

**23<sup>rd</sup> September 2021**

It's a busy time across Adult Social Care and Public Health at the moment and people will have seen on the news some of the significant challenges being encountered including safeguarding concerns and staffing shortages in the care market. You will have also seen the government's announcement around future funding of Adult Social Care earlier this month. Once we have worked through the detail on this, I will provide a further update on what it means locally.

Below are four of the key areas I have been working on recently;

### **Integration with health - Integrated Care Systems**

Work continues to establish local arrangements for the Northamptonshire ICS. We are one of 42 ICS areas to be created across England, and now government legislation is in progress to give all of these Integrated Care Systems statutory status, most likely by April 2022. This will formally set out the powers and responsibilities of ICSs to support their populations to live healthy lives and get the care and support they need, when they need it.

Here in Northamptonshire, ICS status will allow us to formalise some of the existing joint working arrangements we have successfully developed through NHCP, involving many partners. It will enable us to simplify the way we work together and improve our ability to make decisions together in the same place. The short video below more information on Integrated care systems



#### **WATCH**

This [short animation](#) from NHS England and NHS Improvement explains more about Integrated Care Systems.

A key element of our preparation is confirming who we would expect to take up senior roles for our local NHS Integrated Care Board (ICB), starting with the chair designate. The ICB will be the new body which will oversee NHS functions across Northamptonshire's ICS, working in close collaboration with a new statutory health and care partnership of wider organisations.

Following a robust process, NHS England and NHS Improvement have recommended, and the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care has agreed, that current NHCP Independent Chair Naomi Eisenstadt should be NHS ICB chair designate, ready to take up the post from April 2022 should Parliament confirm the current ICS plans.

At a system level we have confirmed 4 priority collaboratives that will be the focus of both integration and transformation programmes;

- Integration Across West Northamptonshire
- Mental Health and Learning Disability

- Elective
- Children and Young people

Each of these collaboratives are well established programmes and are actively taking forward integration programmes locally.

Next steps will see increased conversations about what do integrated health and Social Care look like at a place level. This conversation will commence through a health Wellbeing Being Board Workshop on the 30<sup>th</sup> September

### **Integrated Care Across Northamptonshire (iCAN)**

Following cabinet approval to commission Newton Europe the approach has been part mobilised. A people scrutiny session considered the approach on the 20<sup>th</sup> July 2021 considered the approach and supported its implementation with an expectation that a further scrutiny session take place on the 20<sup>th</sup> September. This session will look at;

- How the Council is ensuring that iCAN is consistent with the way it works in Adult Social Care.
- How risk around iCAN is being managed.
- How iCAN is supporting the Council to manage winter pressures.
- The rationale for the Council investing in iCAN and the latest position concerning the resources secured for it.

### **Anti-Poverty Strategy**

Work on the Anti-Poverty Strategy has begun. Voluntary Impact Northamptonshire are hosting the Poverty Truth Commission which will seek to discover the answer to the question, 'what if people who struggled against poverty were involved in making decisions about tackling poverty?'

A website has been set up for the commission Poverty Truth Commission ([poverty-truth.org.uk](http://poverty-truth.org.uk)) which is already encouraging real life stories, from those with lived experienced of poverty.

The first phase of the Poverty Truth Commission is establishing organisations and individuals who are interested in establishing a local commission. A key factor within this discernment process is whether there is sufficient interest and commitment by people with a direct experience of poverty as well as organisations and institutions in the local area for a Poverty Truth Commission.

This group has been established for West Northants and met for the first time on 22 July 2021.

The Group is very diverse and reflective of our BAME communities. There is a commitment from the agencies to gather real life stories during the month of August to feed into the development of a definition of what poverty means for West Northants. It is anticipated that we will have this definition by September 2021.

An introduction to our proposed approach went ahead on the 10<sup>th</sup> September and further workshop is planned for the 30<sup>th</sup> September.

### **Mandatory Vaccinations**

With effect from 11<sup>th</sup> November 2021, CQC Regulated Care Home Managers will not be permitted to allow any workers into the care home without showing evidence of full COVID 19 vaccination status or vaccination exemption status. This included all people who

require to enter a care home in order to undertake their jobs such as care home workers, electricians, hairdressers, social workers etc.

We have been actively working with the West Northamptonshire Care Home providers to understand what their current staff vaccination status is, as well as the level of risk or assurance with service delivery with effect from 11<sup>th</sup> November 2021. Since the 23<sup>rd</sup> July 2021, we have undertaken by weekly workshops with care homes where they can raise issues or concerns as well as to share best practice around implementation of this change. As a result, we have seen staff first dose vaccination levels increase from 80% to 88% across West Northamptonshire. This means that currently there are around 400 care home staff across West Northamptonshire who have not been vaccinated. We are running additional workshops on contingency planning following the first dose deadline, which is 16<sup>th</sup> September 2021.

Internal staff mandatory vaccination – we are working closely with HR and union colleagues to ensure that we are following the guidance on mandatory care home staff vaccination and that we have the relevant processes in place that are clearly communicated to those that are impacted. At this stage the numbers of West Northants employees working in our care homes that will not be fully vaccinated by the 11<sup>th</sup> November is 11. We will continue to support and work with them as they progress through the processes that should be signed off by mid-September following union consultation.

**Councillor Matt Golby**  
**Cabinet member for Adult Social Care and Public Health**