

Appendix A – ‘Must Do’ actions

The West Northamptonshire Anti- Poverty Strategy (APS) was published in April 2022. Since then, the Public Health Team and the Housing and Communities Team have been working with the APS Oversight Board and other partners to turn the Strategy into a series of measurable actions.

Due to the wide range of strategic objectives and commitments the APS Oversight Board met on 16 June to discuss and agree a set of ‘must do’ set of actions. This paper is what was discussed and broadly agreed upon.

Members will be highly aware that the cost of living crisis has continued to worsen since the publication of the APS and the 16 June meeting. The APS project team has therefore identified the ‘must do’ actions that should ideally commence immediately and these are outlined in section 5. They are also highlighted in yellow below.

The ‘must do’ actions fall into 3 key areas:

1. Large scale/ longer term transformational change projects - major things being delivered by other WNC teams that are critical to the Strategy
2. Immediate quick wins - things we can get on with the minimum of formal approval from Boards etc.
3. Year 1 must do actions - the things we must do in year one across the 3 priorities

Must do priority	Actions area
Large scale/ longer term transformational change projects	Housing and Homelessness: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Develop a new West Northants Housing Strategy
	Economic development <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The Skills and Social Enterprise Development Fund project• West Northants Economic Growth Strategy• Free Employment Support Service (may move to quick wins)
Immediate quick wins	Priority 1: Establish a West Northants Social Welfare Alliance <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Create a Social Welfare Alliance of all partners to provide an ongoing training development pathway for all frontline workers and volunteers (FLWVs) in the borough who are regularly having conversations with residents who are presenting with a range of social welfare issues

	<p>Priority 1: Household Support Fund (HSF)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Household Support Fund (HSF) – ensure all partners know how to refer those in severe hardship into the agency that distributes this funding HSF - review the current method of allocating funding to ensure it is reaching those in severe hardship <p>(In anticipation of regular HSF announcements for the foreseeable future we become agile and always prepared - as the distribution of this type of hardship fund may be the norm for some time to come)</p> <p>Priority 1: Safe Surgeries</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Work in partnership with GPs to create a West Northants approach to safe Surgeries – with a focus on Northampton Town – to ensure all vulnerable residents have access to primary care
<p>Priority 1: To support those that are struggling/living in poverty now - Year 1 must do actions</p>	<p>Poverty hotspots</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identify and prioritise the poverty hotspots and incidences in West Northants Council (WNC) - our geography - and ensure there are sufficient services to match demand in these areas - taking in to account urban and rural settings Make ongoing assessments of the funding required to achieve the delivery of the Strategy and ensure we are aware of funding opportunities and leveraging in external funding – consider requesting the C&O Directorate to appoint an officer post that will scan for funding opportunities and can work on developing bids for us to secure funding opportunities Find solutions to accessing good public/community transport to provide good connectivity to services and support that residents will require
	<p>Fuel poverty</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Establish as a matter of urgency a cross sector fuel poverty working group identifying all possible interventions ahead of the 22/23 winter period
	<p>Hardship funds</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identify all sources of hardship funding and other support funds/ provisions to enable partners to target those in severe hardship

	Innovation fund <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Create a Community Health and Wellbeing Innovation Fund that the community and voluntary sector can access, aligned to the outcomes of the strategy
	Immediate food poverty/ long term food aid <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Work in partnership with The Food Aid Alliance for WN (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
	Communications <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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 Form a task and finish group to drive a communication and engagement with partners and residents
	Money and debt <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review and expand the financial wellbeing service offer within West Northants to form a Challenging Debt Consortium (working title) with VCS organisations including Citizens Advice, Community Law Service and other leading partners
	Immigration support and advice <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Create a sustainable approach to address the shortfall in immigration support/advice to ensure all eligible residents achieve settled status Establish a task and finish group to move this work forwards urgently Communicate the support services in this action plan that are applicable for those with NRPF
Priority 2: Preventing People from falling into poverty in the first place - Year 1 must do actions	Social mobility, employment and skills <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The consortium will work creatively to approach the issue of highly skilled migrants with NRPF or language skills that may need developing and/or qualifications that need to be interpreted positively in the UK - to enter the job market in a way that matches their potential and skills
	Staying relevant and on point/agile <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Keep reflecting and maintain a 'real time' list of evolving key actions that we must continue to implement in priorities 1 and 2
	Local provision of services <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Use the framework of the neighbourhood areas/ the creation of the Integrated Care System in Local Area Partnerships to develop the local/ hyper local provision of services to support residents to address key social welfare issues
	Healthy lives and physical activity <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Work with partners across the system to ensure the delivery of wellbeing and targeted physical activity programmes to reach vulnerable residents in local communities at a neighbourhood level
	Healthy eating and access to sustainable food <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Explore the potential of the local food industry to be part of progressive solutions to address food poverty
	Housing <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Draft a new housing strategy ready for adoption in Autumn 2022 Work with partners and stakeholders to develop an action plan to deliver on the priorities within the housing strategy Undertake an independent assessment of the needs of people sleeping rough, at risk of rough sleeping for the first time and those who are at risk of returning to rough sleeping Review accommodation and support provision, identify gaps to inform revised and / or service provision

	Mental health support and referral pathways <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Create a Mental Health task and finish group and/or work with the Mental Health Collaboration/ colleagues in the Public Health Team to implement services and support to be delivered in local community settings • Develop a modular training programme – as part of the Social Welfare Alliance - for all front line workers who are regularly having conversations with residents who are presenting with a risk of poor mental health. Training will provide a context and how to recognise the presenting issues, and provide a referral pathway for expert support. This will include suicide prevention action
Priority 3: Influencing the Government and other national organisations to get a better deal for the communities in West Northants – Year 1 must do actions	Additional funding <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identify funding opportunities that will add value to the delivery of the actions in the Anti – Poverty Strategy