

CABINET MEMBERS REPORT TO COUNCIL

April 2021

COUNCILLOR V GAY - CABINET MEMBER FOR WELLBEING & CULTURE

For the period February 2021 – April 2021

1 Progress on Portfolio Matters.

Health & Wellbeing:

Business as usual activity

Grants

Arts & Culture Fund – Three grant applications were received in the last quarter. Two applications were awarded funding totalling £5,718.17. One application was refused as it did not sufficiently meet the aim and outcome of the Fund. The closing date for the next grant round is 25th June. Monitoring of existing projects has identified that due to Covid 19, some projects have been cancelled, and others postponed or delivered virtually. It is anticipated that applications to the Fund will increase as lockdown restrictions lift.

Community Transport Fund – one grant application was received in the last quarter and was awarded funding of £2,000. The closing date for the next grant round is 25th June. Monitoring of existing project has identified that the majority of Community Transport schemes have currently suspended or reduced service due to Covid 19 and still have funding available from previous grant awards.

North Norfolk Sustainable Communities Fund (NNSCF) - The Panel met on 15th March 2021 to consider nine applications. The Panel recommended that six projects totalling £48, 653 were approved, one was deferred and two refused. One application was received to the Under £1,000 NNSCF. This was approved and an award of £995 was made.

Existing projects and new applications are being asked to complete an additional document identifying the impact of Covid 19 on the organisation, community and project.

The closing date for the next round is Monday 10th May, eligible applications will be presented to the Panel on 7th June.

Social Prescribing

The Council had a contract to deliver Social Prescribing services in North Norfolk on behalf of Norfolk County Council (NCC) and two Primary Care Networks (PCNs) in North Norfolk. The NCC contract end on 31st March 2021, the PCN contract which employs two Social Prescribers runs until

January 2022.

NNDC recognised the value and benefit of Social Prescribing and has allocated funding to contribute towards the continuation of the previously funded NCC service. This has enabled two of the three NCC posts to be funded by NNDC on a permanent basis. Funding has also been secured to enable the temporary extension of the third post until 31st March 2022. As a result of the investment by NNDC there will be some changes to the service to ensure it meets objectives in the Corporate Plan and community needs. This will include the ability for self referrals to be made by residents. It is anticipated a duty line will be established to triage enquiries. Information about Social Prescribing will be included on the NNDC website along with an electronic referral form and phone contact details.

A recent presentation to Members highlighted the support offered by Social Prescribing and the benefit to both residents, NNDC and other organisations.

It is anticipated that opening the Social Prescribing service or self referrals will enable support to be offered before a situation escalates therefore reducing complex and lengthy input from statutory services including NNDC and avoiding potential legal costs e.g. debt recovery.

The Social Prescribing Service continues to respond to direct requests for support from residents impacted by Covid 19.

Information, Advice & Guidance

The Council has historically awarded a grant to Norfolk Citizens Advice (Norfolk CA) towards the provision of an Information, Advice & Advocacy (IAA) service in North Norfolk. Following a review of the service and with agreement from Norfolk CA Cabinet recently approved the following recommendation:

To award a conditional grant of £55,000 to Norfolk CA towards for the provision of generic IAA services in North Norfolk. 2. In consultation with the portfolio Holder for Culture & Wellbeing to award the remainder of the IAA budget (£11,710) to identified VCSE organisations to enhance IAA services to young people in North Norfolk and / or a VCSE organisation that provides specialist IAA support to residents in North Norfolk who may not be able to access or be supported by generic services IAA services.

Covid 19 related activity

The Council continues to work with Norfolk County Council to provide a local Contact Tracing service in North Norfolk. This is for people who have tested positive for Covid 19 but where national or NCC contact tracers have been unable to reach them by phone. A team of Covid Support Workers are available to visit people to request that they register details of people they have been in contact with. Support is also offered to people who have tested positive for Covid 19 to enable them to self-isolate.

NNDC have also recently started to deliver an Enhanced Contact Tracing service. This service is for the contacts of people who have tested positive for Covid 19 and as a result should be self isolating. Daily data reports are received from Public Health. Covid Support officers initially try to contact people by phone to check if they need food, medication or other support to enable them to self-isolate. Face to face visits are carried out if a person cannot be contacted. Requests for emergency food or medication support are fulfilled by NNDC. Referrals for financial or long term support are referred to Social Prescribing or other services including the Norfolk Assistance Scheme as appropriate.

Shielding has now officially ended but NNDC continues to work with NCC and Third Sector organisations to support Clinically Extremely Vulnerable residents and those experiencing financial hardship or requiring other support due to the impact of Covid 19.

Culture:

Members will perhaps know that Sheringham Little Theatre and Openwide (both of which are supported by North Norfolk District Council) have been successful in their bids to the Culture Recovery Fund.

In addition, the Council has awarded a grant to North Norfolk Open Studios to help to enable a trail of artists' studios this May. Together with Norfolk Museums Service, we are also working to create an art installation for Norfolk's Experience Initiative.

Our community arts grants have been described elsewhere in this report.

2 Forthcoming Activities and Developments.

Health & Wellbeing:

Developing Skills in Health and Social Care

Following a Motion at Full Council in December 2020, it was proposed by Cllr D Baker, seconded by Cllr C Cushing and RESOLVED unanimously that

1. NNDC states publicly its support for and commitment to the 'Developing skills in health and social care' project. This to include seeking financial help from Norfolk County Council and or Central Government, to enable North Norfolk District Council to be actively involved on an ongoing basis in supporting those who work in Health and Social Care.

2. A Cabinet member is identified as the member who will take responsibility for supporting this valuable project and championing the project at a senior strategic level. This Cabinet member will report to Full Council regularly on progress.

3. A member of staff is named as lead officer on supporting this project and who will work closely with members of the DSHSC project team, and project partners, to:

(a) promote this excellent initiative and promote links to wider initiatives across North Norfolk,

(b) collate information on the implementation of the project in North Norfolk,
(c) help to address any barriers to individuals joining the scheme, including lobbying for this project to include our unpaid carers.

Link to report previously submitted to Portfolio Holder. Cllr Gay to be identified Cabinet Member and Sonia Shuter named officer.

(meeting re employer tick friendly scheme to be re arranged)

[H:\Developing Skills in Health and Social Care.docx](#)

Culture:

April 29th - Experience Art Trail Workshop

May - There will be an announcement about the bid to Heritage England's cultural programme (this is an element of North Walsham's Heritage Action Zone project) early in May.

3 Meetings attended

I have received regular updates on cultural projects.

- Norfolk Health and Well Being Board meeting on March 10th
- Three member briefings on Housing
- A meeting with the Chairman of the Norfolk and Waveney Health Partnership on March 22nd
- A member briefing on Social Prescribing on March 24th