

CABINET MEMBERS REPORT TO COUNCIL

September / October 2021

**COUNCILLOR VIRGINIA GAY - PORTFOLIO HOLDER FOR LEISURE,
WELLBEING & CULTURE**

1 Progress on Portfolio Matters.

Business as usual activity

Grants

Arts & Culture Fund – Financial year 2021 / 2022. As of 31st October, six grant applications have been awarded funding totalling £9,315.14. Two new applications to the Fund totalling £5,000 are currently being processed.

Community Transport Fund –Financial year 2021 / 2022. As of 31st October two grant applications have been awarded funding totalling 2,750.Two new applications to the Fund totalling £40,000 are currently being processed.

North Norfolk Sustainable Communities Fund (NNSCF) – Financial year 2021 / 2022. As of 31st August sixteen applications had been received requesting grants of between £1,000 and £15,000. The Panel recommended that thirteen projects totalling £86,106.75 were approved, one application was ineligible, one deferred and one refused. Eight applications have been received to the Under £1,000 NNSCF. Seven were approved and awards of £5,909.97 made. Grant funding of £92,016.72 awarded to date to twenty organisations. New applications to the NNSCF closing date 1.11.2021 are currently being processed.

Social Prescribing

Between 1st January and 31st October 2021, 677 Social Prescribing referrals have been received. This compares to 507 for the same period last year. People are now able to self-refer to Social Prescribing rather than having to be referred by an organisation. A phone duty line went live in July to triage requests for support from residents and professionals. General advice and support requests will be dealt with over the phone. A Social Prescribing referral will be made where more complex support is needed. There is also a dedicated North Norfolk Help Hub page on NNDC website which gives information about the Social Prescribing service and has links to other related support such as benefits, housing and Domestic Abuse

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

The contract with the North Norfolk Primary Care Network for the Social Prescribing Link Worker service that covers nine surgeries in North Norfolk ends in January 2022. Discussions regarding an extension of the contract are progressing.

A vacant Social Prescribing post has been filled on a temporary basis from October 2021 – October 2022 using an underspend from the Norfolk County Council Social Prescribing service budget.

Information, Advice & Guidance

Total core budget for IAA is £66,710. A grant of £55,000 has been awarded to Norfolk CA towards for the provision of generic IAA services in North Norfolk for the period 1.4.2021 –

31.03.2022. Fakenham has recently opened at face to face service at Fakenham Community Centre initially for one day a week. The Holt service is open one day a week for two hours and the North Walsham service five hours, five days a week. For the three month period between July & September 369 clients were supported, of those 129 were seen in person. A meeting with the new Chief Executive of Norfolk CA, Mark Hitchcock will be held on 9th November to discuss the service.

In consultation with the portfolio Holder for Culture & Wellbeing the remainder of the allocated budget £11,710 will be awarded 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. A meeting has recently been held with MIND. who have been invited to submit a proposal to offer face to face IAA support to young people in North Norfolk. Currently there is no face to face MIND service for young people in North Norfolk.

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 also deliver an Enhanced Contact Tracing service. This service is for the contacts of people who have tested positive for Covid 19 if they meet the criteria 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.

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.

Officers attend regular meetings to ensure NNDC is informed, prepared and equipped to deal with all issues relating to Covid including implementation changes to Government guidance, community outbreaks, surge testing, people requiring support whilst on holiday etc.

Domestic Abuse Forum

Cllr Fredericks is leading on a multi-agency Domestic Abuse Forum for North Norfolk. Pandora who provide face to face support to people experiencing domestic abuse from Cromer to the western boundary of district have recently started to use public meeting rooms at NNDC to see clients.

North Norfolk Armed Forces Covenant Pledge

The National Armed Forces Covenant represents a promise by the nation that those who serve or have served, and their families, are treated fairly.

North Norfolk District Council (NNDC) signed the Norfolk Armed Forces Covenant at an official ceremony on 7 March 2012.

To further demonstrate North Norfolk District Council's commitment to the Armed Forces Covenant and to ensure compliance with forthcoming legislation, a report to Cabinet proposing that NNDC publishes and signs its own Armed Forces Covenant Pledge was agreed on 4th October.

2 Forthcoming Activities and Developments.

Mental Health Hub Health funding has been secured to establish a hub in North Norfolk to support people with mental health needs. Cllr Shires Chairs the multi-agency group established to take this work forward. It is anticipated that the Hub will be operational in 2022. The contract is currently out to tender.

Household Support Fund The purpose of the grant is to provide support to vulnerable households in most need of support, who would otherwise struggle to buy food or pay essential utility bills or meet other essential living costs or housing costs this winter as the economy recovers. Norfolk will receive approximately £6.7m to be spent between 6th October 2021 and 31st March 2022.

At least 50% of the grant must be allocated to support households that include:

- a person who will be under the age of 19 as at 31st March 2022, or
- a person aged 19 or over in respect of whom a child-related benefit is paid or free school meals are provided during the Grant Period, and
- up to 50% of the grant is used to assist other households

The funding is being distributed to both statutory and voluntary organisations, NNDC will receive funding of £128,000. Proposed use of NNDC funding is proactive support to known vulnerable clients on an income or disability related benefit who live in a property with a low EPC rating or in fuel poverty. Majority of the NNDC funding will support people without children as significant funding allocated already to families by NCC.

3 Meetings attended

In addition to regularly scheduled meetings with officers, I have attended the following meetings:

AGM of the Clinical Commissioning Group -28/09/21;
NCC Health and Well Being Board - 29/09/21;
Health Inequalities with CCG - 5/10/21;
NCC Health and Well Being Strategy Interview - 8/10/21;
Health in Coastal Communities webinar - 12/10/21;
NCC Health and Well Being District Council Sub Committee meeting - 27/10/21;
Norfolk Citizens' Advice - 9/10/21; Health and Well Being Board Development Session.

1.11.2021