



Disaggregation

Since the last update we have disaggregated two teams that were previously hosted by the North Northants.

The deprivation of liberty safeguards (Dols) team disaggregated on 1st April 2022. We are really pleased to have them back as we start WNC's journey towards the implementation of Liberty Protection Safeguards the new legislative framework that will replace dols.

LIVE was also disaggregated on 1st April 2022 and supports people with learning disability with education, volunteering and employment. They are currently based in Abington Park where they support work-based programmes. LIVE also has a base in Towcester.

Joint Working

The Call Care and Assistive Technology Teams have been working collaboratively with health colleagues as part of the iCAN programme to set up a telehealth service that supports monitoring of people's health conditions remotely and using telehealth technology. We now have a team of clinical nursing staff from Northamptonshire Healthcare Foundation Trust based in the Call Care Team monitoring key clinical data for people currently in residential care homes which will extend over the next few months to people living in the community.

Winter planning

Winter planning is well underway for 22/23 this includes some elements of transformation change relating to the services that support people after they have been discharged from hospital and is being done in collaboration with NHFT and other system partners.

Tom Review

Following the adult social care transformation programme (Northants TOM) that was implemented in October 2020 we are carrying out a review following the first year of West Northamptonshire Council and to ensure that adult social care is aligned with the Local Area Partnerships that are being developed as part of the Integrated Care Partnership. This is being done in conjunction with staff as well as reviewing activity, data and customer feedback.

Social Care Reform – Fair Cost of Care

Progress is being made regarding the Fair Cost of Care exercise that is a requirement of social care reform. The residential care work is nearly completed and engagement has started with the care cost for homecare which needs to be completed by 14th October 2020.

90% of providers have had a full quality monitoring visit within the last 12 months. This means that we have awareness of quality concerns across the market and are using our quality improvement resources to work with those providers that need support to improve the quality within their service.

The financial assessment team's performance has significantly improved following their redeployment to the major incident earlier this year.

Integrated Care Partnership

The Health and Care Bill 2022 sets out plans for the future of health and care, including the statutory creation of Integrated Care Systems. The Bill also sets out Government plans to improve collaborative working, empower local leaders, address health inequalities, and focus on population health management.

The Bill has now received Royal Assent and the new arrangements will come into place on 1st July 2022. For West Northamptonshire, the Integrated Care System will exist at county (Northamptonshire) level.

Reforms will mean changes to governance and decision making through the Integrated Care Board and Integrated Care Partnership both at county and place (West Northants) level; to locality leadership and day-to-day officer roles and to mechanisms to support enhanced provider collaboration.

Reports to Cabinet and Council have set out the decisions that will need to be taken by the Council to ensure arrangements are fully reflected in the Council's Constitution.

On the 31st May the Northamptonshire Integrated Care partnership met in shadow form and agreed its future approach to;

- Local Area Partnership
- ICS Outcomes framework
- ICS Strategy

The reforms could be considered as just another moving of the deck chairs, NHS restructure however in West Northants we feel the reforms enable us to not only integrate our health and social care services locally but to better coordinate how we support local people to live their best lives.

For West Northants we will see the creation of 9 local area partnerships that will give us increased opportunities join up the way work and prioritise interventions that will make the biggest difference for local people.

Our Health and wellbeing Board has been adapted to provide oversight of progress and I believe our local approach has a real opportunity to improve outcomes for local people.

Public Health

Following a successful national recruitment Sally Burnes has been appointed as West Northants permanent Director of Public Health .

Sally will support us to disaggregate the existing public health team to create by October a West Northants dedicated structure.

My Next report will specifically highlight the work programme we are developing for Public health

House hold support fund

The Household Support Fund (2), announced by the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) on the 31st March 2022, is the second version of the Fund, the first (HSF1) operated between 1st December 2021 and 31st March 2022 across West Northamptonshire.

The latest fund can be delivered to households between 1 April 2022 and 30 September 2022. Previously, there was a stipulation that a minimum of 50% of the fund must be used to support families with children. However, in HSF (2) we have been advised to split the fund; one third to families with children, one third pensioners and the final third to households demonstrating severe financial hardship.

West Northamptonshire Council has been allocated a sum of £2,599, 628.53. Payment for the grant will be made in arrears, following the submission of spending returns to the DWP by 22 July 2022 (for the period to 30 June 2022) and 21 October 2022 (for the full length of the scheme).

At least one third of the total funding will be ring-fenced to support households with children, at least one third of the total funding will be ring fenced to support pensioners with up to one third of the total funding to other households genuinely in need of support. This may include households not currently in receipt of DWP welfare benefits;

The support provided through the scheme ranges from holiday school meal vouchers for the summer holidays; pensioners who are already receiving a Pension Credit and those who are severely disabled; to a food and fuel concept operated through the voluntary sector that identifies the individuals and families in severe financial hardship. Management and oversight will be provided by the Public Health Recovery and Wellbeing Programme Team.

Anti-Poverty Strategy

Following cabinet approval our antipoverty strategy has moved into implementation stage

'Our vision is 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'

Living in poverty has negative impacts in other aspects of people's lives and is not just about money, it impacts educational attainment, access to good paying work, increases the risk of developing poor health conditions and reduces life expectancy.

It also means that many people are not able to take part in the normal life of a place as experienced by other residents. The pandemic has particularly exacerbated the impacts of poverty on our most vulnerable residents and communities.

To achieve our vision, we must work together to maximise our resources and focus on activities that are likely to have a lasting impact on reducing poverty across West Northants to improve the lives of our local communities.

West Northamptonshire's Anti-Poverty Strategy provides a strategic framework for how we intend to tackle poverty. The Strategy for 2022-2025 has three key priorities: Supporting people who are struggling in poverty now; Preventing people from falling into poverty in the first place and Influencing the Government and other national organisations to get a better deal for the communities in West Northants.

Our priorities are supported by 8 strategic objectives and 33 commitments, high level ambition statements that collectively support the shared vision and are aligned to the 3 priorities. Our vision, priorities and shared commitment statements maps our strategic direction.

Through continued engagement and consultation, a detailed action plan and performance framework is now being developed which will underpin the strategy, setting out how we intend to deliver our outcomes.

The strategy has been coproduced through the Anti-Poverty Oversight Group, a West Northants partnership of cross party elected members, service providers, public health, housing, and voluntary and community representatives, including the VCSE Assembly and the Poverty Truth Commission.

Councillor Matt Golby
Portfolio Holder for Adult Social Care and Public Health