



The world of Adult Social Care and Public Health feels like it gets busier every day. At the same time as dealing with the fall out of the pandemic we are seeing significant reform across the sector and challenges around increasing demand and complexity of need. Our teams are doing everything we can to make sure we maintain and provide the best possible support to local people and below are some headlines around our focus over the last few months.

Integrated Care Partnership - ICP

We continue to develop our thinking around future integrated care partnership arrangements in readiness to be compliant with the Health and Care Bill from the 1st April. Alongside considerable engagement through focus groups, two specific Health and Wellbeing Board sessions have been undertaken to inform our thinking of how we define the geographies that we will then wrap services and support around through multidisciplinary teams and increased integrated working opportunities.

The work will see the role of the Health and Wellbeing Board change to be compliant with new legislation with a continued focus of how we;

- Support Children to get the best start in life
- Enable adults to live health and independent lives
- Reduce reoffending
- Provide the best housing options to people in relation to both short and long term need
- Support the best employment and education for local people possible
- Taking forward our Anti-Poverty strategy.

Basically this is about how we support children, young people and adults to live their best life in West Northants.

Anti-Poverty strategy

Development of our anti- poverty strategy is well underway with support from the community and voluntary sector key partners and cross party political support. The Poverty Truth Commission locally has worked with local people to support the development of statements and definitions that define the impact of poverty locally. These statements will support us to connect our strategy to the lived experience of local people. Our policy oversight group met on the 24th November and will continue to meet on a monthly basis as we drive the policy and its implementation forward. The Policy will be presented to Council early in the new year.

A visit to Salford City Council as also being planned to learn from their Anti-Poverty experience over the past 3 years.

Integrated Care Across Northamptonshire - iCAN

iCAN – Newton Europe are now well into the design phase of the iCAN programme. There is a particular focus on the areas that will support the challenges that are predicted across the country in health and social care this winter. We can already see

the difference the programme is making with early signs of things like hospital duration of stay reducing through effective multi agency working.

Safeguarding

The recent safeguarding campaign across Northamptonshire #report it has led to an increase in safeguarding notifications and has increased general awareness with the public on what to do if they have any concerns relating to the safeguarding of adults. The safeguarding board have recently launched the new ARM (adult risk management) toolkit which helps all organisations to support vulnerable adults that have capacity to make decisions but maybe making unwise choices that put themselves at risk of harm. The 15th November -19th November was National Safeguarding Adults Week. Over 1000 people participated in sessions during the week covering a wide range of topics including the role of the adults safeguarding board, duty to refer under the Homelessness Reduction Act and professional curiosity.

Mandatory Vaccinations

From the 11th November any member of care staff working in a residential care home had to be fully vaccinated with the COVID vaccine to be able to continue in their employment. This has been a particularly challenging piece of work both as an employer and a commissioner supporting the wider care market. Internally this has resulted in 7 members of staff having to leave their employment with WNC. It has been confirmed that from 1st April all frontline NHS and social care staff need to be fully vaccinated. We are waiting for the full guidance to be able to understand the impact for both internal and external staff within West Northamptonshire. Whilst this will support the ongoing reduction in transmission of COVID 19, this will have a significant impact

Recruitment

Locally and nationally we continue to see significant challenges in relation the recruitment and retention of front line care workers both internally and externally. Local care providers have lost on average 9 full time equivalent staff members in the last 6 months with sourcing care becoming more difficult by the day. Whilst we continue to meet our statutory duties to support people we are having to stretch our reliance on informal care, be innovative in care provision and sometimes over provide just to keep people safe. This issue is likely to be our biggest challenge over the coming year and whilst we are working with partners to mitigate risk, in the long term we and the Adult Social Care sector as a whole need a sustainable funding settlement from government to prevent us being unable to source support for some of the most vulnerable people in our society.

Councillor Matt Golby

Cabinet member for Adult Social Care and Public Health