

Appendices

None



CABINET REPORT

Report Title	Cabinet Response to the Recommendations from the Overview and Scrutiny Review of Adult Social Care Facilities
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AGENDA STATUS: PUBLIC

Cabinet Meeting Date:	20 January 2021
Key Decision:	No
Within Policy:	Yes
Policy Document:	No
Directorate:	Housing and Wellbeing
Accountable Cabinet Member:	Councillor Stephen Hibbert
Ward(s)	All

1. Purpose

- 1.1 On 24 July 2019, Cabinet received a report on an Overview & Scrutiny Panel Review of Adult Social Care Facilities.
- 1.2 The purpose of this report is to ask Cabinet to approve the response to the Overview & Scrutiny Panel's findings and recommendations.

2. Recommendations

- 2.1 It is **recommended** that Cabinet:
 - (a) Notes the recommendations in the Overview & Scrutiny Panel's report on Adult Social Care Facilities and confirms that a copy of the report has been shared with Northamptonshire County Council, Daventry District Council and South Northants Council; and
 - (b) Congratulates the task and finish group on a high quality and comprehensive report and thanks the group for the time and effort given to produce it.

3. Issues and Choices

3.1 Report Background

3.1.1 At its work programming event in April 2018, the Overview & Scrutiny Committee agreed to investigate Adult Social Care Facilities and identify future demand patterns, in order that any new Unitary Council is able to better plan for the needs of older people. The review commenced in August 2018 and concluded in May 2019.

3.1.2 The key lines of enquiry were:

- To gain an understanding of the demand patterns for Adult Social Care in the area that is proposed for the new Unitary Council
- To assess the extent of the need for Adult Social Care in the area and assess the initiatives currently in place to provide Adult Social Care
- To gain an understanding of the causes and barriers to receiving Adult Social Care
- To gain an understanding of the current facilities for Adult Social Care and whether there are any gaps of provision.
- To gain an understanding of partnership working for Adult Social Care and how this can be improved
- To gain an understanding of the structure of the Adult Integrated Care Programme
- To gain an understanding of the Governance Arrangements for the Social Care Integrated Programme
- Identify any specific groups that are not accessing Adult Social Care Facilities
- To gain an understanding of care in the community and how it is assessed and monitored
- To gain an understanding of the extent of adult care responsibilities that will fall upon the proposed new Unitary Authority and the degree of necessary preparation.
- To gain an appreciation of the statutory responsibilities in respect of the duty of care obligations and their financial consequences.

3.1.3 A significant amount of background data and information was received by the Scrutiny Panel and a series of interviews held with key expert advisors. A number of organisations and groups provided written information. Desktop research was undertaken by the Scrutiny Officer and informed the review. Representatives of the Scrutiny Panel, together with the Scrutiny Officer, undertook a site visit to the London Borough of Islington, Northampton General Hospital and St Andrews Hospital.

3.2 Overview & Scrutiny Panel Recommendations

3.2.1 At the beginning of its review, the Overview & Scrutiny Panel agreed that there should be four outcomes from the review:

- To identify future demand patterns, in order that any new Unitary Council is able to better plan for the needs of older people;
- To make recommendations, as appropriate, regarding future Social Adult Care Facilities;
- To make recommendations, as appropriate, to the MPs; and
- To submit the final report of the Scrutiny Panel to the Shadow Board for the new Unitary Council.

3.2.2 The Overview & Scrutiny Panel's Report includes six recommendations that the Scrutiny Panel would like West Northamptonshire Council to take into account when planning, commissioning and providing Adult Social Care in the future.

3.2.3 The Scrutiny Panel's six recommendations are as follows:

- (1) Whilst acknowledging data protection constraints, an integrated system, hosted by Adult Social Care, that can be used by all relevant Agencies, is explored by the proposed West Northamptonshire Unitary Authority;
- (2) In researching a potential integrated system, the systems and processes adopted by Adult Social Care at the London Borough of Islington are referred to. In addition to this, all departments are given training to encourage a positive attitude towards information sharing and sign posting individuals to relevant services and support;
- (3) That a survey is conducted, through various Community Groups, to ascertain why some of the BAME community is not accessing services;
- (4) That a housing officer is linked to Northampton General Hospital, a similar arrangement to the Kettering Pilot;
- (5) That support is given for social prescribing in relation to day care and a campaign aimed at GPs and other providers looking at the prescribing of day-care and community activities. A leaflet is also distributed to GP practices and various community groups promoting this support; and
- (6) That a copy of this report is shared with all Councillors of the other sovereign Councils in the proposed West Northamptonshire Unitary Council – Northamptonshire County Council, Daventry District Council and South Northants Council.

3.3 Response to Overview & Scrutiny Recommendations

- 3.3.1 With the exception of Recommendation 4 – which relates to the hospital discharge arrangements at Northampton General Hospital – all of the Overview & Scrutiny Panel’s recommendations relate to functions of Northamptonshire County Council.
- 3.3.2 Cabinet has noted the recommendations and, as requested, a copy of the Overview & Scrutiny Panel’s report has been shared with Northamptonshire County Council, Daventry District Council and South Northants Council.
- 3.3.3 With regard to Recommendation 4, Northampton Borough Council’s hospital discharge arrangements precede the Kettering Hospital pilot scheme by approximately two years, as its Housing and Wellbeing Service has had a dedicated Housing Officer working with Northampton General Hospital and Berrywood Hospital (in order to facilitate safe, planned hospital discharge) since May 2015.
- 3.3.4 During the past 15 months, the Council’s Housing Transitions Officer (Hospital Discharge) has been supported by an additional full-time officer funded by NHFT.

4. Implications (including financial implications)

4.1 Policy

- 4.1.1 The action that the Council is proposing to take is in line with Council policy and reflects the priorities in the Corporate Plan 2019 - 2021.

4.2 Resources and Risk

- 4.2.1 There are no financial implications arising directly from this report.

4.3 Legal

- 4.3.1 It is noted that Recommendation 1, referred to in Paragraph 3.2.3 (1) has been deferred so that it may be considered by the West Northamptonshire Council.
- 4.3.2 Legal issues will need to be considered with respect to this deferred recommendation as and when the recommendation is considered by Cabinet in due course.

4.4 Equality and Health

- 4.4.1 Implementation of the recommendations will have a positive impact on people with protected characteristics.
- 4.4.2 A Community Impact Assessment was completed as part of the Overview and Scrutiny process, and this has been updated to take into account the Overview and Scrutiny Panel’s recommendations.

4.5 Consultees (Internal and External)

- 4.5.1 The Panel took sought evidence from a wide range of stakeholders:

Internal expert advisors

- Cabinet Member for Housing and Wellbeing, NBC
- Head of Housing and Wellbeing, NBC

External expert advisors

- Director, Adult Social Care, Northamptonshire County Council
- Deputy Director, Adult Social Care, Northamptonshire County Council
- Detective Chief Inspector, Head of Safeguarding, Northamptonshire Police
- Director of Public Health, Northamptonshire County Council
- Chair and Vice Chair of Healthwatch Northamptonshire
- Chief Executive, Northamptonshire Healthcare Foundation Trust (NHFT)
- Chief Executive, Age UK Northamptonshire
- Deputy Chief Executive, Northamptonshire Carers

4.6 How the Proposals deliver Priority Outcomes

4.6.1 Implementation of the Overview & Scrutiny Panel's recommendations will help meet the following priority in the Corporate Plan:

- **Resilient communities:** It will improve the health and wellbeing of local people and support people to achieve their full potential.

Appendices

None

Background Papers

Overview & Scrutiny Panel Report on Adult Social Care Facilities May 2019

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Director of Housing and Wellbeing