

CABINET MEMBERS REPORT TO COUNCIL

February 9th 2022

COUNCILLOR VIRGINIA GAY - PORTFOLIO HOLDER FOR LEISURE

1 Progress on Portfolio Matters.

Business as usual activity

Grants

Arts & Culture Fund – Financial year 2021 / 2022. As of 30th November, eight grant applications have been awarded funding totalling £14,313.64.

Community Transport Fund –Financial year 2021 / 2022. As of 30th November four grant applications have been awarded funding totalling 42,750.

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. Nine new applications and one deferred application totalling £101,040.42 will be considered by the Panel on 6th December.

Social Prescribing

Between 1st January and 30th November 2021, 799 Social Prescribing referrals have been received. This compares to 571 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. An extension of the contract for one year until January 2023 has recently been agreed.

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.

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. Meetings with MIND and MAP (Mancroft Advice project) are taking place to progress this.

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.

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.

The North Norfolk District Council Pledge is currently being written. This will be adopted by NNDC early 2022 and will enable applications to the Employer Recognition Scheme to be made.

Health and Social Care Training

The developing skills in health and social care (DSHSC) project, will provide fully funded qualifications to staff working in the health and social care sector across Norfolk and Suffolk. The aim of the project is to empower people working in the sector to develop new skills. This will enable them to continue providing high-quality care to local people. The project has secured up to £7.58 million. Up to £3.79 million is coming from the European Social Fund (ESF).

An update to Full Council was given in both February and April of 2021. In June 2021 figures for the take up of the project by people living or working in North Norfolk were reported. Norfolk County Council have been requested to provide further data to the period 30th November 2021. A response is outstanding.

Media /Communications have been asked to add the NCC link to the Health and Social Care Training to the NNDC web site.

Carer Friendly Tick Award for Employers

An initial discussion has been held with a representative from this organisation. This will be progressed early 2022 with the aim of NNDC achieving the Carer Friendly Tick Award for Employers. This further demonstrates NNDC's commitment and support to employees that are carers.

Care Sector career support work

The Economic Growth Section of the Council is beginning work on a programme of training for the Care Sector. This will be pursued under the DWP's Sector-Based Work Academy Programme. The District's programme will in addition provide mentoring and guidance for these new carers.

Household Support Fund

The Government announced its Household Support Fund (HSF) on 30 September 2021, allocating £6.69 million to Norfolk County Council to be spent by the end of March 2022 to alleviate winter hardship while the economy recovers.

As part of the support package, Norfolk County Council has devolved part of the funding to a range of organisations including district councils across Norfolk to allow for local support in the community. North Norfolk District Council has been allocated £128k from the fund and this is based on the number of Universal Credit claimants in our area.

North Norfolk District Council approach

Due to significant levels of funding already being allocated to Free School Meal (FSM) families and being distributed by VCSE and NCC, the proactive focus of NNDC funding will be on residents with no dependent children who meet the following criteria:

- Vulnerable residents on income related benefits including Pension Credit
- Vulnerable residents on disability and sickness related benefits
- Vulnerable residents living in a property with an Energy Performance Certificate of E and below or known to be in fuel poverty (over 5,000 households in North Norfolk).

Funding will offer both proactive and reactive support to known vulnerable clients on low income particularly those with no children and who are unlikely to proactively request help. The focus of the funding would be on provision of items, services, goods or bill payments to help people keep warm and well or to free up income to spend on food and fuel. Vulnerable residents would include those with long term health conditions, older people or other vulnerabilities that make it more difficult for them to keep and stay warm.

Services including Benefits, Housing, Social Prescribing & IHAT can proactively identify clients that meet the above criteria who will then be contacted to discuss any support needs. If appropriate they will be encouraged to apply for a HSF grant via the NNDC web or they will be supported to make an application by an NNDC officer. Benefits have identified approximately 190 people that meet all of the criteria, proactive phone calls are currently being made. Other services are also identifying and contacting clients. Systems will be shared to avoid duplication. There is also a reactive offer. In the last week 17 applications have been made for support via the NNDC web page. Applications can be made by the applicant or someone on their behalf. Direct referrals from trusted partners can also be made through the online application system.

[Home | Household Support Fund \(north-norfolk.gov.uk\)](http://north-norfolk.gov.uk)

NB. The first report to NCC is due on 13th December. I will let you know how much funding we have awarded then.

Forthcoming Activities & Development

Norfolk County Council is revising its Health and Wellbeing Strategy. It is likely that this will come to the Districts for adoption in due course. Health structures too are about to change to be replaced by an Integrated Care Board. At some point a member briefing on the new structures would perhaps be useful.

Meetings attended

I have attended regularly scheduled Council meetings and portfolio briefings. In addition I have attended meetings for this area in connection with the Zero Based Budgeting Exercise.