

WEST NORTHAMPTONSHIRE COUNCIL CABINET

11th July 2023

Cabinet Member for Adult Care, Wellbeing and Health Integration: Councillor Matt Golby

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1. Purpose of Report

- 1.1. The Anti-Poverty Strategy 2022 – 2025 was approved by Cabinet in April 2022. Following Cabinet approval, the strategy was published, and a comprehensive action plan developed. Delivery of the action plan commenced in July 2022. A commitment was made that an annual report would be produced after 12 months. This is the first annual report. Its aim is to provide an update on progress and outline broad actions going forwards into year 2.

2. Executive Summary

- 2.1 The West Northamptonshire Anti- Poverty Strategy (APS) was published in April 2022. The Public Health Team and the Housing and Communities Team worked quickly with the APS Oversight Board and other partners to turn the Strategy into a series of measurable actions.
- 2.2 Due to the wide range of strategic objectives and commitments, the APS Oversight Board met in June 2022 and agreed a set of “Must Do” actions across the Strategy’s 3 priorities:
1. Supporting people who are struggling in poverty now.
 2. Preventing people from falling into poverty in the first place.
 3. Continue to influence Government and other national organisations to get a better deal for our communities in West Northants.
- 2.3 The report highlights that work on the APS has coincided with the escalating cost of living requiring specific short term actions and responses, but also that good progress has been made against the year 1 Must Dos – as reported to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee on 3 May 2023.
- 2.4 One of the most pleasing aspects of year 1 delivery has been the partnership working – between council teams, the VCS and Primary care - that has produced successful outcomes. In a recent email exchange Rachel McGrath (CEO Northamptonshire Community Foundation) remarked to Cllr Golby that “I do think the WNUA anti-poverty strategy is an exemplar in strategic collaboration to tackle poverty locally and compared to other counties, thank you to you and your team for all your hard work”.
- 2.5 This report will briefly refer to work currently being undertaken to develop and agree the refreshed series of Must Do actions for year 2, and actions to measure success against the 9 APS performance indicators highlighted in page 17 of the APS – see link below:

<https://www.westnorthants.gov.uk/community-safety-and-emergencies/tackling-poverty-west-northants>

3. Recommendations

- 3.1 It is recommended that Cabinet:

- a) Note that good progress has been made in Year 1
- b) Note that the Anti Poverty Strategy (APS) Oversight Board is committed to supporting a refreshed series of actions for year 2 – some of which are longer term, ambitious actions.

Reason for Recommendations

- 3.2 This is the first annual report of the APS. We are reporting on actions and impact to date. The delivery of the Strategy is guided by the APS Oversight Board - where there is a complete consensus to see a refreshed series of Must Do actions for year 2. A recognition to move towards priority 2 - 'preventing people from falling into poverty in the first place'.

4. Report Background

- 4.1 The Anti-Poverty Strategy 2022 – 2025 was published in April 2022 with a clear vision: 'for a fairer and more inclusive West Northamptonshire, where everyone is able to live their best life, prosperous and fulfilling, free from poverty and inequality'. In the foreword to the report, Cllr Matt Golby noted that we are "now facing some uncertainty as we emerge from the recent pandemic, which has amplified many of the inequalities that existed across our communities in West Northamptonshire. It has led to an increased need for services from the Council and partners who have been working hard to find ways to maintain and increase support for those facing hardship".
- 4.2 Since the APS was published the cost of living has increased, which has particularly increased pressure on many of our most vulnerable residents, thereby increasing health inequalities. It has and will add considerable strain to the NHS, local authority and public health services, and services provided by the voluntary and community sector (VCS) in West Northamptonshire as the numbers of residents experiencing poverty and presenting with poor health outcomes grows significantly.
- 4.3 The APS was shaped around 3 strategic priorities
 1. Supporting people who are struggling in poverty now
 2. Preventing people from falling into poverty in the first place
 3. Continue to influence Government and other national organisations to get a better deal for our communities in West Northamptonshire
- 4.4 To deliver on these priorities the strategy outlined 8 strategic objectives and 32 commitments. The Implementation Team added 9 key principles that should guide the way that we collectively work to achieve better outcomes for our residents. The APS key delivery principles are attached as Appendix A.
- 4.5 The Anti-Poverty Strategy Group established to develop the strategy continued to meet following publication in the form of an Anti- Poverty Strategy Oversight Board to drive forward delivery of the strategy and its supporting action plan.

- 4.6 It is vital that the APS continues to be delivered in partnership with other important Council strategies including:
- West Northamptonshire Housing Strategy 2022-2025
 - West Northamptonshire Community Safety Strategy
 - Northamptonshire Climate Change Strategy 2020 – 2023, as well as emerging plans and strategies in development including the Health and Wellbeing Strategy, Homelessness Strategy and Economic Regeneration Strategy.
- 4.7 The recently published DPH Annual Report 2022 – ‘Public Health Effects of the Cost of Living’ highlights the relationship between poverty and poor health. In her introduction to the report Sally Burns – the Director of Public Health – states: “This report sets out the evidence that links different aspects of poverty with health consequences, as well as the level of need across West Northamptonshire – showing our continued focus in delivering our Anti-Poverty Strategy for residents. We have also taken the opportunity to highlight just some of the amazing projects that have already been delivered in partnership with public sector, community voluntary sector and wider organisations as part of our Anti- Poverty Strategy work”. The report is attached as Appendix B. The videos that accompany the report can be found at: <https://bit.ly/DPHR22>.

5. Issues and Choices

- 5.1 Following publication of the strategy in April 2022, by June 2022 an ambitious action plan had been developed with over 100 actions to address the 3 strategic priorities. The Oversight Board agreed to focus on identified critical **‘Must Do actions’** for year 1. These primarily focused on priority 1 and supporting those facing hardship.
- 5.2 A presentation, noting the good progress that has been made against the year 1 Must Dos, was reported to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee May 2023 – see 7.5 below. A copy of the slides is attached as Appendix E.
- 5.3 This report will outline progress against each of the year 1 Must Dos, as well as noting progress against the broader 32 commitments.
- 5.4 It will end by referring to work currently being undertaken to develop and agree the refreshed series of Must Do actions for year 2, and actions to measure success against the 9 APS performance indicators.

Progress against each of the year 1 Must Dos – April 2022 to March 2023:

5.5 Community Training Partnership:

The aim of the Community Training Partnership (CTP) is to provide training for all frontline workers and volunteers (FLWVs) on the key social welfare issues in West Northamptonshire.

FLWVs come from all sectors and include:

- WNC customer services colleagues
- Social prescribers
- Colleagues providing support and advice for residents from the VCS and council
- Colleagues running food banks and food larders
- Members of faith settings and so on.

The CTP identified and amplified a range of advice, support, and referral pathways for FLWVs. These pathways included but were not be limited to:

- Housing and homelessness
- Money and debt
- Welfare rights
- Immigration issues
- Social mobility
- Employment and skills
- Mental health support
- Winter preparedness
- Long term food aid
- Early years
- Family support

The CTP will now develop and deliver training modules that upskill FLWVs to understand and help tackle the challenges outlined above: what are they hearing on the ground in their day-to-day interaction with residents, what immediate support and/or advice can they provide, and how do they refer effectively into expert support.

Following two soft market testing events in September and October 2022, the contract for the delivery of the CTP was awarded in March 2023 for a 2 year period to The Hope Centre and Community Law Service. A fast-paced mobilisation period is planned for April to June 2023. An initial range of training sessions will be delivered in July, with a full timetable planned for September to December 2023.

5.6 Household Support Fund:

The 'Must Do' action in relation to the Household Support Fund (HSF) was to review the process and learning from allocation of HSF1 and HSF2 to ensure that HSF3 was reaching those in severe hardship. It was also to work in partnership with The Food Aid Alliance (FAAWN) - an alliance of foodbanks and other food aid providers - to enable partners to develop long term food aid to support those in severe hardship.

Good progress has been made:

- To reach as many vulnerable residents as possible a significant proportion of the HSF 3 was awarded to the Northamptonshire Community Partnership for distribution by VCS partners.
- 6009 vouchers to the value of £751,125 were awarded by 21 partners.
- Over £240,000 was allocated to our Foodbanks via FAAWN.

- An additional £100k public health grant funding was allocated for 'wraparound' support' provided by VCS partners.
- Partners have been very pleased with this area of the APS:
- **Braunston Heart reported:** *'As always in a rural community, people are reluctant to come forward and admit they need help and support. It is difficult to locate those in most need and inform them of the voucher's existence. By contacting the Church, local school, toddler group and Friendly Club we now have an established network of contacts to push out the message. What was great to see this time was not only were families coming forward, but they were also encouraging their grandparents (if appropriate) to come forward too - a very proud older generation. Hopefully this also raised our profile in being a body within the village to reach out to. We are pleased to have been a part of this scheme as it has allowed us to help those in need which forms part of helping the community which is the basis of our organisation.'*
- **Food for Thought Daventry reported:** *'Massive difference to people living in market towns and villages. Some used the HSF to purchase a big shop of bulk items that they need every week and other used it sparingly as they went to maximise the duration of the grant. This opened up possibilities for people to get basic items like sanitary products and toothpaste but also healthy choices of food. Thank you to the team at NCF for their speed and efficiency of response.'*

5.7 Fuel poverty/Warm Welcoming Spaces:

The Must Do Action was to establish as a matter of urgency a cross sector fuel poverty working group identifying all possible interventions ahead of the 22/23 winter period.

The group met for the first time on 25 September 2022 and based on learning from other local authorities, the decision was taken to prioritise the creation and implementation of Warm Welcoming Spaces (WWS).

We define these spaces as a local community provision of safe, welcoming warm spaces that are free and open to residents across West Northamptonshire.

The warm welcoming spaces provide:

- A warm location
- Refreshments
- Companionship
- Information/advice on how to mitigate increases to the cost-of-living

£180,000 in public health grant funding was allocated to develop and enhance Warm Welcoming Spaces for a 3-year period to cover winters 22/23 to 25/26. £41,142 was spent in and this was able to be funded by Household Support Fund 3.

The roll out and coordination of WWS in year 1 has been successful with:

- 96 WWS registered online
- 47 of which (Over 50% of registered spaces) applied for and received grant funding to contribute towards their costs.

- This scheme has resulted in nearly 53,000 attendances in grant funded spaces over the winter months of 2022/23, resulting in a cost per attendance of £1.89.
- Of the residents attending our spaces 3,371 were referred onto wraparound services.

Next steps:

In response to evidence of continued need of Welcoming Spaces (social isolation, cost of living, mental health issues, and access to wraparound services) the small grants programme will be rolled out to support summer 2023 period.

Planning for winter 23/24 - building on best practice and lessons learnt from year 1 with an emphasis on the provision of wraparound services and enhancing the offer to our rural communities.

5.8 Money and debt:

The Must Do action was to review and expand the financial wellbeing service offer within West Northamptonshire. Good progress has been made, particularly in improving capacity in the short term while system transformation progresses.

£180,000 in funding has been awarded to 3 VCS partners to provide 4.4 FTEs emergency Money and Debt Advisors in response to increases to the cost of living for a 12 month period. The providers are:

- Community Law Service
- Citizens Advice North Oxon and South Northants
- Citizens Advice Daventry

Next steps:

The Assistant Director for Revenues and Benefits with the support of a transformational change team is working to 3 workstrands:

1. Internal Restructure – the pulling together of existing internal capacity to create a joined up money and debt advice service for residents.
2. VCS Contracts – building sustainable capacity to work in alignment with the WNC Money and Debt Service to ensure we have sufficient capacity to meet all our resident’s needs.
3. Pathways – ensuring all residents have easy and accessible access to money and debt services – this may be agile and include face to face and online access.

A business case is currently being prepared to fund a new post of Financial Inclusion Officer, supporting the delivery of the change team’s work, and providing wider strategic direction around financial wellbeing.

5.9 Immigration support and advice:

The Must Do action was to create a sustainable approach to address the shortfall in immigration support and advice to ensure all eligible residents achieve settled status.

Good progress has been made:

The Immigration Support and Advice task and finish group met for the first time in July 2022.

The task and finish group participated in a system mapping event in October.

The aim was to make sense of the complexity of this issue:

- Identify connections
- Build a collective representation of the issue
- Engage diverse stakeholders
- Integrate knowledge, skills, and experience
- Develop a coordinated response.

The initial system mapping shared with Oversight Board in December 2022 and a West Northamptonshire approach was created and shared at a soft market testing event in March 2023.

The key benefits of the approach will be:

- Serving our communities – its estimated that there may be between 2000 and 4000 residents, including children, who need this support.
- Whilst public health has a huge interest in mitigating the consequences of poverty and poor health from being trapped in the immigration system or ‘living below the radar’ – there are clear dividends for the Council in terms of:
 - Residents achieving ‘status’ being able to work in the tax paying economy.
 - Significant savings in the cost of temporary accommodation for the Northamptonshire Children's Trust.
 - Large potential savings regarding pupil premiums.
 - And finally - it's hard to put a price on improved community cohesion and public health.

The suggested West Northamptonshire approach is:

A hub and spoke model, with a network of 5 to 10 local immigration support and advice hubs across West Northamptonshire – probably based in VCS partners who already provide wraparound services e.g. a food bank, money and debt support, they may be one of our Warm Welcoming Spaces and/or distributing the Household Support Fund on our behalf.

- The network will provide a safe and reassuring first port of call for those requiring support and advice.
- This network will be focused in areas of most need – so expect a greater concentration in the N4 LAP for example; we may also locate a hub in a specific community VCS partner serving a particular community; and we will need to work out ways to cover rural locations.
- The network will triage and refer into a virtual Expert Hub that provides free of charge level 2 and 3 accredited advice and casework.

Next steps:

This Must Do will go forward into year 2 for prioritisation consideration.

5.10 Social mobility, employment, and skills:

The Must Do action was to initiate and establish an emphasis on the development of a holistic approach to learning and employment for residents, forming a learning and skills consortium that delivers in local and trusted settings.

An initial meeting of stakeholders was held in December 2022, and a task and finish group was established to map the initial offer and how to showcase it. However, progress has been slow, and this Must Do needs to roll into year 2 and receive urgent attention from May 2023 onwards.

Good progress, however, is being made on Care Leavers:

- A Mentoring proposal is currently being explored.
- Care Leavers and Anchor Institutions – a session is planned for May 2023 to support anchors to become more inclusive when recruiting and supporting care leavers.

5.11 Communications:

The Must Do action was to create a range of approaches to communicate the availability of all support and services, plus public health and primary care provision to all partners working with residents.

The focus has been on the Cost-of-Living campaign:

- The Cost of living (CoL) resource hub is live on WNC website with accompanying promotional comms (www.westnorthats.gov.uk/cost-of-living).
- Social media campaign successfully launched and shared on a rolling basis through WNC and partner channels.
- A toolkit created for Warm Welcoming Spaces and shared with partners for use.
- Approx. 80 community groups/organisations distributed cards/posters to over 40,000 residents across West Northamptonshire signposting to the online Cost of Living resource hub and phone number.
- Media coverage received from local media outlets signposting to WWS and CoL including a BBC News article focussing of COL and WWS:
<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/cv27eeygve7o>

Next steps:

- The translation of materials including videos and document handouts – includes filming of community organisations / leaders and supports signposting to key information.
- Develop a revised communications plan to be developed in alignment with HSF4 distribution looking at key milestones and/or activities for consistent promotion.
- Communications to be revised in alignment with welcoming spaces next steps.
- Review and update CoL resource hub and WWS map to ensure up to date and accurate.

6.12 Progress against the 32 commitments

The compilation of the annual report has given us time to reflect on good progress being made against the 32 commitments. Of the 32 commitments we feel that good or reasonable progress has been made against at least 22 commitments – see Appendix C.

6.13 Developing and agreeing the refreshed series of Must Do actions for year 2:

Must Do Actions year 2:

- At the APS Oversight Board on 11 May 2023, it was agreed that the implementation team will commit to a refreshed series of Must Do actions in year 2 that consolidate actions in Priority 1, transition more efforts into Priorities 2 and 3; and identify the bigger picture changes required such as economic regeneration around employment and skills, and Housing for example.
- It was noted that the cost of living crisis had driven significant year 1 effort into Priority 1 but that the success indicators of the APS were broadly more focused in Priorities 2 and 3.
- The implementation team is currently working up a draft refreshed series of year 2 Must Do actions for approval by the APS Oversight Board.

There are 4 key actions required in this planning:

1. Consolidation of Year 1 Must Dos – across Priority 1 and Priority 2.
2. Agree and deliver the Year 2 ‘Must Dos’ – transitioning more efforts into Priorities 2 and 3.
3. Agree and set milestones for the key actions around the bigger picture changes required such as economic regeneration around employment and skills, and Housing for example.
4. Measuring success against the APS 9 success outcomes - creating and populating a performance framework.

The implementation team will present the year 2 Must Do actions in 2 domains:

- Must Do actions owned by the Implementation Team.
- Must Do actions agreed and owned by other WNC teams or partners – these are likely to include economic regeneration around employment and skills, and Housing for example.

The Implementation Team will also revisit the 8 Strategic Objectives and 32 Commitments of the APS to ensure we note successes/shortfalls in year 1 and address any actions to be prioritised in the refreshed series of year 2 Must Do actions – this work has already begun - see Appendix C.

6.14 Actions to measure success against the 9 APS success indicators:

The implementation team is currently working on actions to measure success against the 9 performance indicators:

- This involves a process of finalising the refreshed series of Must Do actions in year 2 with the APS Oversight Board (anticipated summer 2023).
- Attributing the Must Do actions in year 2 to each of the 9 APS success indicators.
- Identifying High Level KPI(s) from business cases for public health funding and/or partner team’s KPIs to each year 2 action.
- Identifying a range of available indicators that can provide evidence to evaluate progress.

6. Implications (including financial implications)

6.1 Resources and Financial

- 6.1.1 £2 million of funding over 3 years from the Public Health reserve was allocated to support delivery of the Anti-Poverty Strategy actions. Poverty is associated with poor health outcomes both through the direct impact of the stresses of poverty and indirectly through inability to access basic goods for health (food, shelter, warmth etc.) As noted above in 5 – the cost of living has increased pressure on many of our most vulnerable residents, thereby increasing health inequalities.
- 6.1.2 To date £870,000 has been allocated over a period of 3 years to deliver the initial Must Do actions. Of this, £124,235 has been spent in ‘Year 1’ (2022/23)
- 6.1.3 Delivery has also involved the additional national grant funding in the form of the Household Support Fund (HSF) which is now in its fourth tranche of delivery, and in the last year distributed over £5 million to households suffering hardship and the voluntary sector organisations that support them. The availability of Household Support Funds 2 and 3 in 2022/23 has meant that expenditure to date against the £2m set aside from the Public Health Reserve has been lower than expected, as some planned projects have been funded by HSF. This has freed up additional funding in future years to be spent on Anti-Poverty Projects.
- 6.1.4 Appendix D provides an outline of what was spent in 2022/23 financial year including planned projects that were funded by HSF4.
- 6.1.5 Going forwards into year 2, there will be resource and financial implications, and these will be assessed and prioritised as part of the process of agreeing the refreshed series of Must Do actions for year 2.
- 6.1.6 A significant proportion of resources and financial support may already be allocated – for the Housing Strategy, for example.
- 6.1.7 Other Must Do actions are already part of transformational change projects – such as Money and Debt.
- 6.1.8 The implementation team will also seek to identify external funding sources if possible.
- 6.1.9 In the first instance, it’s anticipated that a paper presenting the refreshed series of Must Do actions for year 2, with potential resource and financial implications, will be taken to ELT in the summer of 2023.

6.1.10

6.2 Legal

- 6.2.1 There are no specific legal implications arising from the proposals.

6.3 Risk

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

6.4 Consultation and Communications

- 6.4.1 The APS was produced by an Oversight Strategy Development Group following widespread consultation with partners and colleagues across West Northamptonshire and beyond. Salford City Council provided a range of learnings and best practice from their pioneering work in this field for example.
- 6.4.2 One of the principles of the delivery of the APS is that in order to deliver optimally we need ‘a true partnership between the VCS, Primary Care, WNC, and other partners’. The Implementation Team has remained committed to this approach.
- 6.4.3 The Oversight Strategy Development Group has transitioned and grown to become the APS Oversight Board. It meets monthly – reflecting the pressures of the cost of living.
- 6.4.4 Details of consultative and collaborative work undertaken includes:

Warm Welcoming Spaces:

- Working group and weekly cross sector project team.
- Best practice identified working with Gateshead Council.
- Fuel Poverty Task and Finish Group

Community Training Partnership:

- 2 soft marketing events to shape the programme specification.
- Sharing best practice and experience with Newham Borough Council Social Welfare Alliance Team (the model upon which the Community Training Partnership is based).
- Community Training Partnership cross sector strategy group launched.

Immigration Support and Advice:

- Immigration Support and Advice Task and Finish Group
- External Expertise: working in partnership with Dr Natalie Savona to produce a system map of the current position of immigration in West Northamptonshire.
- External Expertise: consulting Jo Wilding, author of ‘It’s a no-brainer’: Local authority funding for immigration legal advice in the UK .
- External Expertise: member of Advancing Mental Health Equality Collaborative (AMHE) Subgroup: Refugees, Asylum Seekers and Migrant Community

Household Support Fund 2 and 3:

- Following consultation with Northamptonshire Community Foundation and key VCS stakeholders, new model of delivery of HSF vouchers launched with 20 VCS partners distributing.

Food Aid:

- Working in partnership with West Northamptonshire Sustainable Food Network who are leading response to long term food support for the population alongside FAAWN who represent foodbanks and food clubs across patch.

Mental Health:

- Employment, Primary Care and Public Health working group

- NHS Talking Therapies – Northamptonshire Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust
- Food bank insights and Mental Health training information session to help compile the Mental health Joint Strategic needs Assessment.
- Mental health and suicide prevention training framework

Learning, Skills, and Employment:

- WNC's Learning and Skills Consortium Partner Workshop

Additional Partnership working:

- Attendances at VCS thematic Groups
- Attendance at Northampton City of Sanctuary Annual Meeting
- Regular Project updates at Health and Wellbeing Forums and Health and Wellbeing Board
- Project Updates to Parish Council Forum
- Project Updates: Social Prescribers' Community of Interest Group
- Sharing Best practice with Wokingham Borough Council and Frimley ICS
- Health Inequalities Workshop

Attendance and Contribution to National Events:

- Attendance and contribution toward seminar - New Local/JRF workshop 2 on designing out deep poverty and destitution.
- Attended and contributed towards Joseph Rowntree Foundation Consultation on development of rethinking how tackle poverty.
- Attended Joseph Rowntree Foundation Seminar - The cost of the renting crisis: housing subsidies and affordability in the UK'.
- Contributed towards and attended launch of national report 'It's a no-brainer': Local authority funding for immigration legal advice in the UK' by Jo Wilding
- 'Cost of Living' month briefings – Citizens Advice Bureau

Internal WNC liaison:

- Housing and Homelessness teams
- Money and Debt Transformational Change team
- Customer Services
- The Children's Trust
- Adult Social Care
- Economic Development Team

6.4.5 Details of communications with residents include:

Online support:

Cost of Living Hub:

<https://www.westnorthants.gov.uk/cost-living-support>

Warm Welcoming Spaces information including online register:

<https://www.westnorthants.gov.uk/cost-living-support/looking-warm-spaces>

Northants Live website – Warm Welcoming Spaces:

<https://www.northantslive.news/news/northamptonshire-news/warm-spaces-across-west-northants-7845892>

Toolkits:

- Warm Welcoming Spaces toolkit

Hard copy information:

- Cost of Living Cards
- Cost of Living Poster

The following information has been distributed through our Warm Welcoming Spaces programme:

- Armed Forces Community Partners Resource Pack
- Energy and Food Poverty Project – Age Concern
- NHS leaflet – Here when you need Us”
- NHS leaflet – List of Crisis Cafes
- Northamptonshire Safeguarding Adults Board – Training Timetable
- Leaflet – Northamptonshire Good Neighbour Schemes
- West Northamptonshire Council Leaflet – Employment Support Services
- IAPT leaflet – Talking Therapies
- Mind Mental Health Navigator Directory of Services

Press:

- BBC News website - Warm Welcoming Spaces featuring Councillor Matt Golby and Alex Copeland of The Hope Centre <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/cv27eeygve7o>

6.4.6 We continue to invest in the Poverty Truth Commission, led by Voluntary Impact Northamptonshire, capturing the lived experience of those living in Poverty or facing hardship.

6.5 **Consideration by Overview and Scrutiny:**

A presentation was made to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee on 3 May 2023. This is attached as Appendix E.

Key comments were:

- How do we have more focus on priority 2 of the strategy going forwards into year 2.
- It was noted that the cost of living crisis compelled us to focus on Priority 1.
- How do we reduce dependency on the public health reserve and HSF?

6.6 **Climate Impact:**

In year 1, the ‘Sustainable Heat Network Feasibility’ Study has been funded and the results will help shape Fuel Poverty and Climate Emergency policy and practice moving forward.

The Fuel Poverty priorities in year 2 and beyond aims to reduce poverty and the carbon footprint. Proposed actions include improving insulation in homes and retro-fitting social housing in partnership with our Housing Team and Housing Associations - contributing towards the Council goal of reaching Net Zero by 2030.

6.7 Community Impact:

- 6.7.1 One of the delivery principles of the APS is to deliver against need in local and trusted settings across our urban and rural geography.
- 6.7.2 An example of this is the delivery of the HSF – where to reach as many residents experiencing poverty as possible, a significant proportion of the HSF 2 and 3 funding rounds was awarded to the Northamptonshire Community Partnership for distribution by VCS partners. The list of HSF 3 distribution partners is attached as Appendix F. This also gives the numbers of residents who were allocated vouchers. The breakdown of distribution by ward is also available providing evidence that we were able to support both urban and rural communities.
- 6.7.3 The WWS project has illustrated widespread community impact and the key metrics have been provided in 6.
- 6.7.4 The APS has worked in close alignment to the implementation of Local Area Partnerships.
- 6.7.5 The design of the immigration support and advice concept – for delivery in year 2 – has been specifically designed and soft market tested - to deliver in local and trusted settings. It's a hub and spoke model. The concept provides a network of 5 to 10 local immigration support and advice hubs across West Northamptonshire who will triage and refer into a virtual Expert Hub that provides free of charge level 2 and 3 accredited advice and casework. More detail has been provided in 6.

7. Background Papers

- 7.1 The Implementation Team has strived to stay up to date with thoughts and approaches around long term poverty drivers and the current cost of living– with escalating levels of residents experiencing poverty. The list below are our key sources of guidance, best practice, learning, and inspiration:
 - NHS Long Term Plan 2019
<https://www.longtermplan.nhs.uk>
 - The Hewitt Review: an independent review of integrated care systems
<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/the-hewitt-review-an-independent-review-of-integrated-care-systems>
 - The Marmot Review 10 years on - [Marmot Review 10 Years On - IHE \(instituteofhealthequity.org\)](https://www.instituteofhealthequity.org)
 - 'Fuel Poverty, Cold Homes, and Health Inequalities in the UK' – Sir Michael Marmot.
<https://www.instituteofhealthequity.org/resources-reports/fuel-poverty-cold-homes-and-health-inequalities-in-the-uk>
 - UK Poverty 2022: The essential guide to understanding poverty in the UK - JRF
<https://www.jrf.org.uk/report/uk-poverty-2022>
 - Destitution in the UK 2020 – JRF
[Destitution in the UK 2020 | JRF](https://www.jrf.org.uk/report/destitution-in-the-uk-2020)

- 'It's a no-brainer': Local authority funding for immigration legal advice in the UK - Jo Wilding
<https://justice-together.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2023/05/JT-Local-authority-funding-for-immigration-v3.pdf>
- The Gateshead model of Warm Welcoming Spaces
<https://www.gateshead.gov.uk/article/21164/Warm-Spaces>
- Monthly 'Cost of Living Briefings' from CAB provides latest trends and crucial national data for ongoing needs analysis.
- Newham Social Welfare Alliance training framework – [Newham Social Welfare Alliance Programme Sept -Nov 2022](#)
- Newham Social Welfare Alliance for November 2020 (especially executive summary) - [social-welfare-alliance-report-nov-20-july-21 \(newham.gov.uk\)](#)
- Bromley By Bow case study of the Newham Social Welfare Alliance - [Microsoft Word - Newham Case Study.docx \(bbbc.org.uk\)](#)
- Poverty in Northampton, Hope Centre - [9322-Poverty-report-FINAL-PRINT.pdf \(northamptonhopecentre.org.uk\)](#)
- Integrated Care Northamptonshire Strategy – 'Live Your Best Life'
<https://www.icnorthamptonshire.org.uk/download.cfm?doc=docm93jjm4n21837.pdf&ver=53062>
- West Northamptonshire Strategic Plan
<https://www.westnorthants.gov.uk/corporate-plan/our-strategy>