

**NORTH LINCOLNSHIRE COUNCIL**

**CABINET**

**COVID-19 Response: Adults and Community Wellbeing**

**1. OBJECT AND KEY POINTS IN THIS REPORT**

- 1.1 To outline the response to the COVID-19 outbreak across Adult and Community Wellbeing.
- 1.2 The response to date is set in the context of the business continuity governance arrangements described in the COVID-19 response report on this agenda.

**2. BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

2.1 The Council's approach to its business continuity response to the COVID 19 outbreak and actions taken to implement government guidelines have been rooted in the values, principles and ambitions of the council plan, and furthered through the strong partnerships within North Lincolnshire, framed under the following priorities:

- Keeping staff safe and well
- Protecting vulnerable people
- Protecting the local economy
- Enabling communities to flourish

2.2 Adults and Community Wellbeing continue to review support arrangements, develop new services and maintain business continuity to ensure the most vulnerable are prioritised and supported to be safe and well during this period. This has meant teams working differently, not only internally but with partners too. Key headlines in the Adults social care response to Covid-19 include:

**People leave hospital in a timely manner**

- New guidance published on hospital discharge processes moved the discharge assessment process from within the hospital setting to out of hospital, the CCG were given responsibility for all ongoing need

of everyone discharged until further notice. The council chose to remain involved at this point to ensure all ongoing services are needs led and proportionate. Also to ensure people are informed that they may at some point be charged for future care services when the responsibilities change back.

- The Home First Hospital staff have been realigned in line with these new processes. Feedback has been positive with community health services supporting by following up on people being returned home.
- The short stay element (SJMh) is operating at capacity with the complexity of managing people within the 'covid secure' arrangement in a rehabilitation setting. The service will continue to work with people who have tested positive for Covid-19 but only as long as they fulfil the rehab criteria. All people admitted from hospital are tested to ensure effective management of their condition and safety of the workforce during their stay.
- The community Home First element is also supporting the discharge to assess principles and has a staff presence within the acute trust to ensure any moving and handling issues and equipment needs identified before the person leaves hospital, ensuring the discharge is safe to take place. Disabled facilities grants are continuing without too much disruption – in most cases, people wanted the work to proceed. The handyman service continues to prioritise work within the community, to keep people safe and well.

### **People living with care and support needs**

- Social Work services responded rapidly to home working and created a single approach working over 7 days and are now operating as one team and working extended hours of 8am-8pm, including management oversight. New assessments have been done with people face to face as required and services arranged as needed.
- People known to the service have been contacted regularly for welfare checks and staff continue to undertake assessments, reviews and support planning either by telephone or face to face where safe and needed to do so.
- The people with high needs who are normally supported during the day are currently receiving 1:1 support where required instead of attending a building. Commissioned day support has been redirected towards offering bespoke safe support as required. Many families have refused this support out of fear for their loved ones who invariably have additional needs.
- Guidance published regarding the Care Act enabled the Council to 'ease up' on some statutory duties – this guidance was thoroughly explored and 'A Framework for Implementation of Care Act Easements'

has been put into place. However, by enabling home working and following up people through safe and well checks and working differently we have not had to implement these easements as yet.

- All safeguarding issues are being responded to as a priority, and conversations are ongoing with police colleagues in relation to the development of more integrated working. Deprivation of Liberty Safeguards assessments continue at the pre covid level.

### **Supporting care providers**

- The service that supports all providers also responded quickly to home working and to providing support across 7 days. They are maintaining daily contact with providers to offer advice information and guidance during the pandemic for updates re staffing levels, infection outbreaks, and to understand the PPE need. The service is also a conduit for information sharing on behalf of health colleagues, enabling providers to have one point of contact. This also enabled us to quickly arrange additional support to the sector which in turn put us in a good place regarding the expectation of enhanced support to care homes. The council was therefore well placed to support the decision making and payment system to care providers in relation to their increased costs due to the pandemic.
- A care home oversight group has been established to design and deliver an enhanced support offer to care home providers regardless of whether the Council commissions from them and to monitor and ensure the support is of value moving forward.

### **Partnership working**

- Weekly partnership meetings are held regarding the North Lincolnshire health and care response to the pandemic.
- Partnership meetings have been maintained for service developments in line with the Integration plan held online, for example, intermediate tier review, frailty working group and the gateway development.
- In addition, contract and performance meetings for all commissioned services have been maintained again using technology.
- Local Safeguarding Adults Board (LSAB): The executive group met on 4 May 2020 and agreed the updated Safeguarding Adult Review (SAR) Framework.
- The 2020 conference is proceeding via the use of technology and the group of vulnerable people putting this together have written a poem which has been published on the council website.

- The current focus of the board is to support the conference and to review the updated multi-agency LSAB Policy and Procedures.

### **3. OPTIONS FOR CONSIDERATION**

- 3.1 Cabinet are asked to consider the report and note the response made to date to the COVID-19 emergency and acknowledge that business continuity and emergency planning arrangements remain in place.

### **4. ANALYSIS OF OPTIONS**

- 4.1 It is anticipated that the more vulnerable to will continue to heed advice and remain shielding due to ongoing risks to their health and that we will need to continue to offer opportunities for people to leave their homes safely for exercise and to support people with caring responsibilities.

- 4.2 Currently business continuity across Adult and Community wellbeing is being maintained with overall moderate pressure.

### **5. FINANCIAL AND OTHER RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS (e.g. LEGAL, HR, PROPERTY, IT, COMMUNICATIONS etc.)**

- 5.1 N/A

### **6. OTHER RELEVANT IMPLICATIONS (e.g. CRIME AND DISORDER, EQUALITIES, COUNCIL PLAN, ENVIRONMENTAL, RISK etc.)**

- 6.1 N/A

### **7. OUTCOMES OF INTEGRATED IMPACT ASSESSMENT (IF APPLICABLE)**

- 7.1 N/A

### **8. OUTCOMES OF CONSULTATION AND CONFLICTS OF INTERESTS DECLARED**

- 8.1 There has been good feedback on the level of resilience of our vulnerable population and how the increased use of technology has enabled them to connect with one another and service providers during this period.

- 8.2 Care providers have spoken positively and publically on social media of their experiences of the Council support during the COVID-19 pandemic.

- 8.3 Any decisions and actions taken have been done in consultation as appropriate.

### **9. RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 9.1 That Cabinet notes the response to COVID-19 as outlined in the report.

Director of Adults and Community Wellbeing

Church Square House  
SCUNTHORPE  
North Lincolnshire  
DN15 6NR  
Author: Karen Pavey  
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**Background Papers used in the preparation of this report –**

Guidance specific to adult functions