Graded Care Profile 2 toolkit and a suite of training will be undertaken during 2022-23 to support practitioners to use the tool appropriately and effectively.

The new Early Help Partnership board will build on the strong transformation work in Early Help. Early Help is the responsibility of all partners, and the partnership has continued to support staff to develop their knowledge, competence, and confidence by facilitating relevant training and reflective learning including:

- E-Learning introduction to neglect
- Child Development that includes impact of neglect
- Neglect training provided as part of regional events offered in early 2022
- Tea Break Guide for neglect of medical needs

In addition to the above, Northamptonshire Children's Trust (NCT) developed shared resources that support practitioners' practice in cases where neglect is a theme:

- Using NICE guideline on child neglect and abuse
- Learning from national and local reviews
- All NCT practitioners have access to Making Research Count and Research in Practice training.

Supporting professionals to identify neglect quicker is improving responses to ensure children and young people receive more timely support. Neglect was a theme from a Child Safeguarding Practice Review published during this reporting period and implementation of the learning has focused on the Graded Care Profile 2 and strengthening professionals' knowledge and understanding of neglect for earlier intervention.

Safer Sleeping

Public Health have undertaken a broad public facing safer sleeping campaign through social media. Hits to the site around the articles published have been in their tens of thousands, showing that the message is reaching far and wide. To complement this, the NSCP continues to ensure advice and guidance on safer sleeping is available to all practitioners and is accessible on the NSCP website.

Northamptonshire Children's Trust has introduced an expectation through local guidance and recording processes that all families of all babies under 12 months, open to children's services, receive safer sleeping messages as part of normal practice, echoing and reinforcing the practices of health colleagues during pregnancy and early months of a child's life.

During this reporting period, one child death has been attributed to unsafe sleeping. A further campaign is scheduled for the Autumn of 2022, with robust multi-agency input to ensure the right, consistent messages continue to be promoted.



Priority 2. To support children, young people, and families at risk of exploitation

Safeguarding partners have been working in partnership with the University of Bedfordshire, Research in Practice, and the Children's Society to support and further develop a local partnership strategy to tackle child exploitation. Positive progress includes finalising the child exploitation strategy with a county wide partnership approach to prevention and early intervention and includes the local authorities Community Safety Partnership Boards. In addition, a countywide definition for child exploitation has been adopted. This has been driven forward by the partnership's Child Exploitation Sub Group.

Child Sexual Exploitation Awareness Day

On 18th March 2022 to coincide with national Child Sexual Exploitation Awareness Day, the NSCP held a Virtual Child Exploitation Conference, where practitioners could join throughout the day to hear speakers from a variety of professionals on different areas of Child Exploitation. Over 120 professionals logged on at its peak during the day. The sessions taking place on the day included:

- RISE and Sarah's Story
- Online Safety
- Vulnerable Adolescent Panels
- Drug and Alcohol Misuse and Exploitation
- Modern Slavery and the National Referral Mechanism

Positive interaction and feedback have been received from practitioners about this event.

Vulnerable Adolescent Panel

VAP is a multi-agency information sharing and consultative process. The panel aims to ensure that as a multi-agency partnership we effectively share information to support young people who are at risk of being exploited and address extra familial harm with a view to utilising a contextual safeguarding approach to make our communities safer.

VAP was introduced in December 2020.

The positive implementation of the Vulnerable Adolescents Panel (VAP) which considers all young people who are referred with concerns about extra-familial harm, regardless of social care threshold, is echoed by the young people's feedback:

*"I am in a good place and feel I can make safe decisions and have people I can go to if I am worried about anything"
young person aged 17*

Police Community Initiative Reducing Violence (CIRV)

Northamptonshire Youth Offending Service Prevention work in partnership with the CIRV to reduce violent crime and tackle the emerging concerns in relation to gang related offending. A recent Child Safeguarding Practice Review has included the work of CIRV, and the partnership has seen evidence of the excellent work this service undertakes through the victim's reflections of their work with the service.

This work also directly links with the North and West Community Safety Partnership Boards who implemented the partnership's Critical Incident Response following a child safeguarding incident in the community, whereby key agencies and community groups come together to ensure the neighbourhood and its residents remain safe. Such a response was undertaken during the summer, following a knife crime in a neighbourhood in the county, and the reflection by the community on the response was very positive.

Children and Young People Missing

It is recognised that there is a clear link between child exploitation and children and young people who go missing. Northamptonshire partners work closely on understanding missing episodes. Northamptonshire Police has provided additional resources into its Children and Young People's Missing Team reflecting this concerning priority.

A partnership Missing Forum has been created and considers at risk children who are going missing, and the Young People's Service offers preventative support. NCT independent return interviews have been reviewed and made more robust to ensure all risks and support needs faced by children, young people and their families are considered.

and that effective support plans are in place.

Priority 3. To work effectively as a partnership and support our staff

E-Learning Training

In 2020-21, the Covid-19 pandemic resulted in large parts of the partnership working from home which in turn significantly increased the use of the e-learning training. During this period there was a total of 13734 course completions. The period 2021-22 has seen an expected reduction on the volume of e learning used in the previous year with **6,839** course completions.

The range of courses being completed by practitioners remains consistent with previous years with many practitioners using the system to gain initial knowledge of safeguarding children and then moving on to explore some of the other subject specific courses available within the catalogue.

A significant piece of work undertaken by the Training & Development Sub Group during the reporting period was to review all the e-learning content to ensure it was fit for purpose and aligned with the NSCP policies and procedures. This has ensured practitioners receive the most current training content in line with national learning.

Analysis and evidence of the impact these courses have had on practice is included below: -

- 88% of delegates stated that they were satisfied or very satisfied with the training.
- 97% stated that they would recommend this course to other people.
- 78% stated that Participation in this e-learning course has supported me to make measurable improvements to my work practice.
- 72% of learners who completed an impact evaluation agreed or strongly agreed the course they had taken had a positive impact on practice.
- When rating improvements in knowledge, skills and confidence, all aspects recorded that 85% of learners felt there had been an increase, these scores remain broadly consistent increasing slightly (3%) with results seen in previous years.

Evaluation is consistent with previous years data and continues to show the positive impact the e-learning package is having on practice and the value learners place on its availability through the partnership.

Face to Face Multi-Agency Training

The NSCP has not offered a training programme since 2018 due to resource constraints and pandemic restrictions. However, Strategic Leads during the reporting period agreed to a more blended approach which has enabled a mix of training pool delivery and commissioned training to be delivered and extend the positive impact of multi-agency training.

This will enable a mix of training pool delivery and commissioned training to be delivered and extend the positive impact of multi-agency training. During 2021 the NSCP offered the following Face to Face Training:

- Threshold and Pathways Training – 38 sessions were undertaken with a 76% attendance, which was considered positive as several professionals cancelled their places due to sickness within their teams
- Trauma Informed Training – Due to the success and inspiring session delivered to 100 professionals, a further six sessions have been scheduled between April-September 2022
- Child Exploitation Conference

- Learning from Child Safeguarding Practice Reviews – this training has been reviewed and updated to reflect learning from a thematic perspective rather than per review undertaken. This new format was well received by colleagues within the Social Work Academy and will be further updated before broadening to a multi-agency audience.

Learning Summaries from Child Safeguarding Practice Reviews (CSPRs)

The purpose of CSPRs, is to identify improvements to be made to safeguard and promote the welfare of children. Learning is relevant locally, but it has a wider importance for all practitioners working with children and families and for the government and policymakers. Understanding whether there are systemic issues, and whether and how policy and practice need to change, is critical to the system being dynamic and self-improving.

Three CSPRs have been published in the reporting period and for each review a Learning Summary is developed as a quick guide for professionals individually or within a team setting to be informed of the local learning.

The format of these reviews has been refreshed and updated to include more context and understanding of learning, including links to local and national research. This is positively supporting professionals in identifying learning and themes to reference in their day-to-day work and ensuring earlier support is put in place for children and families.

Learning Summaries are also produced where a Rapid Review is undertaken, but not progressed to a Child Safeguarding Practice Review – this supports and broadens professionals learning. A Rapid Review is undertaken when a case meets the criteria for notification to Ofsted and The Child Safeguarding Practice Review National Panel.

The aim of a rapid review is to enable safeguarding partners to:

- gather the facts about the case, as far as they can be readily established at the time
- discuss whether there is any immediate action needed to ensure children’s safety and share any learning appropriately
- consider the potential for identifying improvements to safeguard and promote the welfare of children
- decide what steps they should take next, including whether or not to undertake a child safeguarding practice review

Note: further information regarding CSPRs, and Rapid Reviews can be found in the government guidance document: [*Working Together to Safeguard Children 2018*](#)



3. Other safeguarding updates through 2021-2022

Safeguarding Children with Disabilities

Children with disabilities receive services from a dedicated team within Children's Social Care. This is a specialist long term service, supporting children with most severe and complex needs; although majority of the children are supported under a Child In Need plan, social workers in the team also carry out all other statutory children social work tasks and interventions under Child Protection, Public Law Outline, Care Proceedings and Looked After Children's procedures thus ensuring that the children who required the specialised support of the team continue to receive them from professionals they know and trust.

Planning for transitions commences when children reach age 14 and children's transition to Adult Social Care is managed via a panel and a referral to Adult Social Care when they are 16 years old. The team have relationships with colleagues in children's continuing health care, CAMHS, Community Team for People with Learning Disability (CTPLD) and partners with the local Parent Forum Group NPFG and Northamptonshire Carers. Northamptonshire carers are commissioned to complete carers assessments under the Care Act 2004 and, they provide support to siblings of children with disabilities and young carers.



Ofsted focussed visits have highlighted many positive areas of practice in the Disabled Children's Team, particularly how well social workers know the young people they work with, multi-agency working, and the support provided to families in terms of the multi-disciplinary approach and short breaks support which greatly benefits children and their families.

Children and Families Fleeing Conflict

Safeguarding partners have had to respond to an increase in children, young people, and families fleeing conflict. Unaccompanied Asylum-Seeking Children from Afghanistan as well as families fleeing conflict from Ukraine who have located in Northamptonshire have been supported with increased partnership collaboration to ensure they feel safe and settled.

In July 2022, the government announced the intention to introduce a scheme to support unaccompanied children from Ukraine to live in the UK with someone known to their family, with parental consent. Early indications suggest arrangements would be considered as private fostering arrangements, and that local authorities would need to approve the sponsorship arrangements. The impact on the universal targeted and specialist services is as yet unknown and agencies are developing processes to ensure these children and young people are safe and supported.

Education

Northamptonshire education staff and settings have continued to ensure that the most vulnerable children and families remain protected during the periods of Covid-19 restrictions, with an emphasis on a robust multi-agency joined up approach to meeting the needs of the most vulnerable children and young people.

The beginning of 2022 saw schools under immense pressure, working tirelessly to keep schools open despite surging numbers of Covid-19 cases amongst both students and staff.



Elective Home Education

This data has been broken down between West Northamptonshire Council and North Northamptonshire Council:

NorthNorthants Council

The electively home educated population saw an increase at the beginning of this reporting period by 26 to 874 children in April 2021, the highest number thus far. This was the third month to show consecutive record volumes. April registered the sixth successive increase, while the last three months have each posted consecutive records. By the end of April, there were 87 more electively home educated children than there were one year ago, and the current cohort comprises 147 more children than at the end of the previous academic year.

WestNorthants Council

The electively home education population saw a sharp decrease at the beginning of this reporting period from approximately 700 to 600, this number has steadily increased back to the region of 700 throughout the rest of the reporting period.

Children and Young People Missing from Education

This data has been broken down between West Northamptonshire Council and North Northamptonshire Council:

NorthNorthants Council

The number of children missing from education during the reporting period decreased by 21 to 253 children at the end of April, marking the lowest volume in the current academic year. The latest cohort comprises 150 children fewer than the peak of 403 children in October and 11 children fewer than this time last year. An average of 263 children were missing between February and June 2021. By comparison, an average of 283 children were missing in the last three months.

WestNorthants Council

The number of children missing from education stated at approximately 150 at the beginning of this reporting period, peaking at just over 200 in October 2021 before steadily decreasing to 123 at the end of this reporting period.

Education Health and Care Plans (EHC)

NorthNorthants Council has seen a steady monthly average increase in the number of EHC assessment, averaging 74 per month at the beginning of the reporting report increasing to an average of 80 per month towards the end of the reporting report.

WestNorthants Council requests for EHC assessment generally range between 60 to 80 during term time, peaks, and troughs during the lead up to school holidays have caused fluctuation.

Long term, work continues to take place to develop a robust graduated approach, based on early help across the four localities, with the expectation of support and provision for children in receipt of top up through a send support plan.

Domestic Abuse

Domestic Abuse now sits within the Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG) portfolio and under that banner remains a matter of priority for the partnership and in particular, Northamptonshire Police.

It is recognised that it is always a difficult decision for victims or survivors to come forward and therefore through a partnership approach, Northamptonshire Police continue to ensure they are fully supported by strengthening existing processes such as crisis Independent Domestic Violence Advisors (IDVAs) which have been embedded in the Force Control room and with patrol officers at times of peak demand to improve the service offered to victims.

During this reporting period, recorded domestic abuse has dropped by 7.2% within the County and there are 6% fewer victims of domestic abuse crimes. This is not in line the national trend which has seen increases in the amount of recorded domestic abuse and it is believed that this position is because of strengthened performance.

Northamptonshire Police arrested 36% of domestic abuse perpetrators in the 12 months up to March 2022 and this is significantly above the national average of 27.3% in the same period and may help to explain the current victim satisfaction rate which sits at 90.7%. Victim satisfaction and the early arrest of perpetrators figures are very much linked.

Children and Young People's Voices

Northamptonshire Children's Trust (NCT) has Young Inspectors are part of their Practice Week Teams. They contribute to the design of the Practice Weeks, the assessment processes and are an integral part of developing recommendations for action planning. The principle of the Young Inspectors scheme is for young people to quality assure the services and provisions available/provided for children and young people and to be able to provide positive feedback and areas for improvements, highlighting and sharing good practice.

NCT benefits from strong engagement of children and young people through our formal participation groups - Children in Care Council, Care Leavers Council and Shooting Stars (children with special educational needs and disabilities) and Young Inspectors, whose voice shapes the Trust's vision, transformation, and review of services. This has been evidenced through internal and external quality assurance, including Ofsted visits. We know that there is much more that we need to do though t ensure that the voice of the child is captured, and this feedback is used to influence change.

This has supported the development of a Children & Young Peoples Engagement Strategy which sets out a vision and strategic priorities for 2022-25. The aim of the strategy is to make sure:

- Our children and young people have a voice about decisions that affect them
- Our children and young people are given as many opportunities as we can for them to engage and participate and are supported to do so
- Our children and young people are listened to and their views help to shape our services
- Our children and young people are able to hold us to account if we are not listening and using their views to influence how we are doing things
- Using the strategic priorities for engagement, linked to our improvement plan priorities, we will develop our annual engagement action plan each year to deliver this strategy over the next 3 years.

Children and young people are engaged at an individual level. Some examples of this include;

- Roll out of confidential virtual platform for children and young people to express their views
- introduced a more child and young person friendly version of the Child in Care plan to help looked after children and young people engage more in the decisions being made about them.
- There is a successful Independent Visitors Service that matches volunteers with looked after young people to be a mentor/friend
- Developed a dictionary to assist our workforce in using language that is appropriate and meaningful to children and young people, rather than jargon or labelling language
- Children and young people are aware of the compliments, comments and complaints process and work has been undertaken with the complaints team to ensure the process is user friendly
- Created videos of some young people sharing their experiences of attending child protection conferences and what difference this has made for them
- There are some great examples of children and young people having their voices heard by the professionals working with them and this being used to inform the work done with them
- Some good examples of safety plans, care plans and pathway plans developed in conjunction with children and young people

Children and young people are engaged at a service level. Some examples of this include:

- Feedback loop form has been developed on the Young Northants website to provide a confidential anonymous space for children and young people to give feedback on services.
- Children and young people are aware of the compliments, comments and complaints process and work has been undertaken with the complaints team to ensure the process is user friendly
- Children and young people have been recruited to a Young Inspectors group and have taken part in a project on children and young people in custody working directly with the police.
- Children and young people have taken part in the commissioning of services alongside commissioners, both in helping to develop service specifications and in evaluating bids.
- Children and Young People have met with Ofsted Inspectors on several occasions to give their views

Engagement of children and young people at a strategic level. Some examples of this include:

- Well established groups for children in care, care leavers and children with disabilities mainly centred in West Northamptonshire. The Participation and Engagement team have built great positive relationships with all groups so that the children and young people feel safe and free. Weekly groups run for each as well as holiday activities.
- Excellent contribution from children and young people to NCT's Equalities Strategy on what they would like to see to improve inclusivity of participation.
- There is a programme of activity for children and young people to take part in formal participation groups, especially over the school holidays. This provides opportunity to capture the voice of the child.
- A new participation group has been set up for children and young people with a child in need or child protection plan to help us improve.
- Brilliant care leavers council, children in care council and group for children with disabilities.
- Fabulous Participation and Engagement Team who support young people to express their views.
- Starting to use social media and virtual platforms more effectively to increase our reach.

Work of the Local Authority Designated Officers (LADO)

LADO continued to work using virtual platforms in 2021/2022; this has enabled partner agencies easier access to Joint Evaluation Meetings (JEM's) and LADO-led professionals' meetings as needed. Full LADO data is not yet available for the financial year (2021/2022) as some cases have not yet been concluded.

LADO received 429 contacts in the year which is a significant reduction (32% n202) from 2020/2021 (n631). 89 contacts were managed as consultations (compared with 90 in 20/21) and 340 were managed as LADO referrals (541 in 20/21). It is likely the reduction of referrals is largely due to the closure of Rainsbrook STC part-way through the year as this organisation had previously been, by far, the most significant source of LADO referrals. This trend is

reflected in the highest number of contacts by occupation (residential workers, including Rainsbrook); whilst this reduced to 22.1% (n95) it was still the highest percentage by occupation. The other occupation with contacts in double percentage points is foster carers (10.9% - n 47). With residential workers and foster carers, this data may reflect increased pressures on homes caring for children who were in their care for more time as a result of lockdowns.

During 2021/2022 LADO worked closely with management and regulators for Rainsbrook Secure Training Centre (STC) prior to its closure in 2021. LADO has also continued to work closely with CQC and NHSE and hospital management to oversee improvement in safeguarding provision for young people placed at St Andrews specialist inpatient mental health provision in Northamptonshire. LADO has highlighted concerns about these providers' safeguarding to local Strategic Partner Leads which has enabled oversight and action. For both of these large providers, there has been significant LADO input at case level (peer-on-peer violence, allegations against staff) along with support for internal safeguarding management and wider partnership oversight of the provisions. In part, due to concerns highlighted by LADO, both providers reduced numbers of residents to improve care arrangements for those remaining whilst supporting work on systemic staff performance and training. Ultimately, Rainsbrook STC closed as it could not address these issues, including as identified by LADO. LADO continues to work with all parties to drive improvements at St Andrews Hospital.

LADO has supported the wider children's workforce through ready access to consultation and also provided training for internal and external partners on the role of LADO, particularly where this overlaps with the agency's own safeguarding duties. LADO consultation is available daily, with a 'Duty LADO' available every day to help partners identify safeguarding threshold referrals.

In early summer 2022, changes were made to how agencies access LADO support and consultation; these changes were advised through NSCP webpages and presented to multi-agency service delivery improvement group. Further improvements are underway to improve LADO recording and reporting processes, routing all referrals through MASH and onto a confidential section of the CareFirst children's database.

LADO attends Licencing forums to support partnership safeguarding duties and planning in West and North Northants Unitary authorities; this includes premises (off and on licence) and taxis. LADO is involved in making sure children's safeguarding is considered in these forums.

LADO training delivery was devised around thematic information provided in previous year's data; for example, LADO delivered training for Passenger Assistants in transport with vulnerable children (virtually) after identifying an increase in referrals and complaints in this area. This will be replicated for data from 21/22.



4. Plans for 2022-2023

Continue to strengthen our responses to the health and wellbeing of our children and young people

- **Timeliness of initial and review health assessments for children in care** - remains below target and focused work is being undertaken between Northamptonshire Children's Trust and health commissioners and providers to ensure the health needs of all children are understood and supported in a timely way.
- **Right placement in the right area for the child** – focus on stronger collaborative working with relevant partners to ensure a child is placed in the most appropriate setting to improve their experiences and outcomes.
- **Cost of living crisis** – ensuring support is readily available to newly identified vulnerable families whilst continuing to support those already known to services.

Development of new governance arrangements for the NSCP

- Creation of a Strategic Assurance Board meeting three times per annum to oversee the work of the partnership
- Commissioning of an Independent Chair of the partnership to strengthen and improve the partnership's safeguarding responses.

Creation of a Countywide Safeguarding Children structure

- The NSCP, in liaison with the Integrated Care System (ICS) and two local Community Safety Partnership Boards is developing a countywide safeguarding children structure. The main purpose is to streamline safeguarding work and activities to provide a consistent, robust response to the children, young people, and their families in our county. A draft structure was agreed by the end of this reporting period with phase two being developed for the creation of an Operational Management Group to focus on delivering priorities.
- There will also be a focus on creating a children and young people's group to create a direct line of communication for safeguarding forums to hear their voices and understand their concerns, utilising existing means.

Develop bespoke local virtual training

- Under contract with Virtual College for e-learning, the partnership now has the facility to develop its own local content training courses to be hosted on the virtual College platform.
- This will provide opportunities for local priorities and learning from Child Safeguarding Practice Reviews.

Strengthening the response to Child Exploitation

- **Adolescent Risk Management (ARM)** - The partnership will review its current response to young people at risk to ensure an effective pathway to identify and support children at risk of Extra-Familial Harm.
- **QLIK Data Reporting** - Northamptonshire Police has been developing the QLIK data reporting system to see how this could be expanded to include data for all agencies to map young people and / or locations where exploitation is suspected of taking place. It is hoped that the data contained within this system can then be used to highlight potential areas for intervention at an earlier stage and is hoped to be available for 2022-23.

Consistency and promotion of good practice

Review of Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub

- Further refresh of Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH), developed in partnership, with an ongoing rollout of thresholds training.
- Focus and improve on the quality, effectiveness, and appropriateness of referrals into MASH with improved signposting to reduce the number of cases where no further action is required.
- Ensuring partner representation is adequate.

Public Neglect campaign

- Raising the importance and significance of neglect and this will include continuing to support professionals' knowledge and confidence in dealing with neglect, along with an understanding of the Graded Care Profile 2 (GCP2) to support workers assessments of neglect.



Appendix 1 – Governance and Accountability

Statutory and Legal Context

In July 2018, [Working Together To Safeguard Children 2018](#) was published. It replaced previous versions that set out the requirements for local authorities to establish Local Safeguarding Children Boards and is in accordance with Section 13 and the objectives set out in Section 14 of the Children Act.

Working Together 2018 was published in response to The Wood Report and sets out the requirements for a system that focuses on the needs and interests of children and families and not the other way around. In such a system, practitioners will be clear about what is required of them individually, and how they need to work together in partnership with others.

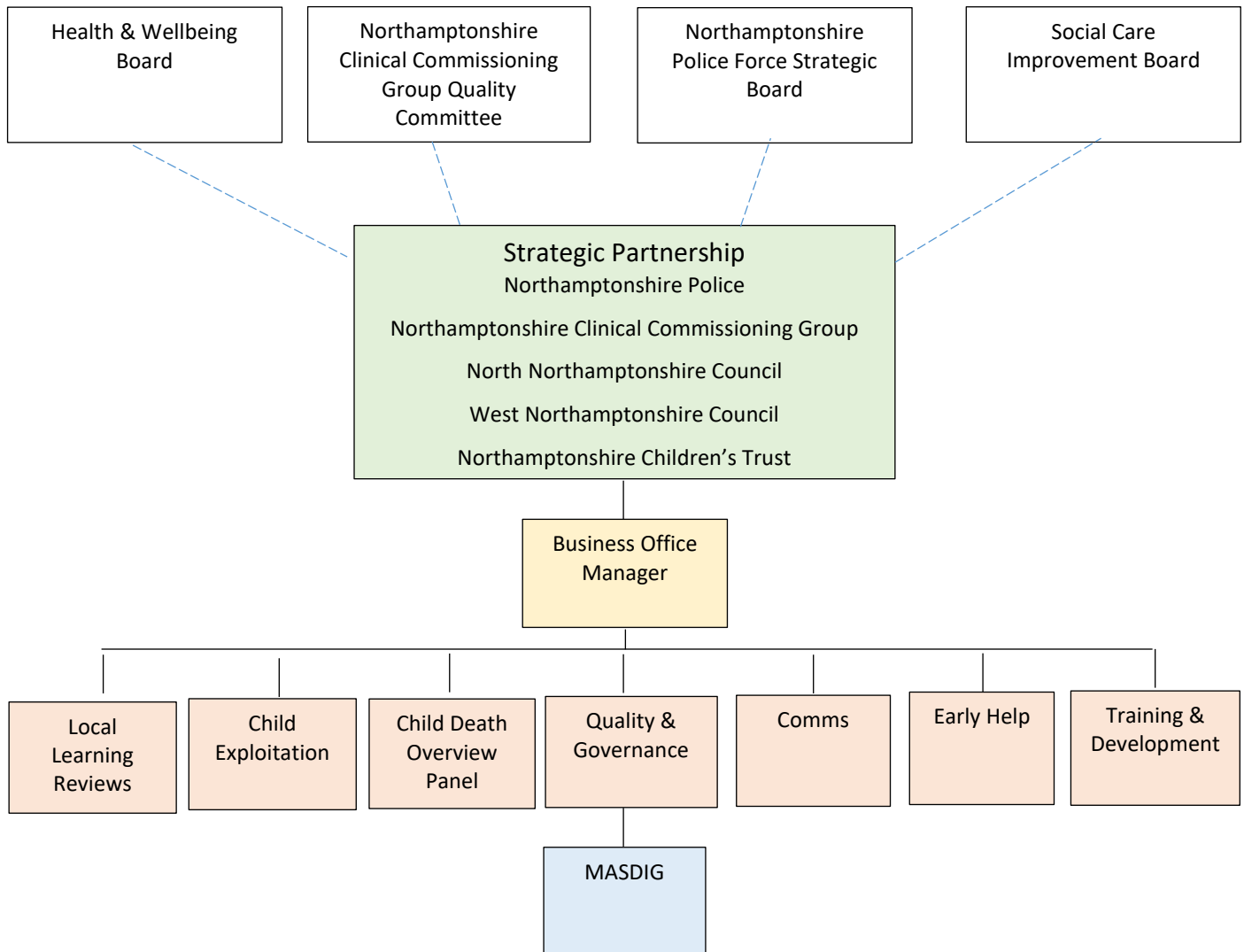
Local authorities, working with partner organisations and agencies, have specific duties to safeguard and promote the welfare of all children in their area. The Children Acts of 1989 and 2004 set out specific duties: section 17 of the Children Act 1989 puts a duty on the local authority to provide services to children in need in their area, regardless of where they are found; section 47 of the same Act requires local authorities to undertake enquiries if they believe a child has suffered or is likely to suffer significant harm.

The NSCP is not an operational body and therefore has no direct responsibility for the provision of services to children and their families. The NSCP's responsibilities are to hold partner agencies to account for their safeguarding arrangements and ensure the quality of those arrangements through policy, guidance, setting standards and monitoring.

The delivery of services to children and their families is the responsibility of the partners – the commissioning and provider agencies, not the NSCP itself.

[The Children Act 2004](#), as amended by the [Children and Social Work Act 2017](#), strengthens this already important relationship by placing new duties on key agencies in a local area. Specifically, the police, clinical commissioning groups and the local authority are under a duty to make arrangements to work together, and with other partners locally, to safeguard and promote the welfare of all children in their area.

Appendix 2 – NSCP Structure



Full Partnership

It was agreed that the full Partnership would meet twice yearly to review the previous six months of activity and look to the next 6-12 months to set priorities.

As Covid-19 has continued to provide concerns and difficulties through the year, there have been no full partnership meetings in this period. This has been acknowledged as a clear gap that could impact on the strength of the partnership and forms part of the ongoing discussions around the NSCP review.

Strategic Leads

The Strategic Leads Group has continued to meet on a monthly basis.

During 2021-22, the Strategic Leads representatives have changed, largely to reflect the county is now set out as two unitary authorities, therefore representation comprises:

The group comprises:

- Director of Children's Services for North Northamptonshire Council
- Director of Children's Services for West Northamptonshire Council.
- Assistant Chief Constable and Deputy for Northamptonshire Police.
- Chief Nurse and Deputy for Northamptonshire Clinical Commissioning Group.
- Chief Executive and Deputy for Northamptonshire Children's Trust.
- Director or Safeguarding, Northamptonshire Children's Trust
- School representation as a fourth non-voting agency. This is currently a Head Teacher from a special school and Head Teacher from a primary school.

- Representative for the Office for Police and Fire Crime Commissioner.
- Independent Scrutineer

Please note from 1st July 2022, the Integrated Care Board (ICB) replaced the Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG).

Independent Scrutineer

Provides assurance in judging the effectiveness of multi-agency arrangements to safeguard and promote the welfare of all children in Northamptonshire, including arrangements to identify and review Child Safeguarding Practice Review cases. His role is objective and acts as a constructive critical friend to promote reflection to drive continuous improvement.

The NSCP established the areas of activity for scrutiny in its initial Governance Document as follows:

- Attend the Strategic Leads Group and Strategic Partnership Group.
- Review the Partnership's annual report.
- Review audits and performance data, including Section 11 and Section 175 audits.
- Determine the effectiveness of arrangements to identify and review local child safeguarding reviews.
- Involvement in the escalation and conflict resolution process.
- Have regular direct contact with frontline practitioners to receive frontline practice feedback.
- Ensure the voice of the child is at the heart of all aspects of safeguarding and receive direct feedback from children, young people and their families to monitor the effectiveness of their voice and experiences with performance and practice.
- Embed scrutiny as a positive process and measure throughout the partnership with learning as the outcome.
- Ensure informed challenge from elected Members takes place.

Continues to provide constructive challenge and scrutiny with Child Safeguarding Practice Reviews and identifying relevant and constructive learning to strengthen services in the future. His suggestions and observations will continue to support Strategic Leads through 2022-23.

Sub Groups

NSCP Sub Groups have continued to meet on a virtual bi-monthly basis.

Quality and Governance

Aims to develop a culture of open, honest, and meaningful challenge and scrutiny, in order to identify areas of good practice and areas of concern and to make recommendations for action and improve safeguarding and is responsible for monitoring and evaluating the effectiveness of single agency and multi-agency safeguarding processes incorporating audit, performance analysis and views of children, families and practitioners.

The Sub Group has processes in place to manage:

- Section 11 and Section 175
- Multi-Agency Practice Review
- Scorecard key performance data

The Multi-Agency Practice Review process has been reviewed and refreshed and a schedule developed to consider key priorities over the next twelve months.

Training and Development

Due to an increased agreed training budget for 2021-22 and 2022-23, the sub group is focusing on developing a face-to-face training offer through classroom and/or virtual platforms.

E-Learning is due to move to a new management system from June 2022, which will allow the creation of bespoke training courses to be accessed via the same on-line platform. These courses will focus on local learning and priorities identified through scorecard data and learning from local reviews.

Local Learning Review

Responsible for monitoring and evaluating the effectiveness of local arrangements to safeguard and protect children through individual Rapid Reviews and Child Safeguarding Practice Reviews, ensuring dissemination of lessons learned, and monitoring implementation of actions arising from case learning.

A key achievement in the past year has been to finalise the updated NSCP suite of guidance and documents in line with Working Together 2018; to support case learning, including Rapid Reviews and Child Safeguarding Practice Reviews, and this is now available on the NSCP website.

The sub group over the past year has been focusing on managing case learning activity. The culture of undertaking effective reviews must be an iterative process, and almost every case the sub group has worked on this year has prompted reflection and learning on how to further improve processes.

Please see Appendix 3 for statistics and further information on the reporting period.

Early Help

Aims to understand the current Early Help Offer across the Partnership and is responsible for monitoring and evaluating strengths and gaps in the system which will inform the revision of the Early Help Strategy and work focus for the next three years.

This year the sub group has focused on refreshing the Neglect Strategy and reviewing the Early Help Strategy and action plans.

Early help provision remains a focus for the partnership, and with the launch of the Integrated Care System (ICS) due in July 2022, work has been undertaken to ensure early help's profile is heightened with the creation of an Early Help Partnership Board, that will report into the NSCP and ICS with activity reports. This will be in place from mid-2022.

Child Exploitation

Aims to understand and reduce the prevalence of child exploitation in Northamptonshire and is responsible for monitoring and evaluating responses to tackling child exploitation by meeting the aims and objectives set out in the Northamptonshire Child Exploitation Strategy.

This sub group has not met regularly throughout 2021-22 due to unforeseen circumstances and changes in chairing the group; however, a Child Exploitation Strategy was developed and agreed towards the end of the year and an associated action plan will be created to drive forward measures and tasks through the next financial year.

Communication Sub Group

This sub group has been reinitiated to focus on working with schools and students to develop videos for young people, made by young people focusing on topics they want to learn more about. This fantastic initiative has been well received but unfortunately, the lockdown and immense pressures on schools has meant this has not been able to be launched.

The group has created a NSCP YouTube Channel in readiness for when schools have re-opened and settled to pick this great opportunity up again and a forward plan of topics has been created.

In going forward, this group will also focus on developing content for regular NSCP newsletters, theme based, that can be disseminated across the partnership.

Child Death Overview Panel – The overall purpose of Northamptonshire CDOP is to undertake a comprehensive and multiagency review of all child deaths, to better understand how and why children across Northamptonshire die, with a view to detecting trends and/or specific areas which would benefit from further consideration.

The national process of reviewing child deaths was established in April 2008 and updated in Chapter 5 of Working Together to Safeguard Children 2018. It is the responsibility of the Child Death Review Partners to ensure that a review of every death of a child normally resident in their area is undertaken by a CDOP. Child death review partners are local authorities and any clinical commissioning groups for the local area as set out in the Children Act 2004, as amended

by the Children and Social Work Act 2017. Across Northamptonshire, the Child Death Review Partners are the two Local Authorities and NHS Northamptonshire CCG and locally it has been agreed that CDOP should remain within the remit of local safeguarding arrangements and processes managed from within the Business Office.

The process for reviewing child deaths commences with Notification to the Child Death Review team and culminates in final scrutiny at the Child Death Overview Panel.

A multiagency Child Death Review meeting should be held for each child death by the professionals directly involved in the care of that child during their life and the investigation after their death. A Child Death analysis form should be drafted at these meetings and sent to CDOP for final review. The Child Death Review process integrates with the Perinatal Mortality Review Programme and the Learning Disability Mortality Review Programme (LeDeR).

All data from Child Death Reviews is submitted to the National Child Mortality Database (NCMD) for the purposes of data analysis and learning at a national level.

Please see Appendix 4 for statistics for the reporting period.

Appendix 3 – Child Safeguarding Practice Reviews

For the period April 2020 – March 2021

- Seven Rapid Review were undertaken.
- Three requests for consideration of a review were deliberated.
- Two Child Safeguarding Practice Reviews were published in December 2021.
- A third CSPR was published in March 2022.
- Four new CSPR's were commissioned during the period first April 2021 to 31st March 2022.

Some key Safeguarding themes from 2021/22:

Knife crime, gang associations and criminal exploitation have been increasingly recognised as significant concerns nationally but have not previously been the focus of case learning for the Northamptonshire safeguarding partnership.

Two of the CSPRs initiated this year are seeking to obtain learning following the deaths of young people because of knife wounds and include thematic learning from other more minor incidents. This has highlighted adolescent neglect as a contributing factor to the vulnerability of young people linked to knife crime incidents.

Co-sleeping or unsafe infant sleeping continues to be a theme, in association with additional concerns including neglect, parental alcohol misuse, and non-engagement. The confirmed or emerging findings are consistent with those identified in the National Panel's thematic review of cases of sudden and unexpected death in infants. Some of these cases continue to raise concerns about the multi-agency response to neglect.

Following the success of the one-year pilot of 'DadPad,' which was commissioned by Northamptonshire CCG to support the reduction of non-accidental traumatic head injury in babies, this project has now been commissioned for a further four year period.

DadPad is an app and book for father to be and new fathers that aims to provide them with guidance on how to develop the mind-set, confidence and practical skills needed to meet their babies' physical and emotional needs. It is also intended as a resource to assist professionals to engage and build relationships with new fathers and fathers to be.

During the first six months of the app availability, downloads equates to fifty per cent of all new births in the county. Top topics viewed included: when the crying won't stop, safe sleeping and surviving without sleep.

Disguised Compliance

There is a regularly recurring theme of disguised compliance, or very often clearly evidenced noncompliance and disengagement. There is an ongoing need to focus on how to support practitioners to safeguard children when parents do not engage or are actively hostile.

Neglect

See above section 2 – Taking Positive Action Early Enough

Supervision

The partnership has noted that the quality of staff supervision has been highlighted and therefore partners have been encouraged to review supervision policies and procedures. Processes have been strengthened to ensure professionals have opportunities to discuss their cases and, focus on those where they have concerns. This is ensuring professionals are confident in managing their caseloads and that children, young people and their families receive the level of support needed, particularly with complex families.

Invisible Parents

CSPRs and Rapid Reviews this year have once again highlighted potential risk from parents or partners who were not visible to agencies working with the mother of a child who was subsequently injured, and where the parent or partner has subsequently been charged in relation to nonaccidental injury.

This has triggered a debate about how police intelligence on adult violence, criminality and gang association can be shared in a proportionate way. This is a significantly challenging question, but case learning has demonstrated that we need a shared multi agency understanding about when such information should be sought within child protection processes, and the circumstances in which police should proactively disclose concerns about risky adults, for example when it is known that the adult is about to become a father. This will be developed further in 2022-23.

Appendix 4 – Child Death

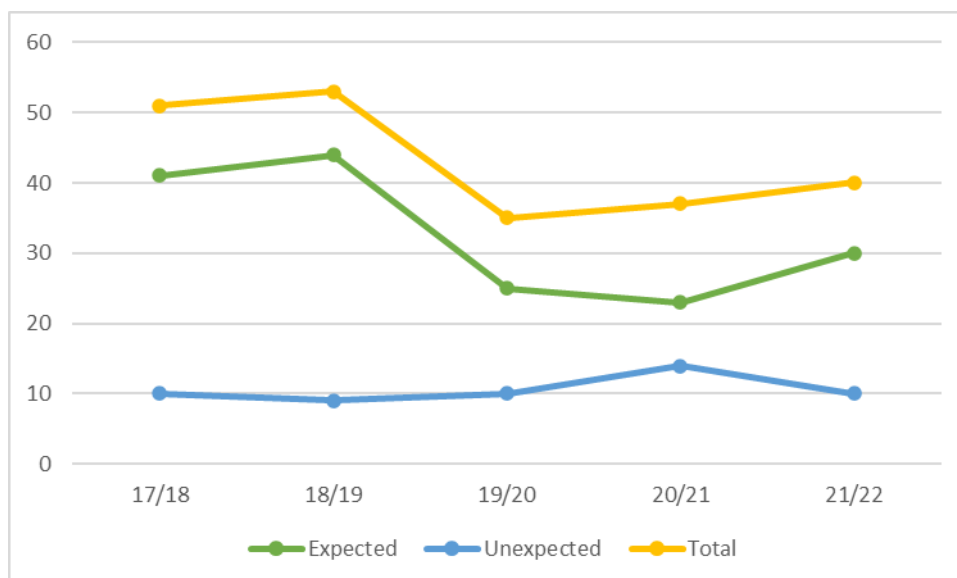
Child deaths in Northamptonshire have shown a slow increase over the past three years after falling significantly in 2019/20. However, with the exception of 20/21 when an increase was seen, unexpected deaths have remained steady over the past 5 years.

It should be noted that detailed analysis and conclusions to be drawn from the data are limited due to the fortunately small numbers of deaths that occur on an annual basis.

Fig. 2. Child death notifications by year:

	21/22	20/21	19/20	18/19	17/18
Expected	30	23	25	44	41
Unexpected	10	14	10	9	10
Total	40	37	35	53	51

Fig 3. Five-year child death notification trends



70% of all child deaths across Northamptonshire occurred in the first year of life with unexpected death occurring more commonly in this age group than any other. This is in line with national figures reported by the National Child Mortality Database (NCMD).

Appendix 5 – Partner Contributions for 2021-2022

Partner Income 2021/22 from Strategic Partner agencies	Annual Contribution to NSCP Budget
North Northants Council	£24,646
West Northants Council	£26,351
Police Funding	£43,000
Health Authority Contribution	£48,949

The Northamptonshire Safeguarding Children Partnership's Annual Report for 2021-22.

This report sets out the work programme of the Northamptonshire Safeguarding Children's Partnership's (NSCP) work through this reporting period, aligned to the three key priorities set out in the 2021-22 Business Plan and referenced at the bottom of page 4. The report shows the progress being and developments to practice to support and safeguard children and young people in the local area. There is a strong focus on voice of the child, crucial in every aspect of our work.

Early Help has been developed and services re-designed with a focus on intervention and prevention, led on by colleagues within the Children's Trust, with further plans for continuous improvement through 2022-23 and a focus on neglect as a key priority.

Considerable work has been undertaken to raise the profile of Child Exploitation led by Northamptonshire Constabulary, building on existing processes to protect our most vulnerable children and young people. Plans are in place for 2022-23 to review these processes to strengthen and develop a more cohesive multi-agency approach.

The Safeguarding Partnership has continued to focus on supporting staff with a comprehensive on-line training package offering a suite of courses and, with the restricting effects of Covid-19 beginning to relax, is re-initiating multi-agency training through Teams. The partnership is committed to training staff and has agreed a funding package for 2022-23.

Covid-19 has continued to cause significant pressures on many services and remains a feature throughout this report. Strategic Leads in the North & West Northampton Local Authorities; the Clinical Commissioning Groups (now the Integrated Care Board) and health providers, the Police, schools and education settings, Probation Service and the voluntary and community sectors have worked together to support front line staff who have worked tirelessly in delivering services to children and families during these challenging times. This will continue through 2022-23 with recognition of the additional pressure of the cost-of-living for families.

In conclusion the annual report is a reflection of progress made by the NSCP in the last year, with acknowledgement of the further work and improvements needed as set out in the plans for 2022-23, referenced on page 15.

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