



## Report of Councillor Matt Golby Cabinet Member Adult Social Care and Public Health

Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> July, 2021

As Cabinet member for Adult Social Care and Public Health, I am pleased to offer the following updates:

### **COVID-19**

There have been significant announcements regarding the lifting of restrictions which we are all party to through national news. Getting back to normal is of course what we all want but the underlying message is to remain cautious. Members receive updates on Covid and our local situation through the Member's weekly briefing, which contains links to key announcements and data sets.

A Councillor's COVID-19 update session was held jointly with North Northamptonshire Council members back in June which I chaired. This was an excellent chance to hear first-hand from the Director of Public Health, and other key senior people who have led the local Covid response including the excellent vaccination programme in Northamptonshire. I would recommend members attend the next session if you can which is at 09.00 on 19th July. Diary appointments have been sent and a link to the meeting will follow.

Our first COVID-19 Oversight and Engagement Board since the election was held on July 8th. Again, this is held jointly with North Northants and I will chair the meetings. Cllr Helen Harrison from North Northants who will be vice-chair. Basically, the Department of Health and Social Care back in May 2020 instructed all upper tier authorities and their Public Health teams to establish specific COVID-19 Health Protection Boards that will have a remit to oversee the delivery of COVID-19 Local Outbreak Prevention and Control Plans. The board also aims to drive public-facing engagement and communication to ensure consideration and appropriate engagement on local residents' interests and concerns relating to the pandemic. The board has cross party membership.

I have also hosted the Northamptonshire COVID-19 press conference back in June. This was an opportunity for all press and media to hear presentations from representatives of the key organisations dealing with the Covid response in Northamptonshire. The next press conference is planned for Friday 16th July.

Overall, I remain very impressed with the way in which all organisations and the public of West Northamptonshire have responded throughout the Covid pandemic. Despite the challenges we have all faced there are many positives we need to take advantage of as we recover.

### **Oak Tree Rise**

Oak Tree rise is a complex of eight bungalows that have been specifically designed and built for people with learning disabilities and/or Autism. Located in Billing, Northampton, the homes are central to the local community and have been developed as part of Northamptonshire's Transforming care Programme.

Built by Northampton Partnership Homes, on behalf of the Council, the eight bungalows have access to 24 hour support to enable people with complex needs to live in their own homes with their own tenancies. Completed in May 2021, people have now started to move in and are

settling into their new homes. This is a perfect example of what we can do as an authority to meet the needs of residents and I am encouraging we look at similar schemes.

### **Northamptonshire Safeguarding Adults Board**

West Northants are hosting the Northamptonshire Safeguarding Adults Board. The board has met twice since 1st April 2021 and is refreshing its priorities and approach to ensure that we safeguard some of the most vulnerable people in our communities. The board is chaired by Stuart Lackenby, Deputy Chief Executive. An independent scrutineer has been appointed to support with board activities and providing assurance to the board that safeguarding priorities are be delivered across the county. Key to the success of the board is how all of the partners hold one another to account.

### **Integrated Care Systems**

Over the past 3 months the Northamptonshire Health and Care Partnership have been working to define and establish potential local arrangements for the Northamptonshire ICS in readiness for the 1st April 2022 national legal deadline. A report to Cabinet on the 13th July 2021 set out the work to date in establishing the ICS which will operate at a County wide level from an overall Northamptonshire system perspective but with local strategy and service delivery built around the West Northamptonshire Health and Wellbeing Board. How services come together at a Unitary Council and Neighbourhood level will be the focus of further work over the next 6 months.

### **Integrated Care Across Northamptonshire**

iCAN is one of four system priorities for the ICS and a report to cabinet on the 13th July 2021 set out the recommended approach to mobilise a system partner to enable the programme to be taken forward and for associated efficiencies to be delivered.

This programme is planned to deliver significant efficiencies to the local system alongside an improved experience and outcomes for local people. Personally, I see iCAN as a really exciting opportunity to make a huge difference to how we support residents in our communities, and I look forward to reporting on its progress at future meeting.

### **Anti-Poverty Strategy**

Work has commenced on the development of West Northants Anti-Poverty strategy, with support from the Voluntary sector Assembly and Poverty Truth Network. The strategy will be designed to support people experiencing poverty now, prevent people from falling into poverty and engage Government for the opportunities to increase support to local people. An all member workshop is being planned to start to formalise the approach.

### **Health and Wellbeing Board**

The first West Northants Health and Wellbeing Board met on the 24th June 2021 which I chaired. Whilst considering a number of annual reports, the conversation began around its future role within the Integrated Care System and how health and social care services can be coordinated and integrated at a Council and Neighbourhood level. I am very keen that our Health and Wellbeing Board is as effective as possible and becomes the point of accountability for holding the system, which is undergoing significant change, to the outcomes we all require for the residents of West Northamptonshire.

**Councillor Matt Golby**

**Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care and Public Health**