

Public Document Pack

NORTH LINCOLNSHIRE COUNCIL

CABINET

1 February 2021

Chairman: Councillor Robert Waltham **Venue:** Virtual Meeting
MBE Microsoft Teams

Time: 2.00 pm **E-Mail Address:**
richard.mell@northlincs.gov.uk

AGENDA

1. Declarations of Disclosable Pecuniary Interests and Personal or Personal and Prejudicial interests.
2. To approve as a correct record the minutes of the meeting of the Cabinet held on 7 December 2020. (Pages 1 - 10)
3. 2020/2021 Q3 Financial Monitoring and Medium Term Financial Plan Update (Pages 11 - 28)
Report of the Director : Governance and Partnerships
4. COVID-19 Update Against the Mid Term Recovery Plan (Pages 29 - 40)
Report of the Director : Governance and Partnerships
5. COVID-19 Epidemiology Update
Presentation by the Director of Public Health
6. COVID-19 Response Updates (Pages 41 - 78)
 - (i) Report of the Deputy Chief Executive and Executive Director: Commercial.
 - (ii) Report of the Director: Adults and Community Wellbeing.
 - (iii) Report of the Director: Business Development.
 - (iv) Report of the Director: Children and Community Resilience.
 - (v) Report of the Director: Learning, Skills and Culture.
 - (vi) Report of the Director: Governance and Partnerships.
7. Adult Social Care : End of Year Performance 2019/20 (Pages 79 - 86)
Report of the Director : Adults and Community Wellbeing
8. Local Safeguarding Adults Board (LSAB) Annual Report 2019/20 (Pages 87

- 138)

Report of the Director : Adults and Community Wellbeing

9. Future High Street Fund (Pages 139 - 142)
Report of the Director : Business Development
10. Schools Funding Formula 2021/22 (Pages 143 - 148)
Report of the Director : Governance and Partnerships
11. Digital Development Update and Vision (Pages 149 - 154)
Report of the Director : Governance and Partnerships
12. Regulation of Investigatory Powers 2000 (RIPA) Update (Pages 155 - 156)
Report of the Director : Governance and Partnerships
13. Any other items which the Chairman decides are urgent by reason of special circumstances which must be specified.

NORTH LINCOLNSHIRE COUNCIL

CABINET

7 December 2020

PRESENT: - R Waltham (Chairman)

R Hannigan (Vice Chairman), J Davison, R Ogg, N Poole, D Rose, C Sherwood and E Marper

M Ali, S Bainbridge, J Briggs, A Davison, T Ellerby, J England, L Foster, T Gosling, M Kirk, C O'Sullivan, H Rayner, D Southern, S Swift, D Wells, Wilson and L Yeadon

Will Bell, Jilla Burgess-Allen, Mick Gibbs, Denise Hyde, Adam Lovell, Helen Manderson, Becky McIntyre, Karen Pavey and Peter Thorpe

The meeting was held at the Virtual Meeting Microsoft Teams.

1386 **DECLARATIONS OF DISCLOSABLE PECUNIARY INTERESTS AND PERSONAL OR PERSONAL AND PREJUDICIAL INTERESTS.**

There were no declarations of interest declared.

1387 **TO APPROVE AS A CORRECT RECORD THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE CABINET HELD ON 28 SEPTEMBER 2020**

Resolved - That the minutes of the meeting of Cabinet held on 28 September 2020 having been printed and circulated amongst the members, be taken as read and correctly recorded and be signed by the chair.

1388 **TO RECEIVE THE MINUTES OF THE HEALTH AND CARE INTEGRATED COMMISSIONING COMMITTEE (COMMITTEE IN COMMON) HELD ON 22 SEPTEMBER 2020**

Resolved – That the minutes of the meeting of the above committee held on 22 September 2020 be received.

1389 **COUNCIL PLAN 2018-21 AND COVID19 MID-TERM RECOVERY PLAN**

The Director: Governance and Partnerships submitted a report requesting the Cabinet to approve the updated Council Plan 2018-21 which incorporated the COVID-19 Recovery Plan. The refreshed Council Plan was attached as appendix 1. The report also provided members with an update on COVID recovery and response since the last meeting of Cabinet in September 2020 (minute 1381 refers).

The Director in her report stated that the Council Plan 2018-19 was approved

CABINET
7 December 2020

by Cabinet in October 2018 providing information for residents and stakeholders about the council, what it did, how it was funded, the ambition, goals and priorities. Cabinet received a progress update in respect of delivery against the plan in July 2019. The Council's ambition, priorities and values were confirmed in the Council Plan along with the outcomes wanted for residents across North Lincolnshire. These were well embedded across the organisation and had been adopted as part of place partnership arrangements, shared with the council's partners.

The report explained that the North Lincolnshire COVID-19 recovery and renewal framework was reported to Cabinet in June 2020 and provided a guide for the council's actions through the different transition phases of 'recovery'. The recovery phases were short and medium term at both Place and Council level and in keeping with the Council's strategic vision, ambition and values. Each phase was guided by national guidance and legislation, Public Health advice and guidance, and supported by local evidence, intelligence and information. The Council Plan had provided a crucial anchor point that has guided our response to the pandemic and frames the priorities for mid-term recovery.

The Director also explained that the Mid-term Recovery Plan provided a focus within our strategic priorities and ensured renewal and resilience from COVID through focussed recovery priorities to minimise and mitigate the impact from COVID-19 for people and place. The next phase of COVID recovery and renew was focussed on how the council adapted to COVID. Responding accordingly to ensure business continuity of council functions and providing a local response as required by national guidance and government expectations. The recovery phase was set in the context that the council may need to move simultaneously to response, which had been the case during November as England entered a national lockdown.

Resolved – (a) That the refreshed Council Plan 2018-21 and the Mid-term Recovery Plan appended to the report be approved, and (b) that the progress update in respect of COVID-19 response and recovery against the Mid-term recovery plan be noted.

1390 **2020/2021 Q2 FINANCIAL MONITORING AND MEDIUM TERM FINANCIAL PLAN - UPDATE**

The Director: Governance and Partnerships submitted a report, which provided the Cabinet with an update on the Council's in-year financial position, considered an updated estimate of the specific impact that Covid-19 was having on the Council's financial plans and set out the Council's updated medium term financial planning position.

The Director in her report explained that the Medium Term Financial Plan represented an amalgamation of financial and non-financial assumptions which formed the basis of how much resource the Council expected to have available to invest in its priorities and to ensure it continued to meet local need effectively. Cabinet had also received several reports providing

CABINET
7 December 2020

comprehensive financial information in respect of Covid-19. These had covered a range of issues including the action it has taken to date to keep its residents safe and well, the financial impact together with the additional and Covid-19 specific funding provided by the Government, and a framework setting out the Council recovery and renewal plan set in the context of the Government's recovery strategy. This report considers the financial position to date, which further to the previous update report received by Cabinet in September 2020 (minute 1383 refers), confirmed the case that relative high levels of uncertainty was still inherent together with the possibility that the nature of the pandemic would likely remain volatile.

During quarter three rates both locally and nationally continued to increase leading to North Lincolnshire moving into the second level of tiered restrictions at the end of October 2020 followed by national restrictions coming into force on 5 November 2020. The additional restrictions locally and nationally meant that the council had once again reacted and responded to meet business continuity need and adapted delivery models to comply with regulations. The Council would continue to take whatever action necessary to ensure it continued to meet the needs of its residents and businesses at a very challenging time and lead the area through the pandemic. This included redistributing resource, as necessary.

The Director stated that the purpose of this report was to take stock of the in-year financial position based on the position prior to the most recent announcements regarding national lockdown and sought to provide an update on the financial planning process. A summary explanation with supporting appendices were provided for the following –

- Revenue 2020/2021;
- Capital 2020/21;
- Reserves;
- Budget Adjustments;
- Treasury Management, and
- Medium Term Financial Plan.

Resolved – (a) That the revenue and capital budget monitoring position for 2020/21 as set out in Appendix 1 of the report be noted; (b) that the current modelling of financial planning assumptions as set out in the medium term financial plan update in Appendix 2 of the report be noted; (c) that the revenue budget adjustments approved under delegated powers and the revised budget position for 2020/2, as summarised in Appendix 3 of the report be noted; (d) that the revised capital investment programme 2020/23, set out at Appendix 4 be approved; (e) that the progress against the approved Treasury Management Strategy in Appendix 5 be noted, and (f) that the Director and her finance team be thanked for their continuing hard work during a challenging time.

CABINET
7 December 2020

The Director: Learning, Skills and Culture submitted a report seeking approval of the 'Virtual Headteacher for Children in Care Report 2020', which would be published in accordance with statutory requirements and was included as an appendix. North Lincolnshire Council was highly ambitious for all children, and especially its looked after children. The Council's role as corporate parents was taken very seriously together with ensuring that all looked after children could achieve the best they can and promote success into adulthood, whatever age they come into care.

The report explained that role of the Virtual School was to promote the educational achievement of children in the council's care whether educated in North Lincolnshire or placed out of the county. The Virtual School had high aspirations for and strove to close the attainment gap between children in care and their peers. The Virtual School worked tirelessly to provide effective support and to make a difference to the education outcomes for looked after children and young people throughout their journey through school.

Dave Flowitt, Executive Principal Coritani Academy and North Lincolnshire Council's Virtual Headteacher attended the meeting. He summarised and reflected upon the content of the 2020 report including work carried out, its impact and key successes over the past year.

Resolved – (a) That Dave Flowitt be thanked for attending the meeting and for his and his team's hard work over the past year, and (b) that the 'Virtual Headteacher Report for Children in Care 2020' be approved.

1392 **CARE LEAVING SERVICE FINANCIAL POLICY**

The Director: Children and Community Resilience submitted a report seeking approval of the revised 'Care Leaving Service Financial Policy', which was attached as an appendix.

The Director in his report explained that the 'Children Act 1989 Guidance and Regulations Volume 3: Planning Transition to Adulthood for Care Leavers' set out the requirement for local authorities to have a 'clear written and transparent financial policy' that 'sets out what entitlements young people have'. This included setting out how the local authority would assist the young person with financial support to achieve economic well-being and make a positive and successful transition to adulthood. The 'Multi-Agency Children in Care and Care Leavers Plan 2020-2022' set out the Council's key priorities, promise and commitment to children in care and care leavers. It built on our success and set out an ambitious agenda for further improvement, and to support young people to live successful lives in our community.

The North Lincolnshire's 'Care Leaving Service Financial Policy' was therefore a key component in successfully delivering the outcomes identified within the Multi-Agency Children in Care and Care Leavers Plan 2020-2022. The revised policy built upon previous iterations which had articulated the Council's commitment to financially supporting care leavers through a robust scheme of allowances. It also included prior decisions made through Cabinet

CABINET
7 December 2020

including council tax benefits for care leavers. The revised policy contained more detail regarding the financial support available to young people to raise ambitions and maximise life chances and provided clarity regarding the financial weight to specific allowances to best reflect current costs, needs and circumstances. This also included financial support to young people to access further and higher education to promote education and career opportunities.

Resolved – That the revised Care Leaving Service Financial Policy be approved and adopted.

1393 CARE CALL SERVICE - ANNUAL REPORT

The Director: Children and Community Resilience submitted a report presenting in an appendix the council's 'Care Call Service Annual Report 2019/20', and sought approval to publish it on the council's website.

The report explained that the Council provided a dedicated Care Call Service to vulnerable people across North Lincolnshire. Currently the service supported around 4000 clients and received and responded to 93,000 calls per year. The service was provided from the North Lincolnshire Council Security Control Centre and gave cover and support 24 hours per day, 365 days per year. The provision of the Care Call Service provided support, friendship and help to all service users and provided 'peace of mind' to families and carers. Care Call also provided an essential service maintaining independence, reducing stays in hospital and helped people stay safe in their own homes and out of care facilities.

Care Call was funded both through an internal contract with Adult Social Care but was also predominantly funded through private contracts with service users and their families who contributed to the service through the council's subscription service. North Lincolnshire Council was an accredited provider of Care Call Services through its membership and registration with the Telecare Services Association (TSA). The TSA undertook a yearly accreditation process with the Council and approved the Council as an accredited provider of Care Call Services.

The Care Call Service Annual Report provided an overview and key highlights of the service for 2019/20 as well as an update on the council's related responses during the current Covid19 pandemic period.

Resolved - That the Care Call Service Annual Report 2019/20 be approved and it be published on the council's website.

1394 TOWNS FUND UPDATE

The Deputy Chief Executive and Executive Director Commercial submitted a report which sought approval of the 'Scunthorpe Town Investment Plan' which was attached at appendix 1. Central government had launched the

CABINET
7 December 2020

£3.6bn Towns Fund to “unleash the full economic potential of over 100 places and level up communities throughout the country”. A ‘Towns Fund’ prospectus had been published. Proposals would be agreed between each ‘Town’ and its community and central government would draw down a significant investment of up to £25m. This could be increased for projects that delivered transformational change to the town.

The report explained that the objective of the Fund was to drive the economic regeneration of towns to deliver long term economic and productivity growth through - Urban Regeneration, Skills and Enterprise Infrastructure and Connectivity. The ‘Town Fund Board’ was the vehicle through which the vision and strategy for the town had been defined. It has produced a Town Investment Plan to inform the Town Deal with central government. The role of the Board was to - Develop and agree an evidenced based Town Investment Plan, Develop a clear programme of interventions by October 2020 and Coordinate resources and influence stakeholders.

The Scunthorpe Town Deal board was made up of a mix of local representative private and public sector partners and had met monthly since March 2020, including a workshop event on Community Development. The report set out the Board’s full membership, which was chaired by Mary Stuart – Vice Chancellor University of Lincolnshire.

The Deputy Chief Executive stated that the ‘Scunthorpe Town Investment Plan’ was established on a clear evidence base, setting out a clear understanding of the area, focusing on assets, opportunities, and challenges. The amount of investment from the Towns Fund would be determined on the strength of the Towns Investment Plan. The proposed programme of investment in the Scunthorpe Town Investment Plan was based on social economic evidence for Scunthorpe, which would enable, support and drive economic growth through three priorities of investment, ensuring that the proposed programme of investment had a deep rooted impact, creating a legacy in Scunthorpe for years to come. The Plan was also cognisant of the wider strategic approach being taken through the Northern Powerhouse, Midlands Engine strategies and the emerging Local Industrial Strategy. The programme would detail value for money interventions that would drive economic growth. The investment programme would also be aligned with the government’s clean growth objectives and support a net zero carbon economy by 2050.

Resolved - That the Scunthorpe Town Investment Plan attached as appendix 1 to the Deputy Chief Executive and Executive Director: Commercial’s report be approved.

1395 KICK START SCHEME

The Director: Business Development submitted a report informing Cabinet of the government’s ‘Kick Start’ scheme and outlined the benefits of establishing a scheme in North Lincolnshire for businesses and young people.

CABINET
7 December 2020

The Kick Start scheme was launched on 8 July 2020 as part of the government's 'Plan for Jobs' introducing a £2 billion fund to create hundreds of thousands of high quality 6-month work placements aimed at those aged 16 to 24 who were on Universal Credit and were deemed to be at risk of long term unemployment. The job placements should support the participants to develop the skills and experience they needed to find work after completing the scheme. Funding for each job placement would cover:

- 100% of the relevant National Minimum Wage for 25 hours;
- the associated employer National Insurance contributions;
- employer minimum automatic enrolment contributions, and
- for each placement, Kick Start employers would also receive a £1500 initial payment for set up costs and employability support.

The report explained that North Lincolnshire currently had a high claimant count for the 18-24 year olds and had been consistently higher than regional and national claimant rates. By establishing a Kick Start programme would support young people currently claiming out of work benefits to access employment with training. It was proposed that the Council looked to utilise the Kick Start programme to support employment opportunities for young people, in addition, an application would be made to the government's Kick Start scheme as a 'Kick Start Gateway' to enable small firms who were unable to offer 30 placements the opportunity to participate in the scheme and grow their business and support for North Lincolnshire young people. As a Kick start Gateway, the council would receive £300 per external job placement to cover administration costs, and would be responsible for administering and paying the wages and costs to employers on a monthly basis, plus the £1500 set up costs to employers.

In conjunction with AECL, the council would also offer an 'Employability Support Package' to those employers not able to provide their own employability support to participants, for which the council would retain £300 of their £1500 set-up payment.

The council was also asking its own services if they could offer a placement to a local young person to enable them to experience the work and support the start of their employment journey. The formal application would be submitted in early December 2020 for January 2021 placement starts.

Associated financial and resource implications were set out in the Director's report.

Resolved – That the submission of the Kick Start scheme application to government be approved and the delivery of the programme as explained within the Director's report be supported.

CABINET
7 December 2020

OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE

This item was considered after the chair decided it was urgent to enable the above Joint Committee to meet formally as soon as possible. Individual member authorities were required to approve its establishment, membership and terms of reference beforehand, and there was not another scheduled meeting of the Cabinet until 25 January 2021.

The Director: Governance and Partnerships submitted a report inviting the Cabinet to consider and approve establishing a strategic joint committee with Lincolnshire County Council and North East Lincolnshire Council to be known as the 'Greater Lincolnshire Joint Strategic Oversight Committee.' Establishing a joint committee of upper tier authorities would provide a formal, and visible collaborative working arrangement, ensuring high levels of strategic alignment. It would build upon the existing working relationships and provide the forum for exploring opportunities to work strategically together to improve service quality and bring benefits to outcomes for residents. This also has the potential to enable funding to be utilised more effectively where scope and scale would be advantageous. North Lincolnshire Council and North East Lincolnshire Council were currently part of a similar committee across the Humber – the 'Humber Leadership Board', and together with Lincolnshire County Council and the Greater Lincolnshire Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP) continued to strengthening partnership working to deliver growth and prosperity across the region.

The report explained that subject to the required approval of each of the three member upper tier authorities, the joint committee would exercise purely executive functions. It was not a decision making body, but would explore and promote greater levels of collaboration, alignment and integration of upper tier authority responsibilities. Any proposals that were developed by the joint committee would be approved through each member authority's executive decision making processes and associated overview and scrutiny functions. The proposed membership and terms of reference of the Joint Committee were set out in an appendix to the report.

Resolved – (a) That the establishment of a strategic joint committee with Lincolnshire County Council and North East Lincolnshire Council as set out in the report, to be known as the 'Greater Lincolnshire Joint Strategic Oversight Committee be approved, and (b) that the strategic joint committees' Terms of Reference as set out in the appendix to the report be approved and adopted.

1397 URGENT ITEM - NORTH LINCOLNSHIRE COUNCIL COVID19 UPDATE

This item was considered after the chair decided it was urgent in order to provide the Cabinet with the most up to date position following the end of the second lockdown period on 2 December 2020.

The Director of Public Health submitted a report updating Cabinet on the COVID-19 position for North Lincolnshire in respect of the Government's

CABINET
7 December 2020

Winter Plan and Local Alert Levels from 2 December 2020 and current epidemiology information. The prevalence of the virus was still high locally and nationally, therefore measures to restrict its transmission within the community must continue. The precautions that people had taken during national lockdown were now being seen through the reduction in cases but the numbers needed to reduce even further to minimise the risk of further spikes.

The report explained that the Government published its Winter Plan on 23 November 2020, which set out the national programme for suppressing the virus, protecting the NHS and the vulnerable, keeping education and the economy going and providing a route back to normality. The Government's objectives were listed and summarised under the following headings –

- Suppress the virus – (bring the R number below 1 and keep it there. Measures included the use of restrictions. Local Tiers would resume on 2 December 2020).
- Finding new and more effective ways of managing the virus and enabling life to return closer to normal – (vaccines, treatment and strengthened community testing)
- Minimise damage to the economy and society, jobs and livelihoods – (right support was available for jobs and that early years settings, schools, further education providers and universities continued their excellent work in ensuring a safe environment for students to learn).

The COVID-19 Winter Plan also set out a targeted approach of how national restrictions would be lifted on 2 December 2020, with England moving back into a regional tiered approach. The tiers and related requirements were detailed in Appendix 1 of the report. The Secretary of State for Health and Social Care had also recently confirmed that North Lincolnshire was in Tier 3 following the end of national restrictions and set out factors taken into consideration when allocating a local alert level. Tiering allocations would be reviewed by the government every 14 days.

The Director's report also included a summary of the latest epidemiology for North Lincolnshire in Appendix 2. The Council's response to the COVID-19 Winter Plan had been included in the mid-term recovery plan update report considered at this meeting of the Cabinet (minute 1389 refers).

Resolved - That the current position in relation to the pandemic and the local implications arising from the COVID-19 Winter Plan be noted.

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NORTH LINCOLNSHIRE COUNCIL

CABINET

2020/21 Q3 Financial Monitoring and Medium Term Financial Plan Update

1. OBJECT AND KEY POINTS IN THIS REPORT

- 1.1. To provide Cabinet with an update on the Council's in-year financial position.
- 1.2. To consider an updated estimate of the specific impact that Covid-19 is having on the Council's financial plans.
- 1.3. To set out the Council's updated medium term financial planning position.

2. BACKGROUND INFORMATION

- 2.1. On 26th February 2020, the Council approved a Financial Strategy which set the framework for its revenue and capital investment plans in 2020/21 and over the medium term. The financial strategy is designed to support successful delivery of the Council Plan and the Local Plan, maximising outcomes for the people and place of North Lincolnshire.
- 2.2. The medium term financial plan represents an amalgamation of financial and non-financial assumptions which form the basis of how much resource the Council expects to have available to invest in its priorities and to ensure it continues to meet local need effectively.
- 2.3. Cabinet has received several reports throughout the year which have provided updates in respect of Covid-19, both financial and non-financial. Specifically: the action it has taken to date to keep its residents safe and well, the financial impact together with the additional and Covid-19 specific funding provided by the Government, and a framework setting out the Council recovery and renewal plan set in the context of the Government's recovery strategy. This report updates Cabinet on the latest financial situation, both in year and in future years.
- 2.4. The pandemic has provided a highly uncertain environment for the Council to operate within. This applies on the ground, in terms of requiring a fluid response to ensure our residents are fully supported and our communities sufficiently led through the emergency. It also applies to financial forecasts and interventions by Government, which have been based on best information at a point in time.
- 2.5. The Council will continue to take whatever action necessary to ensure it continues to meet the needs of its residents and businesses at a very

challenging time and lead the area through the pandemic. This includes redistributing resource, as necessary.

- 2.6. The purpose of this report is to take stock of the in-year financial position, which is based on the position prior to the most recent announcements regarding national lockdown. It also seeks to provide an update on the financial planning process.

Revenue 2020/21

- 2.7. The current approved revenue and capital budget and potential expenditure at outturn for 2020/21 can be seen in appendix 1.
- 2.8. The funding provided by Government to help cost base changes brought about by Covid-19 is deemed sufficient to cost and income impacts. Additionally, a small underspend is forecast on non Covid-19 income and expenditure, primarily due to variances within Central & Technical budgets.

Capital 2020/21

- 2.9. There are a series of capital adjustments necessary to ensure the programme remains aligned with delivery timescales and the Council Plan.
- 2.10. The in-year position can be seen in appendix 1, with a revised programme also incorporating re-phasing summarised in appendix 4.

Reserves

- 2.11. The Council approved a reserve strategy which governs the deployment of reserve balances, and links to identified risk which reserves exist to cover. The reserve strategy will be updated as part of the financial planning process, in recognition of the changing balance of risks and opportunities. This will also need to consider how best to measure the risk implicit in the uncertain economic position and associated risks to funding.

Budget Adjustments

- 2.12. Several adjustments to the revenue budget have been made, as the Council continually seeks to align budgets with delivery of the Council Plan. The adjustments have all been made under delegated powers and are summarised in appendix 3.

Treasury Management

- 2.13. The Council is continuing to manage cash balances and debt in line with the approved Treasury Management Strategy. Capital financing costs are expected to be lower than budget at outturn, reflecting a slower delivery of the capital programme than had been expected and a better cash flow position. As a result, the cost of capital financing ratio in 2020/21 is expected to be marginally lower than the forecast in the budget papers to Full Council.

2.14. The Council's borrowing at the end of December 2020 was £166.5m, and is expected to remain lower than had been forecast throughout the course of the year due to a change in the profile and timing of expenditure and income cash flows.

2.15. Appendix 5 sets out the prudential indicators for 2020/21 approved by Full Council on 26th February 2020, and the current estimate.

Medium Term Financial Plan

2.16. The Council's financial planning process, which will culminate in the 2021/24 medium term financial plan being taken to Full Council in February 2021, is in the final stages of development. Appendix 2 provides an update to Cabinet on progress, and the actions to be taken between now and the budget setting meeting of Full Council.

3. OPTIONS FOR CONSIDERATION

3.1. To receive an update on the financial position of the organisation.

4. ANALYSIS OF OPTIONS

4.1. The analysis is outlined in the background information in section 2 and in the supporting appendices.

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

5.1. The financial model under which Local Government operates means that risk management is fundamental to everything the Council does. The Council is constrained in its ability to significantly increase resources and is statutorily led on large areas of need led spending which can be volatile. Financial plans and the actions taken by the Council therefore must be adaptive to ensure the Council remains financially sustainable over the short, medium and long-term.

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

6.1. Not applicable.

7. OUTCOMES OF INTEGRATED IMPACT ASSESSMENT (IF APPLICABLE)

7.1. Not applicable.

8. OUTCOMES OF CONSULTATION AND CONFLICTS OF INTERESTS DECLARED

8.1. Not applicable.

9. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 9.1. To note the revenue and capital budget monitoring position for 2020/21 which is set out at Appendix 1.
- 9.2. To note the medium term financial plan update in Appendix 2.
- 9.3. To note the revenue budget adjustments approved under delegated powers and the revised budget position for 2020/21, summarised at Appendix 3.
- 9.4. To approve the revised capital investment programme 2020/23, set out at Appendix 4.
- 9.5. To note the progress against the approved Treasury Management Strategy in Appendix 5.

DIRECTOR OF GOVERNANCE AND PARTNERSHIPS

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Author: Adam Hopley/Becky McIntyre
Date: Wednesday 20th January 2021

Background Papers used in the preparation of this report

Financial Strategy, Budget 2020/21 and Medium Term Financial Plan 2020/23
Capital Investment Strategy and Revised Capital Programme 2019/23
Treasury Management Strategy 2020/21
Q3 revenue budget adjustments
Q3 capital budget adjustments

REVENUE AND CAPITAL MONITORING POSITION 2020/21
Appendix 1

REVENUE	Budget £000's	Potential Spend £000's	Potential Variance £000's
EXPENDITURE			
Investment in Priority Areas	129,522	129,522	-
Running the Business (Technical)	22,536	20,120	(2,416)
NET OPERATING EXPENDITURE	152,058	149,642	(2,416)
FUNDING			
Council Tax, Business Rates and Government Grants	(150,133)	(150,133)	-
Use of Reserves	(1,925)	-	1,925
TOTAL FUNDING	(152,058)	(150,133)	1,925
POTENTIAL VARIANCE	-	(491)	(491)

CAPITAL	Budget £000's	Potential Spend £000's	Potential Variance* £000's
EXPENDITURE			
Investment in Priority Areas	54,631	43,213	(11,418)
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	54,631	43,213	(11,418)
FINANCING			
External & Grant Funding	(29,359)	(29,997)	(2,832)
Council Resources	(25,272)	(24,691)	(8,586)
TOTAL FINANCING	(59,063)	(54,852)	(11,418)

*anticipated re-phasing

Analysis of Revenue 2020/21

1. The Council's Net Operating Expenditure represents the day to day costs of council service delivery. For 2020/21, a cash limit of £152.1m was set by Full Council and reflected the expected spending power for the year.
2. In addition to managing expenditure and income led risks that form part of the Council's normal operating day-to-day business processes, it is also managing the financial risks associated with Covid-19. The budget that was set reflected the economy at that time, together with investment assumptions which reflected the planned delivery models. The pandemic has required the Council to re-orient some services in order to ensure the needs of its residents continue to be met, with an impact to the cost base.
3. The Government continue to recognise the pressures facing Local Government and have provided additional funding over and above the level provided at the time of the last update. The Government has provided roughly £8.2m grant funding ring-fenced for a specific Covid-19 related purpose (e.g. infection control, test and trace), and has so far contributed £13.3m of emergency grant support for this council in recognition of the additional costs being incurred across Local Government in meeting heightened need in their areas and leading communities through the pandemic. The Government have also recognised that the actions taken to date prioritising the public health of the nation have had a detrimental impact on income sources and will compensate for some of this loss through the income compensation scheme. The Council anticipates receiving approximately £3m if income projections remain at the level currently envisaged.
4. At this stage in the financial year, changes to cost base incurred as a direct result of the Covid-19 pandemic are envisaged to be covered through the one-off grant funding provided by Government. A residual balance is expected to remain at year-end, which will help address ongoing pandemic related costs given restrictions are likely to remain in place in to 2021/22.
5. Variations in council tax and business rates will not impact the current year budget and will instead impact in 2021/22 and beyond. This is because of collection fund accounting rules. The latest funding impact assessment can be seen in appendix 2.
6. The Government continues to provide additional funding to Council's to pass through to businesses in the form of business grants. To date, the package of support by total value and number of payments encompasses:
 - Small business grants (£31.7m, 2,844)
 - Discretionary grants (£1.8m, 207)
 - Local restriction support grants (£4.5m, 3,719)
 - Additional restriction discretionary grants (£1.3m, 1,164)
 - Closed business national restrictions payments (£4.3m, 978)
 - Wet led pub scheme (£0.1m, 75)

Business grants will continue to be paid on an ongoing basis correlating to the nature of restrictions in place. This is in addition to additional business rate relief totalling almost £20m in 2020/21.

7. The Council undertakes a robust monitoring process throughout the year which seeks to identify progress of spend against budget and reviews the assumptions approved in the 2020/21 budget. As already noted, Covid-19 has impacted some of the supporting assumptions quite significantly, which in turn has a cost/income implication. A Council wide position is reported to Cabinet on a regular basis.
8. At quarter three, Council net expenditure not attributable to Covid-19 at outturn is forecast to be £149.6m. Within this projection, expenditure within priority investment areas is expected to be contained to within budget, having previously forecast to be at risk of exceeding the limits set. In addition, reductions within central & technical budgets are expected to result in spend lower than the budget limit. Accordingly, the anticipated underspend is expected to lead to a modest contribution to reserve balances.
9. If this position is achieved at outturn, it would represent a positive outcome for the Council and be further evidence of the Council's agility and adaptability to take action to mitigate and offset increases in its cost base. It must also be noted that financial forecasts continue to naturally improve as the financial year progresses, as uncertainty inherent in the earlier part of the year recedes and there is more and better information from which to base forecasts on.
10. Despite this, 2020/21 is a unique year because of the volatile environment in which delivery models are continually adapting to. The Covid-19 pandemic is fast changing, and the implications are fluid, which also reflects in the shape, scope, and delivery of adaptive Council services. The entering into a third national lockdown is evidence of this. Therefore, the position could change if the supporting assumptions need to change in response to external changes beyond the Council's control.
11. Progress against the current budget is a key pillar of the financial planning process, in that opportunities and risks that have emerged during the financial year and are likely to remain will need to be reflected in the medium term financial plan. This is an ongoing process (see appendix 2), and its conclusion will mean the Council continues to have a robust and deliverable financial plan.
12. Identified risks within priority investment areas are forecast to be contained by the actions taken in year by officers. This means that planned cost reductions which can not or will not be achieved because of changes to shape and structure of the Council will be offset by other actions taken to address the situation.
13. There are also forecast savings within central & technical budgets. This comprises capital financing savings due to a better-than-expected cash flow position, together with lower than planned borrowing to date. A slight change to minimum revenue provision policy is also expected to provide a short- and medium-term financial benefit. The position also reflects an anticipated reduction within corporate management and pension costs.
14. It is important to note that the Council has a strong track record of being able to contain expenditure. The transformation of the Council over recent years ensures continuous improvement and implementation of efficient delivery models that achieve the best outcomes possible. Controlling costs is vital for the longer-term sustainability of the Council, especially given the uncertain economic conditions

we are operating within. In the previous two years, collaborative working across the Council to identify solutions ensured that the year-end position was much more favourable than early estimates. Collaborative working is an ongoing feature and aims to ensure the organisation operates within the resources available.

15. The Council has a reserves strategy which governs deployment of reserves. This forms part of the wider approach to risk management. Current financial plans aim to minimise use in 2020/21, with greater reserves potentially going to be needed in the next medium term financial plan to cover potential funding shocks. The level of reserves held will need to be reviewed against identified risks to ensure that the council remains financially resilient.

Analysis of Capital 2020/21

16. The Council has plans to invest over £109m of capital resource by 2022/23 to support delivery of the Council plan. Of this, £43.2m is the current forecast for investment in 2020/21. Approval is sought for the latest capital investment plan set out in appendix 4.
17. The Council undertakes regular monitoring of its capital investment programme, to ensure the programme remains realistic and invests in Council priorities. It is also important that planned spend is reviewed specifically considering Covid-19, to ensure it remains right to undertake following the changes brought about by the pandemic. It is envisaged that this will be completed by the end of December, with not much expected in the form of changes.
18. The Council finances capital investment through a combination of its own resources (capital receipts and borrowing) and external funding. The balance of funding expected to be applied is also regularly reviewed, to ensure the right type and size of funding is deployed. The Covid-19 pandemic has altered the balance of risks and opportunities attached to each funding type, and as such revisions will need to be made to the financing side in the next medium term financial plan. This is not expected to directly impact the capital investment programme.
19. The £11.4m variance represents re-phasing and external funding adjustments, for which an amended capital investment programme has been proposed in appendix 4. There could be further adjustments needed for the remainder of the financial year to ensure investment resource remains aligned to latest delivery timescales.
20. The Capital & Major Projects officer group have considered business cases and recommended a few capital drawdowns from the additional capital investment allocation, set out in appendix 4 (table 2). Planned spend aligns with delivery of the Council Plan. There are also some external funding adjustments for which approval is sought (table 3).

1. Full Council will meet on Thursday 25th February 2021 to consider setting an updated medium term financial plan comprising revenue and capital investment. The financial planning process was set out to Cabinet in September and progress continues to be made in finalising spending power assumptions and developing investment plans.
2. The financial planning environment has changed significantly during 2020/21, both at a national and local level. To maximise focus on dealing with the immediacy of the ongoing public health emergency, national financial policy changes have been short-term in nature. This is an important consideration, because higher uncertainty beyond the short-term constrains the Council's ability to plan for the long-term, coupled with the Council's primary focus being on keeping residents safe and well, leading its communities through the pandemic.
3. It is therefore envisaged that the Council's financial strategy for 2021/22 will be linked to the Council's recovery and renewal aspirations, with a focus on transitioning its delivery models and resources for more normal times and acknowledging those which will need to remain for the foreseeable future. This will then provide a firm basis for subsequent financial strategies, which will support the Council's evolution into being the organisation required into the future.

Investment in Priorities

4. In March 2020, the coronavirus pandemic meant that resources were prioritised to reacting and responding to the emergency situation. The strength of relationships across public bodies, voluntary and community organisations and local business meant that the Council and its partners were able to work collectively to prioritise keeping people safe and well and protecting the local economy.
5. As work towards a new normal progresses – which includes continuously adapting infection control and outbreak management arrangements – it is vital that partnership work continues so that North Lincolnshire remains resilient and able to withstand any future challenge and affects from Covid-19. From a financial standpoint, progress in this respect is vital. The Council's financial sustainability aspirations depend on it, and financial resilience requires it.
6. The mid-term recovery plan sets out the Council' priorities for mid-term recovery, which derive from the Council Plan, which are:
 - Keeping people safe and well, and protect the vulnerable
 - Enable communities to be resilient
 - Protect and enable the local economy
 - Well led Council
7. The Council has an excellent track record of containing increases in its cost base and managing risk – an importance which cannot be understated in a Local Government financial system that constrains the ability of Council's to increase its resources. Cost consciousness is an organisational trait which is highly correlated with the financial resilience of the organisation. The Council has adapted - and strengthened where necessary - its financial management processes in order to

ensure the financial impact remains as well understood as possible, given the fast changing situation. This has enabled it to understand where more resource might be necessary and respond fully to Government requests of the sector for more information which has subsequently unlocked additional grant funding.

8. It is well understood that to achieve the best outcomes in managing the pandemic, the skills, far-reaching capabilities, and unique local knowledge of individual Councils are essential and will need to be fully utilised. This will continue to be the case until the virus has been fully suppressed. It is envisaged that this could be achieved in the main by the end of 2021, predicated on the effectiveness of the vaccine rollout. As such, the Council will retain a focus on pandemic containment in 2021/22 which needs reflecting in its financial plans.
9. Representatives from across the Council have collaboratively worked together and identified the level of investment currently deemed necessary over the plan period based on the Council's current and planned delivery models. This is demonstrated below:

2020/21 Approved Budget £000's		2021/22 Current Budget £000's	2022/23 Current Budget £000's	2023/24 Current Budget £000's
	PRIORITY INVESTMENT			
69,450	Keeping People Safe and Well	72,514	73,790	74,894
25,941	Enabling Communities to Flourish	27,977	27,753	27,633
7,599	Growing the Economy	7,526	7,236	7,236
26,325	Running the Business (Organisation)	27,497	27,197	26,997
22,743	Running the Business (Technical)	21,414	22,436	23,154
152,058	PRIORITY TOTAL	156,928	158,412	159,914
-	Inflationary Provisions	1,922	5,422	8,922
-	Covid-19 Resource	5,942	-	-
-	OTHER BUDGETS	7,864	5,422	8,922
152,058	NET OPERATING EXPENDITURE	164,792	163,834	168,836

10. The above position encompasses a series of budget adjustments which ensure investment plans reflect the mid-term recovery plan and its associated supporting delivery models.
11. Whilst considered to be robust, the investment plan set out in point 9 is not affordable as it is currently in excess of the latest spending power projections and will require further priority investment adjustments so the Council presents a balanced budget.
12. There remain some key opportunities to reduce the cost base in a sustainable way in the short-term, which are in development and specifically relate to the next phase of Organisational Development and the opportunities highlighted by the pandemic. Additionally, the scrutiny of identified cost base increases through the lens of ensuring that all action that could be taken to mitigate risks has been taken has not fully concluded, accordingly this could lead to revisions in priority investment estimates.

Spending Power

13. In the previous update to Cabinet, the outcomes from the 2020 Spending Review were reported with one of the most salient points being that financial certainty for Government departments was provided for 2021/22 only. On Thursday 17th December 2020, the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG) published the draft Local Government finance settlement for 2021/22.
14. The Council's core spending power comprises a combination of locally generated resources and nationally allocated grant funding. The shift towards higher local income generation has been a key pillar of Government policy over the past decade, placing a greater incentive on local areas to grow their local economy coupled with local decision making about council tax income levels relative to investment need within the national policy framework. This shift contains an inherent risk that incomes could reduce during economic contraction. This risk has manifested in an unexpected and unprecedented way during the pandemic, which has necessitated a series of one-off grant interventions from Government to ensure Local Government has the resource needed to support local communities through the pandemic.
15. At a national level, the Government has made an additional £2.2bn available to Local Government next year. To realise £1.9bn of the total increase, local authorities will need to levy council tax increases up to 2% and adult social care precept increases of up to 3% in 2021/22.
16. A summary of all other key points to note from the settlement are as follows:
 - The business rates multiplier has been frozen at 2020/21 levels, which is positive for businesses and with the Council compensated for its share
 - Temporary NNDR reliefs are not currently planned to continue (although Government retain means to do so if it deems necessary)
 - Core revenue support grant marginally increased by inflation
 - Improved better care fund held at 2020/21 levels
 - New homes bonus continues to reduce in value
 - Increase in social care grant funding
17. According to the finance settlement calculations, North Lincolnshire Council's core spending power will increase by £6.8m in 2021/22. Of the increase, £1.5m is in the form of government grant and £5.3m assumes council tax increases in line with precepting limits.
18. The Government have also continued to acknowledge the ongoing impact of Covid-19 on local authority finances and have announced further details of its £3bn Covid-19 support package for 2021/22. This includes:
 - Unringfenced emergency funding (NLC £4.5m)
 - Local council tax support grant (NLC £1.4m)
 - Local tax income guarantee (NLC £TBC)
 - Sales, fees and charges extension to June 2021 (NLC £TBC)
19. As a reminder, the Spending Review also provided an update for the upcoming potential changes to Local Government finance:

- The move to 75% business rate retention and the implementation of the fair funding review has been delayed.
- The government has decided not to proceed with a reset of business rates baselines in 2021-22 and will maintain the existing 100 per cent business rates pilots for a further year.
- The government is undertaking a fundamental review of the business rates system and is currently considering responses to the call for evidence. A final report setting out the full conclusions of the review will be published in spring 2021.

20. The Government also confirmed that they remain committed to sustainable improvement of the adult social care system and will bring forward proposals next year. Improving social care outcomes through an affordable, high quality and sustainable adult social care system is a Government priority outcome.

21. The Government will also be reforming the lending terms of the Public Works Loan Board (PWLB), ending the use of PWLB for investment property bought primarily for yield. This shift also enables the Government to cut lending rates for all other borrowing.

22. The Council's latest spending power projection is as follows:

2020/21 Approved £000's	FORECAST SPENDING POWER	2021/22 Forecast £000's	2022/23 Forecast £000's	2023/24 Forecast £000's
(1,925)	Use of Reserves	-	-	-
	SETTLEMENT FUNDING			
(6,198)	Revenue Support Grant	(6,232)	(6,232)	(6,232)
(33,171)	NNDR Baseline Funding	(33,171)	(33,769)	(34,434)
(39,369)	Total Settlement Funding	(39,403)	(40,001)	(40,666)
	OTHER GENERAL FUNDING			
(69,546)	Council Tax (1.99% 21/22 - 23/24)	(70,708)	(72,925)	(75,290)
(6,694)	Social Care Precept (3% 21/22)	(8,919)	(8,999)	(9,087)
(972)	Collection Fund Surplus (-) / Deficit (+): CTAX	1,356	455	455
(2,563)	Collection Fund Surplus (-) / Deficit (+): NNDR	(2,677)	921	921
(9,158)	NNDR Rate Retention Income	(11,516)	(11,720)	(13,269)
(414)	New Homes Bonus	(206)	(146)	-
(7,025)	Improved Better Care Fund	(7,025)	(7,025)	(7,025)
(206)	Rural Services Delivery Grant	(216)	(216)	(216)
(420)	DSG Central School Services	(420)	(420)	(420)
(4,515)	Social Care Grant	(5,559)	(5,530)	(5,585)
-	Lower Tier Services Grant	(252)	-	-
(9,251)	Public Health Grant	(9,251)	(9,251)	(9,251)
(110,764)	Total Base Funding	(115,393)	(114,856)	(118,768)
(152,058)	TOTAL CORE FUNDING	(154,796)	(154,858)	(159,434)
-	Covid-19 Specific Funding	(6,209)	-	-
(152,058)	TOTAL FUNDING	(161,005)	(154,858)	(159,434)

A full analysis of each funding source will be provided within the budget report to Full Council in February, including the supporting assumptions.

23. The measures set out mean the Council's expected core spending power is slightly higher than 2020/21 levels, excluding Covid-19 specific funding. This is predicated on increasing council tax and levying an additional precept. However, the increase in underlying need to spend is greater, as seen below:

MTFP SUMMARY	2021/22 £000's	2022/23 £000's	2023/24 £000's
Forecast Spending Power	(161,005)	(154,858)	(159,434)
Current Priority Investment	164,792	163,834	168,836
Cost Base Adjustments Required	3,787	8,976	9,402

24. For 2021/22, it is envisaged that the reductions being developed will in the main accommodate the cost base increases identified, supported by modest reserve usage enabled by an update to the risk-led reserve strategy. Having a balanced and robust position for 2021/22 provides a solid foundation for the Council to then commence its wider strategic deliberations on the shape, size, purpose and function of the Council from 2022/23 onwards, ideally supported by a longer-term funding framework enabled by Government.
25. The Council has achieved considerable efficiencies over the past decade, initially with a focus on service specific models. But as the organisational approach and thinking matures, it gives rise to thinking differently around the skills needed within each area. The combination of the Covid-19 pandemic, the funding uncertainty and the short timeframe to February means the Council will benefit most by considering and developing the actions and interventions it can take over the medium term, some of which may yield benefits in 2021/22. The flip side requirement to this is that the Council must continue to control increases in its cost base, which it has and continues to do so.
26. The overarching financial strategy aim for the Council remains financial sustainability, where the Council's generates enough resources to fund its investment aspirations over the longer-term. To achieve success in this aim, the framework of Local Government finance needs to change. It is highly complex to devise long-term investment strategies with short-term funding certainty.

Table 1 – Revenue Investment (Accountability Structure)

2020/21 REVENUE INVESTMENT: BY SERVICE	Original Approved Budget £000's	Policy Changes £000's	Technical Budget Transfers £000's	Revised Approved Budget £000's
Business Development	(202)	-	171	(31)
Governance & Partnerships	13,845	-	279	14,124
Operations	32,424	-	558	32,982
Learning, Skills & Culture	11,617	-	359	11,976
Children & Community Resilience	21,822	-	400	22,222
Adults & Community Wellbeing	39,352	-	383	39,735
Public Health	6,988	-	27	7,015
SERVICE TOTAL	125,846	-	2,177	128,023
Central & Technical Budgets	26,212	-	(2,177)	24,035
NET OPERATING EXPENDITURE	152,058	-	-	152,058

Table 2 – Revenue Investment (Council Plan Priority)

2020/21 REVENUE INVESTMENT: BY PRIORITY	Original Approved Budget £000's	Policy Changes £000's	Technical Budget Transfers £000's	Revised Budget £000's
Keeping People Safe and Well	68,550	-	775	69,325
Enabling Communities to Flourish	25,337	-	668	26,005
Growing the Economy	7,404	-	237	7,641
Running the Business (organisation)	26,023	-	528	26,551
Running the Business (technical)	24,744	-	(2,208)	22,536
PRIORITY TOTAL	152,058	-	-	152,058
NET OPERATING EXPENDITURE	152,058	-	-	152,058

Table 1 – Programme Summary 2020/23

PROPOSED PROGRAMME	2020/21 £000's	2021/22 £000's	2022/23 £000's	Total £000's
Investment in Priority				
Keeping People Safe and Well	3,044	2,275	156	5,475
Enabling Communities to Flourish	5,830	7,618	2,233	15,681
Growing the Economy	26,686	29,954	8,412	65,052
Running the Business	8,321	9,413	2,793	20,527
Total	43,881	49,260	13,594	106,735
Additional Capital Investment Allocation	-	-	2,825	2,825
Capital Investment Limit	43,881	49,260	16,419	109,560
Funding Analysis				
External & Grant Funding	25,942	24,008	9,296	59,246
Revenue Funding	171	16	-	187
Borrowing	11,702	19,302	7,123	38,128
Capital Receipts	6,066	5,934	-	12,000
Total	43,881	49,260	16,419	109,560

Table 2 – Proposed Drawdown of Additional Capital Investment Allocation

Capital Investment Scheme	2020/21 £000's	2021/22 £000's	2022/23 £000's	Total £000's
CCTV Camera Upgrades	184	0	0	184
Cremator Hearth & Relining	0	0	104	104
Library Self Service	4	0	0	4
Total	188	0	104	292

Table 3 – Amendment to Externally Funded Capital Investment Schemes

Capital Investment Scheme	2020/21 £000's	2021/22 £000's	2022/23 £000's	Total £000's
Active Travel Fund	39	124	0	163
Community Equipment	27	(14)	0	13
Disabled Facilities Grants	0	270	0	270
Dragonby Energy Efficiency	(36)	61	0	25
Flood and Drainage	(80)	80	0	0
Formula Capital Devolved To Schools	(59)	50	0	-9
Goxhill Flood Alleviation	(451)	451	0	0
Home Assistance/RHHA Loan	36	0	0	36
Humberhead Levels Landscape Partnership	(86)	86	0	0
Infrastructure Schemes	(2,039)	2,000	0	-39
North Lincolnshire Northern Forest	(417)	417	0	0
Safer Roads Fund	(1,000)	1,000	0	0
Schools Investment Programme	(1,020)	1,098	0	78
Telecare Investment	(112)	112	0	0
Total	(5,198)	5,735	0	537

		2020/21	
		Budget (Feb 2020)	Forecast (Q3)
(i)	Estimates of capital expenditure	£M 51.5	£M 43.2
(ii)	General Fund ratio of financing costs to the net revenue stream % (Based on Prudential Code 2013)	% 8.80	% 8.38
(iii)	An estimate of the capital financing requirement	£M 259.5	£M 260.4
(iv)	The authorised limit for external debt: borrowing other long-term liabilities total	£M 294.5 30.0 324.5	£M no change
(v)	The operational boundary for external debt: borrowing other long-term liabilities total	£M 264.5 22.0 286.5	£M no change
(vi)	Upper limit for fixed rate exposure	% 100.0	% no change
(vii)	Upper limit for variable rate exposure	% 40.0	% no change
(viii)	upper and lower limits for maturity structure of borrowing UPPER LIMIT under 12 months 12 months and within 24 months 24 months and within 5 years 5 years and within 10 years 10 years and within 20 years 20 years and within 30 years 30 years and above LOWER LIMIT all time periods	% 60.0 30.0 50.0 50.0 75.0 75.0 100.0 0.0	% no change
(ix)	Total principal sums invested for periods longer than 364 days	£M 0	£M no change

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NORTH LINCOLNSHIRE COUNCIL

CABINET

COVID-19: UPDATE AGAINST THE MID-TERM RECOVERY PLAN

1. OBJECT AND KEY POINTS IN THIS REPORT

- 1.1 To update Cabinet on the Council's progress responding to COVID-19 as set out in the mid-term recovery plan.
- 1.2 To present an overview of the most recent legislative requirements that have been introduced and guide the local response.

2. BACKGROUND INFORMATION

- 2.1 In March 2020, the council was required to establish business continuity arrangements in order to respond to the COVID-19 global pandemic. As COVID-19 continues to be a significant issue the council continues its focus and operating environment on this, while concurrently planning for recovery.
- 2.2 The local response to COVID-19 is set within a range of legislative regulations that have been introduced. The two key ones being the Coronavirus Act 2020 and Health Protection (England) Regulations 2020. Government guidance and new regulations continue to be issued, with a summary of the most recent key requirements set out in appendix 1.
- 2.3 In June 2020, the North Lincolnshire COVID-19 recovery and renewal framework was presented to Cabinet. Building upon this saw the development of mid-term recovery plan which was approved by Cabinet in December 2020. Both of these have been framed around the priorities set out in the North Lincolnshire Council Plan and provide a framework for minimising and mitigating impact from COVID-19 across North Lincolnshire.
- 2.4 The changing nature of COVID restrictions requires a flexible approach to switching between response and recovery and adapting as the situation changes. Currently national restrictions are in force and this along with the local position and intelligence is shaping current activities.
- 2.5 Our priorities for mid-term recovery are:

- Keep people safe and well,
- Protect vulnerable people,
- Enable communities to be resilient,
- Protect and enable the local economy,
- Well led council.

2.6 Appendix 2 provides a summary of progress against the next step actions under each priority set out in the mid-term recovery plan, along with any new areas of focus arising out of the changing environment.

2.7 Whilst the actions set out for December 2020 to March 2021 are ongoing and remain broadly the same the environment both nationally and locally continues to change. Therefore during February and March 2021 the focus for the council will be:

- Preparing for emergence from national restrictions and gradual re-opening and recovery
- Championing vulnerable groups to support partners in ensuring equality of access to the COVID-19 vaccine as the priority groups are progressed
- Leading the development of community testing for critical workers and targeted areas
- Ensuring the financial position of the council is sufficiently robust to withstand the ongoing impact of the pandemic and next phase of recovery on renewal
- Developing with regional and sub-regional partners, plans and priorities to secure national levelling up funding for the area that supports local economic recovery and renewal.
- Build on the arrangements for brokerage of volunteering that has been developed during COVID-19 as part of renewal and promote the strategic importance of the VCS as a vehicle for increasing community connectedness.

2.8 The Council, as an organisation continues to remain resilient and sustainable as it recovers from the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic. To continue to meet the needs of residents and our strategic ambitions we are focusing on the following:

- Continue the development and transformation of the council as an agile organisation
- In consultation, develop the right blend of home and office working and use of remote meeting technologies as part of governance arrangements
- Expansion of digital responses for the public and improving public engagement
- Assessing the impact of Covid-19 on demand services and future service delivery models.
- Maintain excellent working relationships with partners
- Accelerating our ambitions for a greener more sustainable

environment

- Work with our regional partners to continually assess the economic impact of Covid-19
- Enhance data, intelligence and needs assessment to better understand impact for our residents.

2.9 There are opportunities that support renewal through national schemes for re-build and economic bounce back where capital investment could stimulate growth and local prosperity, however the local capacity to delivery will need to be re-assessed against the priorities of the council and to ensure critical services continue to protect the most vulnerable, who are more likely to be impacted on from the effects of the pandemic.

3. **OPTIONS FOR CONSIDERATION**

3.1 Cabinet is invited to note the contents of this report and support the continued delivery of priority actions.

4. **ANALYSIS OF OPTIONS**

4.1 A continued focus on the priorities and actions set out in the mid-term recovery plan enable the council to provide an effective local response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

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

5.1 Resources associated with the council's response to the COVID-19 and the delivery of the mid-term recovery plan continue to be monitored and managed.

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

6.1 A council-wide approach to assessing and monitoring the implications and risks associated with COVID-19 has been adopted with mitigations being implemented as necessary in accordance with the legislative framework.

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

7.1 Not applicable.

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

8.1 Ongoing consultation and collaboration with a range of national, regional, place partners and other key stakeholders is integral to our local response.

8.2 Engagement with the workforce continues and members of the North Lincolnshire Residents Panel have also been surveyed on the impact of the COVID-19, with the results being used to help shape our response and recovery priorities.

8.3 There are no conflicts of interests associated with this report.

9. **RECOMMENDATIONS**

9.1 That cabinet note the recent government guidance and requirements that underpin our local response.

9.2 That cabinet note the progress update in respect of the mid-term recovery plan and support the continued delivery of the priority actions.

DIRECTOR OF GOVERNANCE AND PARTNERSHIPS

Church Square House
SCUNTHORPE
North Lincolnshire
DN15 6NR
Author: Rachel Johnson
Date: 14 January 2020

Appendix 1 – Summary of recent new legislative requirements and guidance

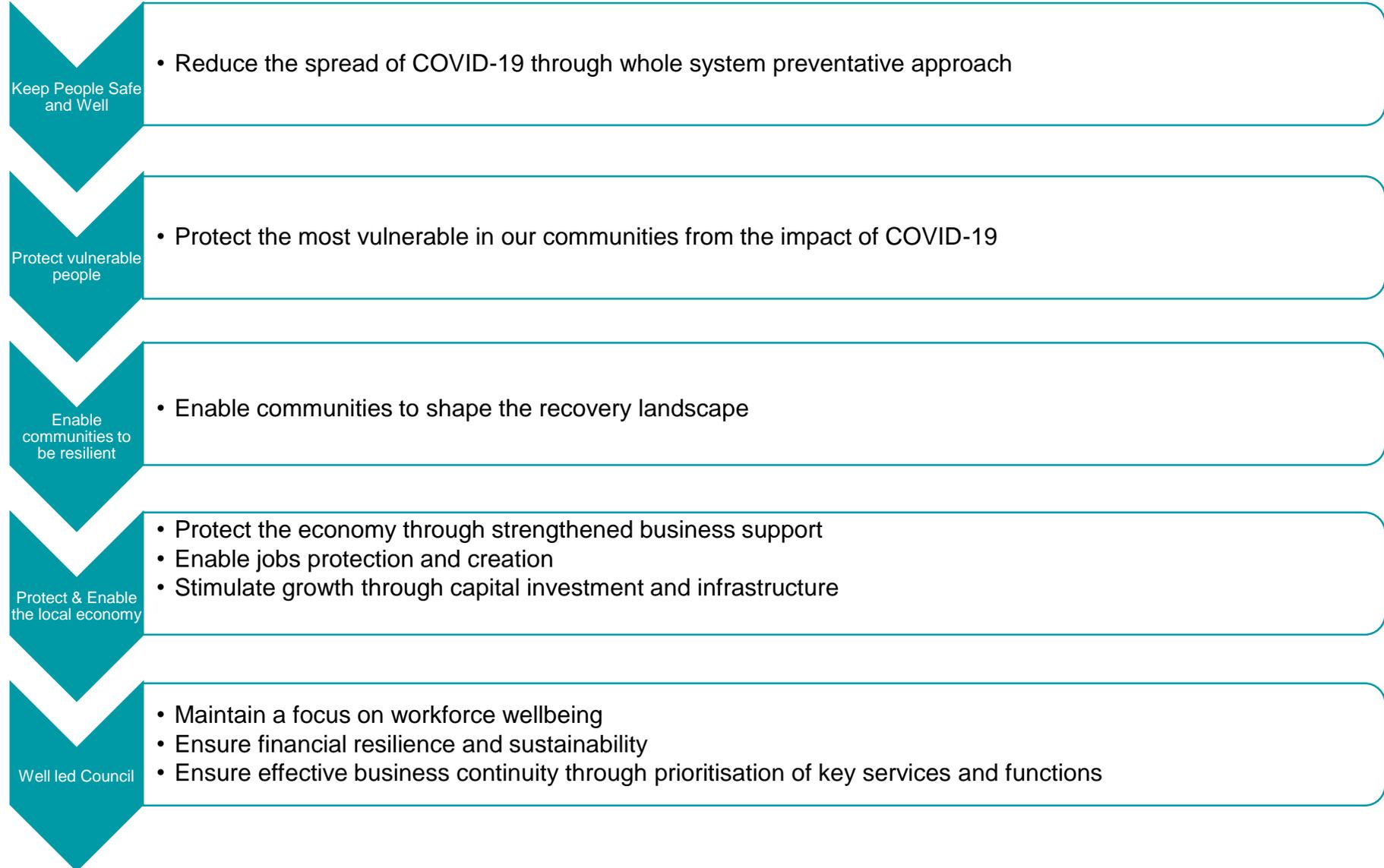
Guidance	Summary
Rapid asymptomatic testing for staff in primary schools, school-based nurseries and maintained schools. (18 January 2021)	Following the launch of rapid asymptomatic coronavirus testing in secondary schools and colleges, staff in primary, school-based nurseries and maintained nursery schools are also being offered the opportunity to take part in regular asymptomatic testing.
Care Home Visits DHSC (Updated 12 January 2021)	Sets out guidance for those who are involved in planning to enable care home visits including advice on establishing a visiting policy, taking decisions for residents, delivering safe visiting with and without testing and information on visiting in exceptional circumstances such as end of life.
Ofsted Plans: January 2021 (12 January 2021)	Ofsted's return to inspections in 2021 will happen in phases, with no graded inspections for education or social care providers planned before the summer term.
UK COVID-19 vaccines delivery plan (11 January 2021)	Sets out the government's plan for supply and deployment of covid-19 vaccines by the NHS. To date 3 vaccines have been approved for use in the UK. The plan sets aim for 15 Feb 2021 to have offered a first vaccine dose to the top 4 priority groups with top 9 priority groups (32m people) being vaccinated by Spring 2021. The plan sets the aspiration for everyone to be within 10 miles of a vaccination site with 2 million doses being delivered each week. The plan recognizes the important role of local authorities and commits to ensuring data is shared and support is provided to enable local authorities to engage with communities.
COVID1-19 alert level (4 January 2021)	Following advice from the Joint Biosecurity Centre the UK alert level was moved from Level 4: a COVID-19 epidemic is in general circulation; transmission is high or rising exponentially to Level 5: as level 4 and there is a material risk of healthcare services being overwhelmed.
National Lockdown: Stay at Home Guidance (4 January 2021)	Rising case rates nationwide resulted in new national restrictions being introduced. The guidance set out a requirement to stay at home and not leave home expect where necessary to shop for necessities, go to work or provide voluntary services if this cannot be done from home, exercise, meet support or childcare bubbles, seek medical assistance or avoid injury, illness or risk of harm and attend education of childcare for those eligible. All education (primary and secondary schools) is to be delivered remotely until half term in February, except for vulnerable children and the children of critical workers. Early years settings remain open and HE provision is to remain online until mid Feb except for all future critical worker courses. The guidance sets out activities, venues and business that must close and which can remain open. The regulations cover the period until the end of March 2021, although the position will be reviewed every two weeks with easing of restrictions if the situation improves
Designated settings for people discharged to a care home. (16 December 2020)	Guidance on the designated settings scheme for people discharged from hospital to a care home with a positive coronavirus test.
Business Evictions (9 December 2020)	The business eviction ban has been extended until March 2021 and a review of commercial landlord and tenant legislation has been launched
Lateral flow testing of visitors in care homes (8 December 2020)	Sets out how care homes and visitors can prepare for visitor testing with lateral flow devices (LFD's)

Covid-19 Vaccinations – A guide for social care staff (7 December 2020)	The guidance sets out information for social care staff about why it is important to have the covid-19 vaccination, who can and cannot have the vaccination and how to access it.
Asymptomatic testing in schools and colleges (5 December 2020)	Sets out the approach for rapid result testing in schools and colleges to help identify asymptomatic cases. The testing is to be made available to all members of staff and all pupils and students in schools and colleges.
Additional COVID-19 local authority enforcement powers (4 December 2020)	On 2 December 2020 additional powers came into force to support local authorities take action against premises that do not comply with COVID secure rules. The new tools consist of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Coronavirus Improvement Notice (CIN) • Coronavirus Restrictions Notice (CRN) • Coronavirus Immediate Restrictions Notice (CIRN)
The Health Protection (Coronavirus, Restrictions) (All Tiers) (England) Regulations 2020 (2 December 2020)	Introduced a framework of three Tiers of restrictions, with different tiers applying to different areas/regions. This is to ensure that the right levels of intervention are made in the right places to manage COVID-19 outbreaks and help to suppress the virus and keep the R rate below 1. At the point of national lockdown being introduced in January 2021 North Lincolnshire had been placed in Tier 3 along with the other Humber authorities.
Visits out of Care Homes. (1 December 2020)	Sets out guidance for residential settings for older people and adults of working age on how visits out of a care home can take place, the role of the provider in supporting outward visiting and the need for individual risk assessments.
COVID Winter Grant scheme (23 November 2020)	The guidance introduced the COVID Winter Grant Scheme to support those most in need across England with the cost of food, energy (heating, cooking, lighting), water bills (including sewerage) and other essentials.
COVID-19 Winter Plan (23 November 2020)	Set out the government's programme for suppressing the virus, protecting the NHS and the vulnerable, keeping education and the economy grouping and providing a route back to normality.
Roll out of lateral flow tests to local authorities. (13 November 2020)	Sets out details of the rollout of rapid turnaround lateral flow tests to local authorities to enable increased testing of priority and high-risk groups in local communities on a weekly basis.

NORTH LINCOLNSHIRE COVID-19 MID-TERM RECOVERY PLAN

OVERVIEW OF PROGRESS (January 2021)

Enhance digital technologies in order to deliver our council priorities
Page 36



Value added through partnerships

- In response to the increasing transmission rates the government introduced National Restrictions on 4 January 2021, necessitating response and recovery to operate simultaneously. Our approach is rooted in the values, principles and ambitions of the council plan and our response focuses on key priorities to ensure the Council remains resilient throughout the crisis and sustained through the recovery and renewal.
- As well as responding to the implications of national restrictions, the council continued to keep services running and adapting to the changing environment, led the prevention and management of local outbreaks and work with businesses to drive economic recovery and growth and worked in partnership with NHS to enable the successful commencement of the vaccination programme to the priority groups.

Priority

Overview of progress

Keeping People Safe and Well: **Reduce the spread**

Page 37

Safe working practices

- Proactive preventative actions continue to be applied in order to maintain safe working practices and suppress the virus - Continued to operate working from home arrangements and limited access to office environments.
- Continuous review and risk assessed use of PPE for those working in the community and in people’s homes.
- In contrast to previous restrictions, the new restrictions afforded more opportunities for the council to continue an offer to residents in support of health and wellbeing. Specifically, access to open spaces, measures to support digital inclusion and access to literature through ‘click and collect’ is permitted. While community facilities across adult learning, sport, leisure and culture functions were directed to close, a digital offer is facilitating some continuity in the community offer. Council facilities and working arrangements remain Covid-secure, allowing functionality permitted by national guidance to support the health and wellbeing of resident.

Outbreak management

- Management and prevention outbreaks continues to be a priority focus area and progress is reported to the Health and Wellbeing Board on a monthly basis. The schools, care homes and high risk business have responded well to identification, control and mitigation of outbreaks across the settings. Learning and best practice continues to be shared across sectors.

Safe places and enforcement

- Covid prevention assistants have been appointed and are undertaking proactive work on an intelligence led basis to ensure communities are safe
- Public protection team continue to undertake assessments and enforce regulations as appropriate, in close partnership working with Humberside Police

Test, Trace, Self-Isolate

- Financial support to help eligible people to self-isolate continues to be paid and the scheme has been extended to the end of March 2021.
- Local contact tracing arrangements are in place and are operating well with a contact rate of circa 95%

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NORTH LINCOLNSHIRE COUNCIL

CABINET

COVID-19 UPDATE: OPERATIONS

1. OBJECT AND KEY POINTS IN THIS REPORT

- 1.1 To update Cabinet on the progress responding to COVID-19 across Operations.
- 1.2 The response to date is set in the context of business continuity arrangements, legislation and national guidance and the COVID-19 mid-term recovery plan that was approved by Cabinet in December 2020.

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 guidance have been routed in the values, principles and ambitions of the council plan, the COVID-19 Mid-Term Recovery Plan and furthered through the strong partnerships within North Lincolnshire, framed under the following priorities:

- Keeping people safe and well
- Protecting vulnerable people
- Enabling communities to remain resilient
- Protecting the local economy

Whilst at the same time ensuring good governance and sound financial practice across the Council.

2.2 National advice and guidance has been incorporated into the local response as it has become available. The most recent national restrictions were announced on the 4 January 2021 and The Health Protection (Coronavirus, Restrictions) (No. 3) and (All Tiers) (England) (Amendment) Regulations 2021 came into force on the 6 January 2021.

2.3 The changing nature of COVID restrictions has required a flexible approach to switching between response and recovery and adapting as the situation changes. Teams across operations have demonstrated a willingness and

ability to work agilely and flexibly to ensure that where possible services and functions are sustained and to provide support to communities and minimising the impact of COVID-19.

2.4 Key headlines in operations functions response to COVID-19 include:

Keeping people safe and well

- 2.4.1 In line with government guidance office-based locations within the NLC portfolio remain closed with staff working from home where possible, with the exception of Church Square House which continues to operate with minimum occupancy levels for essential functions only. Staff who can work from home do so and have all been provided with the required equipment in order for them to do their job.
- 2.4.2 Operational buildings and services linked to service delivery such as highways, fleet, transport, waste services and the crematorium continue to operate in line with COVID secure guidelines. These are monitored by our facilities management team on a regular basis and building risk assessments being carried out.
- 2.4.3 In line with government guidance and restrictions our facilities management team maintain an overview of all council buildings and facilities, which includes regular safety checks on closed buildings and supporting the reopening of facilities when restrictions are lifted.
- 2.4.4 Covid prevention assistants have been recruited and deployed across North Lincolnshire to encourage compliance with government guidelines around social distancing, wearing face coverings etc
- 2.4.5 We have established a central Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) store where purchase, supply and distribution of PPE is coordinated from. This has enabled us to respond rapidly to any requests for PPE and to ensure that our staff have access to the right PPE to keep themselves and others safe. We also support the distribution of PPE to other settings including care homes and education establishments.

Protecting vulnerable people

- 2.4.6 Working in partnership we continue to provide accommodation for rough sleepers where possible.
- 2.4.7 Our transport services have continued through the pandemic adhering to the changing guidelines around transporting vulnerable children and also providing help to deliver essential services and supplies to vulnerable people. This has included the distribution of PPE and also community meals.
- 2.4.8 We continue to work with partners to ensure that council facilities are made available to support the rollout of community testing and vaccination programmes.

Enabling resilient communities

- 2.4.9 We continue to ensure our parks and open spaces remain open and safe for local residents to enjoy and access for their daily exercise. In addition, we have taken extra precautions in our town centres and urban spaces by installing signage and other safety measures to remind visitors to ensure social distancing, wear face coverings etc.
- 2.4.10 Through the pandemic our household recycling centres have remained open. This has enabled residents to continue to dispose of any excess waste appropriately.

Protect and enable the local economy

- 2.4.11 Through the pandemic commercial infrastructure programmes of work have continued wherever possible. This has included a number of highway improvement schemes, including measures to enhance active travel.
 - 2.4.12 .Our transport service works closely with bus operators to help them respond to the covid situation whilst keeping services operating to help people travel safely around the area.
 - 2.4.13 Our public protection team continue to support and advise businesses on their compliance obligations with enforcement actions only taken as a last resort. The team also play a critical role in working with businesses who have experienced a COVID-19 outbreak. This involves advice and assistance being provided in order to reduce the risk of any further transmission or outbreaks in order to help the business resume operations safely and as soon as possible.
- 2.5 Across the operations portfolio of services we continue to monitor guidance and legislation being published by government and apply as required in order to help suppress the virus and keep people safe and well.
 - 2.6 Business as usual is currently operating across all functions, with an agile and flexible approach being applied in order to be able to respond to any changes that arise. On occasions where staffing pressures have presented themselves, we have adopted a model of re-purposing staff to ensure critical services remain operational and in order to minimise service disruption.
 - 2.7 The safety and welfare of our workforce continues to be a priority. We have taken all appropriate measures to ensure our staff are able to operate in safe working environments and we undertake regular wellbeing assessments with staff and make adjustments as necessary.

3. OPTIONS FOR CONSIDERATION

- 3.1 Cabinet is invited to note the contents of this report.

4. ANALYSIS OF OPTIONS

- 4.1 A continued focus on the priorities and actions set out in the mid-term recovery plan inform our plans and enable operations to maintain business continuity and support an effective local response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

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

- 5.1 Resources associated with the council's response to the COVID-19 and the delivery of the mid-term recovery plan continue to be monitored and managed. The impact of funding assumptions and financial sustainability are regularly reported to Cabinet.

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

- 6.1 A council-wide approach to assessing and monitoring the implications and risks associated with COVID-19 has been adopted with mitigations being implemented as necessary in accordance with the legislative framework.

- 6.2 Any decisions taken are made in accordance with the Council's scheme of delegations.

7. OUTCOMES OF INTEGRATED IMPACT ASSESSMENT (IF APPLICABLE)

- 7.1 Not applicable.

8. OUTCOMES OF CONSULTATION AND CONFLICTS OF INTERESTS DECLARED

- 8.1 Ongoing consultation and collaboration with a range of national, regional, place partners and other key stakeholders is integral to our local response.

- 8.2 Staff are consulted on any changes implemented and regular meetings are held with recognised Trade Unions to keep them up to date and consult with them as appropriate.

- 8.3 There are no conflicts of interests associated with this report.

9. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 9.1 That cabinet note the response to COVID-19 as outlined in the report.

DEPUTY CHIEF EXECUTIVE & EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR - COMMERCIAL

Church Square House
SCUNTHORPE
North Lincolnshire
DN15 6NR
Author: Rachel Johnson
Date: 18 January 2020

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NORTH LINCOLNSHIRE COUNCIL

CABINET

COVID-19 Response: Adults and Community Wellbeing

1. OBJECT AND KEY POINTS IN THIS REPORT

- 1.1 To provide an update on the current position in respect of the COVID-19 response across functions within Adults and Community Wellbeing.
- 1.2 The response to date is set in the context of the business continuity arrangements, national guidance and the Council's Mid-term recovery plan.

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 people safe and well
 - protecting the local economy
 - enabling communities to remain resilient
 - protecting vulnerable people

Whilst at the same time ensuring good governance and sound financial practice across the Council.

- 2.2 National advice and guidance has been incorporated into the local response as it became available. The most recent national restrictions were announced on 4 January 2021 and The Health Protection (Coronavirus, Restrictions) (No. 3) and (All Tiers) (England) (Amendment) Regulations 2021 came into force on 6 January 2021.

- 2.3 The Council monitors the guidance daily issued by the government in relation to supporting vulnerable adults during the COVID-19 outbreak. This guidance is reviewed and where appropriate implemented and shared across the social care workforce of North Lincolnshire.
- 2.4 The Council has continued to provide all statutory services to adults with care and supports need throughout the pandemic although some external services have been reduced by the national restrictions, such as day support in the first wave.
- 2.5 In May 2020 the Care Home Support Plan was first published and has been continually reviewed, updated with actions identified and implemented throughout. The oversight group continues to meet twice weekly, overseeing the implementation of the plan and to oversee the management of outbreaks in care homes. Further support to the care sector during the pandemic to enable them to continue to provide quality care includes:
- The launch of the 'Proud to Care' recruitment portal to raise the profile of working in the care sector, supporting recruitment into the sector to create a sustainable workforce supporting people to be safe and well and remain independent in their own homes. Through the Proud to Care campaign and additional training, specialist skills and knowledge will be increased within the provider sector to support more complex people to live well in the community.
 - Regular contact and correspondence to provide support and information and understand the issues across the care home sector.
 - Support to implement care home testing and vaccination programmes.
 - Support and advice regarding visiting arrangements both in and out of care homes, when tiers were introduced, second and third periods of national restrictions and across the Christmas period.
 - Distribution of the 'Adult Social Care Infection Control Fund Round Two' to support Infection Prevention Control measures to reduce the rate of COVID-19 transmission within and between care settings, in particular by helping to reduce the need for staff movements between sites.
- 2.6 The 'Caring for the Carers survey' took place during September and October and provided an overview of the wellbeing of carers and the issues they face; they told us that:
- The impact of COVID-19 on their lives has been significant. They told us they felt safe but tired.
 - During the first period of national restrictions the lack of day care and the challenges in residential respite had impacted.

The Council has because of this insight supported external and voluntary providers of day care to ensure COVID-19 safe practice and sustainable opening arrangements are in place.

Support continues for people and carers to access on-line partnership meetings, by using technological and digital solutions to enable people to stay engaged and for the Council to hear their voices.

- 2.7 The Safeguarding Adults Board conference titled 'Listen to me and hear my voice' took place. It was facilitated and delivered in partnership with adults with lived experience and professionals. It was attended by over 200 people and the feedback was overwhelmingly positive.
- 2.8 The Winter plan policy paper was published setting out the key elements of the national support available to the care sector during the winter months. The Council, with local health and social care partners and the voluntary and community sector, worked together to ensure that North Lincolnshire was prepared for the additional winter pressures, particularly a growing resurgence of COVID-19 cases, to support vulnerable people. Actions taken to support individuals over winter include:
- Increased capacity for Home First Community, more people are wanting to remain at home for longer.
 - Full implementation of the new discharge to assess policy to ensure people continue to be safely discharged from hospital. In December, a targeted discharge event was undertaken over five weekdays focusing on reviewing everyone in hospital and the designated short stay placements. The aim was to return people home as quickly and safely as possible, in time for Christmas, and to free up capacity. This event has resulted in the hospital not experiencing the pressures reported in local areas this year. The process is being repeated to mainstream the practise into the future and to continue to apply the learning.
 - Working with the Voluntary, Community and Social Enterprise (VCSE) Alliance to support to the health and care system, including a series of collaborations to support a Community First Approach and the development of Community Champions as 'trusted leaders' in support of core public health messages.
 - Establishment of the Social Prescribing Alliance to support the initiation of Social Prescribing Link Workers across the PCN networks; supporting people at the earliest opportunity, to remain independent for as long as possible.
 - Further development of End-of-Life Care across all partners with an electronic solution to support coordination of care as well as training across all care providers.
- 2.9 Additional accommodation for younger adults became available and individuals moved into the Poplar Avenue supported living development.
- 2.10 The Independent Living Service, Home First Community was launched with the aim to provide early help and support, to enable individuals to continue living independently at home. This has proved helpful considering increased demand for community care at this time.
- 2.11 The health and wellbeing of the workforce is monitored through wellbeing assessments, provision of advice and information, and the launch of the 'Five Ways to Wellbeing' providing opportunities for virtual informal and formal meetings.

2.12 During this time the request for help and support has noticeably changed, with individuals expressing increased anxiety, low confidence, and stress. Individuals are requiring help with the lower-level aspects of daily living; less people are electing to enter care and are preferring to remain at home. The consequences of this, are the need to invest in a wider variety and increased offer of support at home, to continue to prioritise the most vulnerable to remain in their home. More people who have the ability to self-purchase support are seeking advice and guidance.

2.13 The Principal Social Worker continually monitors the overall workforce capacity to inform decisions regarding the enactment of any Care Act easements or re-designation of staff roles and responsibilities. This has not been required to date and remains under close review during this latest period of national restrictions.

3. OPTIONS FOR CONSIDERATION

3.1 Cabinet are asked to consider the report.

4. ANALYSIS OF OPTIONS

4.1 Business continuity across Adults and Community Wellbeing continues to be maintained.

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

5.1 The financial implications of COVID-19 are being closely monitored against the emergency funding from government. The impact of funding assumptions and financial sustainability are regularly reported to Cabinet.

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

6.1 Decision taken as part of the response to the crisis phase have been made in accordance with the Council's schemes of delegation.

7. OUTCOMES OF INTEGRATED IMPACT ASSESSMENT (IF APPLICABLE)

7.1 Not applicable for the purposes of this report.

8. OUTCOMES OF CONSULTATION AND CONFLICTS OF INTERESTS DECLARED

8.1 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
Date: 12 January 2021

Background Papers used in the preparation of this report: None

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NORTH LINCOLNSHIRE COUNCIL

CABINET

COVID 19 RESPONSE: BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT

1. OBJECT AND KEY POINTS IN THIS REPORT

- 1.1. Within the context of national restrictions, to provide an update on the response across the functions of Business Development
- 1.2. The response is set in the context of business continuity and the council priorities.

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 people and safe and well
 - protecting the local economy
 - enabling communities to remain resilient
 - protecting vulnerable people

Whilst at the same time ensuring good governance and sound financial practice across the Council.

- 2.2 National advice and guidance has been incorporated into the local response as it has become available. The most recent national restrictions were announced on 4 January 2021 and The Health Protection (Coronavirus, Restrictions) (No. 3) and (All Tiers) (England) (Amendment) Regulations 2021 came into force on 6 January 2021.
- 2.3 During this time the functions across Business Development have demonstrated resilience in responding quickly and flexibly to these

national restrictions to ensure the Council meets its priorities whilst responding to the COVID-19 outbreak.

Keeping People Safe and Well:

- 2.4 We have continued to demonstrate our agility as an organisation with many staff working remotely via strong technological solutions. With ongoing wellbeing assessments staff have been provided with necessary equipment and support to ensure homeworking remains safe and sustainable. Supporting critical workers who cannot work from home to attend work in risk assessed, COVID-19 secure environments.
- 2.5 Providing clear advice to the those employees who are Clinically Extremely Vulnerable and supporting all other employees who have a vulnerability in terms of COVID-19, by ensuring that Vulnerable Employee Risk Assessments are completed to make sure that we're all working in the safest way possible.
- 2.6 Facilitating the testing and reporting of positive cases and necessary isolations, monitoring these so that we have a clear and constant picture of our workforce resilience in order to support our communities.
- 2.7 Employees are kept up to date with the latest government guidance via the COVID-19 page on TOPdesk. This includes a suite of documents that are updated promptly when guidance changes:
 - COVID-19 Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)
 - COVID-19 Face Coverings FAQs
 - Testing policy
 - Vulnerable Employee Risk Assessment template and guidance notes
 - Wellbeing resources
 - Risk assessments/COVID-19 secure information for buildings
 - Links to forms for the reporting of positive cases and isolations.
 - Links to enable the ordering of PPE.
 - Links to the COVID-19 page on the council's website and YouTube channel.
- 2.8 To support national guidance and contribute to the public health prevention plan, a local contact tracing function is now established. This has been in place since 12th November 2020, and we are contact tracing for positive cases passed onto us from the national test and trace service. Local Contact tracing is being managed within our Registrars service and supported by community champions who postcard drop to residents who we are unable to contact via telephone. Additional staff have been recruited internally and externally and this operates as a 7-day function.

Protecting the Local Economy

2.9 Grants have played a major part in protecting the local economy. This work has been carried out with due diligence to ensure that the applicants were genuine and entitled to the payment. As a result we have not had to recall any payments.

2.10 The following highlights the the 2nd national restrictions grants paid to date and the grants paid moving into the revised tier system from 3 December 2020:

LRS ARG - (variable)		£493,242	(575)
LRS (sectors)		£0	(0)
LRS (open) - (variable)		£155,205	(534)
'Wet Pub'- (£1,000)		£66,000	(66)
LRS (closed) addendum			
	<£15k RV (£1,334)	£1,035,184	(776)
	<£51k RV (£2,000)	£252,000	(126)
	>£51k RV (£3,000)	£78,000	(26)
LRS (closed) addendum Total		£1,365,184	(928)
LRS (closed) adden (tier4)	<£15k RV (£667)	£334,834	(251)
	<£51k RV (£1,000)	£156,000	(78)
	>£51k RV (£1,500)	£60,000	(20)
LRS (closed) addendum Total		£550,834	(349)
Grants Total paid		£2,630,465	2,452)

2.11 Working closely with businesses who have Covid outbreaks, drawing together experts from PHE, Environmental Health, Trading Standards and Health & Safety to form an Incident Management Team. Calling in mobile testing units where required to contain the spread of the virus and minimise the impact on the business. Offering advice on Covid safe environments.

2.12 As a commercial landlord we have engaged with our tenants throughout the pandemic. In line with commercial principles and on a case by case basis we have supported those in difficulty through rent holidays and payment plans. This has enabled businesses to retain staff in employment.

2.13 A survey of all business sectors has been undertaken in order to establish a sound evidence base on which to develop a longer term Economic Recovery Plan.

Well Led Council

2.14 Additional reporting requirements in respect of grant funding have been maintained alongside responding to new grant allocations made in the context of the latest restrictions

2.15 Business as normal has continued across all functions, whilst simultaneously adapting and supporting the overall COVID-19 response.

3. OPTIONS FOR CONSIDERATION

3.1 Cabinet Members are asked to consider this report and note the updates

4. ANALYSIS OF OPTIONS

4.1 Business continuity is maintained across Business Development

4.2 HR Guidelines and Process enables the Council to meet its employer obligations and keep staff safe and well.

4.1 Support for businesses such as Incident Management Teams and Commercial rent negotiations has enabled businesses in North Lincolnshire to continue operating during this period.

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

5.1 Commercial income assumed within the Commercial property portfolio for 20/21 will not be realised. Recovery plans are in place for 21/22.

5.2 Sufficient staff time within Registrars has been retained to ensure that normal services to the public are not affected as a result of Local Contact Tracing.

5.3 The reallocation of staffing is consistent with the policies of the Council, including the voluntary deployment of staff.

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

6.1 All changes are in keeping with council priorities.

7. OUTCOMES OF INTEGRATED IMPACT ASSESSMENT (IF APPLICABLE)

7.1 N/A – responses are as a consequence of national direction.

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

8.1 Trade Unions have been consulted in respect of all HR changes

9. **RECOMMENDATIONS**

9.1 Cabinet Members are asked to consider this report and note the updates

DIRECTOR OF BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT

Church Square House
SCUNTHORPE
North Lincolnshire

Author: Helen Manderson
Date: 14 January 2021

Background Papers used in the preparation of this report:

None

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NORTH LINCOLNSHIRE COUNCIL

CABINET

COVID-19 RESPONSE: CHILDREN AND COMMUNITY RESILIENCE

1. OBJECT AND KEY POINTS IN THIS REPORT

- 1.1 To provide an update on the current position in respect of the COVID-19 response across functions within Children and Community Resilience.
- 1.2 The response to date is set in the context of the business continuity arrangements, national guidance and the Council's mid-term recovery plan.

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 people safe and well
 - protecting the local economy
 - enabling communities to remain resilient
 - protecting vulnerable people

Whilst at the same time ensuring good governance and sound financial practice.

- 2.2 National advice and guidance has been incorporated into the local response as it has become available. The most recent national restrictions were announced on 4 January 2021 and The Health Protection (Coronavirus, Restrictions) (No. 3) and (All Tiers) (England) (Amendment) Regulations 2021 came into force on 6 January 2021.
- 2.3 Children, young people, families and vulnerable adults have, in the main, shown tremendous resolve and resilience in these challenging circumstances leading to stability and positive outcomes.

Our staff and those who work closely with us, foster carers, carers and partners, have shown immense care and collaboration through this time, in their ongoing commitment to helping children and families improve their outcomes.

2.4 Across Children and Community Resilience, we continue to help and protect children, families and vulnerable adults, prioritising the most in need, while we support and protect our workforce. Staff have continued to work hard and show incredible resilience, flexibility and innovation in our response to COVID-19 and as reported to Cabinet in June 2020, provide comprehensive input to the additional expectations required in response to adapting to and preventing the impact of COVID-19. There is an ongoing focus on staff welfare, and wellbeing checks have been and continue to be undertaken across the service. A range of mechanisms have been embedded to provide opportunities for staff to engage with their peers and managers, for support and supervision.

2.5 Key headlines in Children and Community Resilience functions in response to COVID-19 include:

- Business has continued across all functions, whilst simultaneously adapting and supporting the overall COVID-19 response. We have maximised digital technology and capacity across the social care system through deployment of staff to specific functions to maintain our 'offer to children'.
- The Children's Commissioning Strategy, Helping Children and Families in North Lincolnshire document and the Children's Challenge have now been signed off. These strategic documents will set the foundations for driving forward partnership action and system change. Through our One Family Approach, we aim to create a system that works for all children, young people and families to achieve our ambition of children being in their families, in their schools and in their communities.
- There has been a continued focus on developing and implementing the One Family Approach which has been supported by workforce development sessions with leaders, managers and practitioners. There are emerging examples of staff utilising the approach and measure success within the context of their practice. The One Family Approach is being used and adopted within the provision of all services and adopted in the review and re-write of other area wide plans for example the Emotional Wellbeing and Mental Health, Best Start and Special Educational Needs Disabilities (SEND) and Inclusion plans.

- Under the auspices of the One Family Approach, there continues to be a focus on early help, and additional capacity is in place to co-ordinate early help activity and provide constructive challenge and support to meet the needs of children and families at the earliest point and through these challenging times
- Through the Integrated Children's Trust, there is a focus on maximising opportunities and maximising potential to address the hardship that children and families currently face within the context of COVID-19 and to contribute toward reducing inequalities and longer term disadvantage as a result of the pandemic.
- All cases open to children's social care are being reviewed in light of the Government guidance regarding the latest period of national restrictions w/c 4 January 2020.
- In line with Government guidance, and as deemed appropriate, there continues to be face to face contact with children and families in need of help and protection. This has been underpinned by local visiting guidance which is regularly updated to best reflect the current position.
- Virtual mechanisms have been embedded for engaging with children, young people and families leading to positive and enhanced engagement and outcomes.
- Key partnership meetings have continued virtually and there is evidence of strong partner contributions to assessments, plans and meetings at every stage of the child's journey. The Children's Multi Agency Resilience and Safeguarding (MARS) Board continues to meet virtually to have a line of sight on the safeguarding pathway.
- There is continued commitment to the Community Safety Partnership Board, Prevent Partnership Board and Channel Panel as well as strong partnership work on the front line as required.
- The Children's MARS Board remains committed to listening, learning, reviewing, and adapting which is reinforced by the republished local arrangements. There has been a range of scrutiny and assurance activity (including independent scrutiny).
- Services have continued to work within practice standards and we continue to develop creative solutions as part of our COVID-19 response and to meet our statutory and regulatory responsibilities. This is evidenced through regular monitoring, with leadership and management oversight, scrutiny and challenge.

- There has been a continuation of financial support mechanisms available for children and families facing hardship due to the pandemic. The COVID-19 winter grant has been rolled out to support vulnerable households and families with children through the winter period. A support package for children and families is in place and the local approach is to provide low income families with food vouchers and welfare assistance and support where needed. There will be a targeted approach to ensure those most in need can access the grants available.
- Nationally, there has been growing concern and focus on pre-birth to two year olds. Local practice has been reviewed and strengthened to mitigate the additional risk within the context of the pandemic. There are strengthened management oversight arrangements in place and enhanced connectivity between Children's Centres, FaSST, 0 to 19 and maternity services and we will continue to review this.
- There continues to be a priority focus on vulnerable children in education. The daily tasking meetings, which were established in April 2020 in response to COVID-19, are now embedded into practice and they are continually reviewed to reflect the changing context maintaining a one team approach to supporting more vulnerable children to access education as appropriate.
- There are robust support arrangements in place for Children in Care and Care Leavers. Foster carers have helped and supported children and young people and have gone over and above to care for children within this prolonged period and reinforced our high regard for them and their incredible commitment and valuable role they play.
- The 'Family Adoption Links' Regional Adoption Agency went live in October 2020 and North Lincolnshire is committed to contributing to a system that can achieve good outcomes for children and families. There is an ongoing focus on recruitment as a key priority area.
- We have continued to undertake family proceedings court work and North Lincolnshire has also led on the chairing of the fortnightly regional Humber Local Family Justice Board Sub Group. There is also a fortnightly youth court and a fortnightly trial court, both of which are operating well.
- There is an established multi agency communications group in place to proactively manage communication messages to contribute to children and families staying safe and well. A campaign has been launched, supported across the partnership, called #HowRUNorthLincs? which seeks to encourage local young people, parents, neighbours, and family members to look out for and ask the question 'how are you?'

Messages are going out across social media, promoting the 'what to do if' you have concern about children as well as an advice page signposting to trusted sources of information and self-help guidance. Work is taking place with the Youth Council to further develop a young people focused social media presence, and plans are developing to launch targeted communications for parents and carers.

- Care Call has continued to function as part of the whole team approach to supporting the most vulnerable. The Care Call Pendant service supports over 5000 vulnerable people and provides much needed support to people in their own homes.
- Advocacy services remain in place and have been adapting provision (including virtual services) to ensure we have a continued service in place for families and children and ongoing support for young people who go missing.
- Staff from Children and Community Resilience are continuing to support council work on enforcement, support for local communities and those who are clinically extremely vulnerable (shielding).
- There is ongoing activity to ensure preparedness for potential Ofsted notifications and a responsive approach to changes in inspection frameworks. Ofsted's Local Authority Social Care programme will restart in February 2021.
- The Ofsted Annual Engagement Meeting took place in November 2020 and was an opportunity to demonstrate a strong self-evaluation of all our services that help and protect children young people and families.
- The Families Initiative annual MHCLG spot check took place in December 2020 and was an opportunity to demonstrate our effective practice and the achievements and challenges of the local programme, which mirrors the principles of the One Family Approach. Positive feedback was received from the MHCLG.

3. OPTIONS FOR CONSIDERATION

- 3.1 Cabinet are asked to consider the report and note the update

4. ANALYSIS OF OPTIONS

- 4.1 Business continuity across Children and Community Resilience continues to be maintained and there is a continued focus on the wellbeing of our workforce.

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

5.1 The financial implications of COVID-19 are being closely monitored against the emergency funding from government. The impact of funding assumptions and financial sustainability are regularly reported to Cabinet.

5.2 There are children and families who need help and protection as a direct result of the pandemic who would not normally require services. Further support and capacity is likely to be required to support these families within the context of “hardship”

5.3 The recruitment and retention of children’s social workers and social care staff is a key priority.

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

6.1 Decision taken as part of the response to the crisis phase have been made in accordance with the Council’s schemes of delegation.

7. OUTCOMES OF INTEGRATED IMPACT ASSESSMENT (IF APPLICABLE)

7.1 Not applicable for the purposes of this report.

8. OUTCOMES OF CONSULTATION AND CONFLICTS OF INTERESTS DECLARED

8.1 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 CHILDREN AND COMMUNITY RESILIENCE

Church Square House
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North Lincolnshire
DN15 6NR

Author: Mick Gibbs

Date: 20 January 2021

Background Papers used in the preparation of this report: None

NORTH LINCOLNSHIRE COUNCIL

CABINET

COVID-19 RESPONSE: LEARNING, SKILLS & CULTURE

1. OBJECT AND KEY POINTS IN THIS REPORT

1.1. Within the context of the national restrictions announced on 4 January 2021, cabinet is asked to:

- a) note and endorse the changes made to community functions in accordance with the scheme of officer delegations
- b) approve the continued prioritisation of functions that are permissible within national guidance that contribute to the health and wellbeing of residents, specifically: access to open spaces, measures to support digital inclusion, access to literature through 'click and collect', a digital offer for adult learning, sport, leisure and culture functions and the development of Community Champions
- c) approve the intelligence-led, community-first approach to enabling people who are clinically extremely vulnerable to self-isolate and remain socially connected
- d) note and endorse the priorities for education and the principle-based approach to responding to national guidance within the education sector

2. BACKGROUND INFORMATION

2.1 The council's approach to business continuity in 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 people and our staff safe and well
- protecting the local economy
- enabling communities to remain resilient
- protecting the most vulnerable

At the same time, good governance and sound financial practice has been maintained across the Council.

- 2.2 National advice and guidance has been incorporated into the local response as it has become available. The most recent national restrictions were announced on 4 January 2021 and The Health Protection (Coronavirus, Restrictions) (No. 3) and (All Tiers) (England) (Amendment) Regulations 2021 came into force on 6 January 2021.

Community functions

- 2.3 In contrast to the first period of national restrictions of March 2020, the new restrictions afforded more opportunities for the council to continue an offer to residents in support of health and wellbeing. Specifically, access to open spaces, measures to support digital inclusion and access to literature through 'click and collect' is permitted. While community facilities across adult learning, sport, leisure and culture functions were directed to close, a digital offer is facilitating some continuity in the community offer. Council facilities and working arrangements remain Covid-secure, allowing functionality permitted by national guidance to support the health and wellbeing of residents.
- 2.4 Upper tier councils were also required to make arrangements for residents who are clinically extremely vulnerable and without support to access food, medicine and other basic needs. The local enabling approach builds on the experience of shielding during the first period of national restrictions (previously reported), the period of national restrictions in November 2020 and the subsequent requirements on North Lincolnshire as a 'tier 3' area. During this time, the council has enhanced its handling of data and intelligence to identify and support those people who may be most vulnerable. Partnership working with the voluntary and community sector has been further strengthened, enabling a 'community-first' response to ensuring people stay safe, well and connected throughout the period of national restriction.
- 2.5 North Lincolnshire Community Champions were recruited from December to enhance the understanding of public health messages within communities as the pandemic develops. Community Champions receive up to date information regarding Covid-19 on a weekly basis, along with ideas on how to support people within their communities who may be more vulnerable at this time. In return, Community Champions inform the council about what is working and what more might be done to prevent the spread of Covid-19. Post-Covid, Community Champions will evolve to add value to the council's priority for enabling resilient and flourishing communities.
- 2.6 Following a successful bid to government by the council and voluntary and community sector partners, a grant of £397K has been awarded to broaden and enhance the North Lincolnshire Community Champions approach. The grant is to support a range of interventions with residents who are most at risk of Covid-19, helping to build trust and empower at-risk groups to protect themselves and their families,

including residents of ethnically diverse communities. For specialist support, the North Lincolnshire approach prioritises extending reach to, people with a disability, those experiencing homelessness, drug and alcohol addiction, mental health conditions and sex workers.

- 2.7 Joint commissioning arrangements between the council and the CCG have been created to enable the recruitment, brokerage and development of volunteering across North Lincolnshire, led by the voluntary and community sector alliance. The partnership is also enabling the alliance as a place leader for supporting the sector to further strengthen and increase their capacity.
- 2.8 With a range of community services being suspended or moved to alternative means of delivery, staff are once again being deployed to support the council's priorities and meeting the requirements to support clinically extremely vulnerable residents.

Education functions

- 2.9 From the onset of national restrictions in March 2020, schools, colleges and settings have played an important role in ensuring that children and young people are safe and well and sustain a sense of connectivity to their peers and teachers. Across North Lincolnshire, there are many examples of the contribution made to the wider community by schools and settings, and leaders have been diligent in supporting public health intelligence and outbreak management. As a result, despite periods of disruption, most schools, colleges and settings have remained open for most children and young people for most of the time that they have been permitted to.
- 2.10 National guidance continues to be issued as policy evolves in response to the pandemic, notably in aspects such as lateral flow testing, remote learning, support for vulnerable children and access to free school meals.
- 2.11 the council response continues to prioritise:
- enabling leadership of settings to support the prevention of Covid-19, including contributing to public health intelligence and managing outbreaks
 - coordinating and overseeing school and setting responses to national guidance and requirements relating to Covid-19
 - ensuring access to settings, including admission and transport duties
 - sustaining SEND functionality
 - supporting vulnerable children and their families to access their learning and broader entitlements, including free school meals
 - ensuring sufficiency of childcare places for critical workers
 - ensuring stability in leadership across the education sector
 - enabling trainee teachers to complete their qualification

- 2.12 In the role of facilitator and enabler, the council has worked closely with the local managerial associations and trades unions to ensure that responses have been timely, joined up and focused on the priorities of the moment. Informed by local context, the local authority has advocated for children and setting leaders through the regional and national structures.
- 2.13 The North Lincolnshire education response throughout the pandemic has been guided by a principled approach. Going forward, this mean that the local system for education will continue:
1. being informed by local public health intelligence when responding to national guidance
 2. supporting leaders to implement national advice and guidance and to enact local prevention and outbreak management responses
 3. trusting headteachers and principals, working with their governors and trusts where applicable, to make sound decisions for each school based on their deep knowledge of children’s needs, communities, staff and school facilities
 4. prioritising the wellbeing and learning of vulnerable children and children of critical workers
 5. implementing our one family approach during Covid, realigning resources in support of vulnerable children, families and schools

A principled approach has effectively steered the local system through the phases of the pandemic and as policy has evolved.

3. **OPTIONS FOR CONSIDERATION**

- 3.1 Within the context of the national restrictions announced on 4 January 2021, the cabinet is asked to:
- a) **note and endorse the changes made to community functions in accordance with the scheme of officer delegations**
 - b) **approve the continued prioritisation of functions that are permissible within national guidance that contribute to the health and wellbeing of residents, specifically: access to open spaces, measures to support digital inclusion, access to literature through ‘click and collect’, a digital offer for adult learning, sport, leisure and culture functions and the development of Community Champions**
 - c) **approve the intelligence-led, community-first approach to enabling people who are clinically extremely vulnerable to self-isolate and remain socially connected**

d) note and endorse the priorities for education and the principle-based approach to responding to national guidance within the education sector

4. ANALYSIS OF OPTIONS

- 4.1 Cabinet members noting officer decisions is an act of transparency and supports democratic oversight in a fast-moving policy environment.
- 4.2 The proposed prioritisation and digital provision allows the council to contribute so far as is possible to the health and wellbeing of residents, while adhering to the national requirements at this time. The continuation of adult learning supports contract value being achieved and, moreover, supports residents in their future opportunities.
- 4.3 The intelligence-led, community-first approach to the requirements for supporting people who are clinically extremely vulnerable is consistent with the council's values. The approach enables vulnerable residents to feel connected and to be connected within the places that they live, creating a legacy of community resilience to sustain beyond the pandemic.
- 4.4 Sustaining a partnership approach to enabling the education sector throughout the pandemic is informing a system wide response, while the principled approach is enabling leaders to make confident decisions for their school, college or setting based on their own context and responsibilities.

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

- 5.1 The reallocation of staffing is consistent with the policies of the Council, including the policy for the deployment of staff in emergency situations.
- 5.2 Sufficient staff time for maintaining specialist site-specific community functions has been retained so that sites remain safe during the suspension of service and commercially viable once public restrictions are lifted.
- 5.3 Currently offset by Covid-related grants, commercial income assumed within the council's budget for 2020/21 will not be realised e.g., suspension of membership fees across leisure and lost income from events.
- 5.4 Changes to community functions have been communicated through the usual channels of the council and directly to individual service users where possible.

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

6.1 Resumption of community functions will be dependent on lifting of national restrictions. To ensure sustainable operating conditions, priority will be given to bringing the commercial offer back on stream. Secondary will be making a community offer through the six community hubs at Ashby-Riddings, Barton, Brigg, Crowle, Epworth and Scunthorpe Central. Finally, the wider offer will be determined by community capacity to adopt functions important to their communities. E.g. the resumption of community run libraries.

7. OUTCOMES OF INTEGRATED IMPACT ASSESSMENT (IF APPLICABLE)

7.1 N/A – responses are as a consequence of national direction.

8. OUTCOMES OF CONSULTATION AND CONFLICTS OF INTERESTS DECLARED

8.1 The local approaches outlined in this report are informed by ongoing discussion with leaders across schools, settings and colleges, their managerial association representatives and trades unions representatives and through partnership arrangements with the voluntary and community sectors.

9. RECOMMENDATIONS

9.1 Within the context of the national restrictions announced on 4 January 2021, the cabinet is asked to:

- a) note and endorse the changes made to community functions in accordance with the scheme of officer delegations
- b) approve the continued prioritisation of functions that are permissible within national guidance that contribute to the health and wellbeing of residents, specifically: access to open spaces, measures to support digital inclusion, access to literature through 'click and collect', a digital offer for adult learning, sport, leisure and culture functions and the development of Community Champions
- c) approve the intelligence-led, community-first approach to enabling people who are clinically extremely vulnerable to self-isolate and remain socially connected
- d) note and endorse the priorities for education and the principle-based approach to responding to national guidance within the education sector

DIRECTOR OF LEARNING, SKILLS & CULTURE

Church Square House
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North Lincolnshire

Author: Pete Thorpe
Date: 20 January 2021

Background Papers used in the preparation of this report: None

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NORTH LINCOLNSHIRE COUNCIL

CABINET

COVID-19 RESPONSE: GOVERNANCE AND PARTNERSHIPS

1. OBJECT AND KEY POINTS IN THIS REPORT

- 1.1 To provide an update on the current position in respect of the Covid-19 response across functions within Governance and Partnerships.
- 1.2 The response to date is set in the context of the business continuity arrangements, national guidance and the Council's Mid-term recovery plan.

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 people safe and well
 - protecting the local economy
 - enabling communities to remain resilient
 - protecting vulnerable people

Whilst at the same time ensuring good governance and sound financial practice across the Council.

- 2.2 National advice and guidance has been incorporated into the local response as it has become available. The most recent national restrictions were announced on 4 January 2021 and The Health Protection (Coronavirus, Restrictions) (No. 3) and (All Tiers) (England) (Amendment) Regulations 2021 came into force on 6 January 2021.
- 2.3 Teams across Governance and Partnerships have demonstrated great resilience and flexibility during the COVID 19 pandemic and as reported to Cabinet in June 2020 provided a comprehensive input to the additional

expectations required in response to adapting to and preventing the impact of COVID-19.

- 2.4 Throughout the pandemic there has been minimal disruption to the delivery of services and functions across Governance and Partnerships. The vast majority of teams have been working from home and adapting systems and process accordingly to ensure performance has been maintained in response to change in activity and demand patterns over this period:
- Customer Services – service delivery has been maintained across housing benefits, council tax, business rates, customer contact centre, adult financial assessments, personal budgets, blue badge with remote access and on-line tools developed to enable service continuity. In addition to COVID-19 response: council tax hardship; self-isolation payment; business rates reliefs; personal payment plans; flexible extension of contact centre operating and adaptation of customer portal for COVID-19 related enquiries and new financial hardship response in partnership with Citizen’s advice bureau.
 - IT - enabling the council to operate in an agile way, access systems remotely; ensuring continuity, availability, safety and security of all council systems, data and information; enabling new contact methods for COVID-19 whilst supporting the implementation and development of new systems and digital capabilities and robust information governance arrangements including the processing of Freedom of Information, Subject Access and Environmental Information Requests.
 - Legal and Democracy - Legal work has continued as the Courts adopted virtual hearings and we have extended the use of electronic case bundles for court proceeding. The electoral register has been fully updated, making use of enhanced online processes. The civic duties of the Mayor have continued, enabled through increase use of remote access and virtual events throughout the pandemic. Remote meetings of neighbourhood action teams, education appeal hearings and Youth Council activities have meant business continues.
 - Finance and Commissioning - Maintained strong contract management relationships with providers of commissioned services to ensure continued service delivery to vulnerable children, adults and families in addition to ensuring contracts being delivered are COVID-19 regulation compliant. The Council’s finances have been managed well, ensuring healthy cash-flows available for the additional payments for residents and business in respect of COVID-19 grants. The Accounts for 2019/20 being prepared ahead of revised timescales – and received by Audit Committee with a clean bill of health from the External Auditors.
- 2.5 Key headlines in Governance and Partnerships functions as part of the council team response to Covid-19 include:

Keeping people safe and well

- In line with the 'Stay at Home' requirements of the national restrictions, all democratic decision making meetings continue to be held using MS Teams, with public access available to view live meetings. The regulations that were introduced at the start of the pandemic to enable 'virtual' meetings to take place with elected members attending remotely up to 7 May 2021. During this time there have been 51 executive and non-executive public meetings of the Council, including a Full Council meeting. Over 1,000 hits have been made from remote public access to these meetings to date.
- Preparations have commenced in respect of the local by-elections and Humberside Police and Crime Commissioner Elections on 6 May 2021. The arrangements will be guided by the Electoral Commission in respect of COVID-19 requirements and risk assessments in consultation with Public Health advice.

Protecting the local economy

- Access to the local land registry is now available digitally, enabling personal search companies to safely access the required information remotely.
- As part of the initial response to support suppliers with their cash flows we changed our payment processes to enable speedier payments, these continue to operate. Also, mechanisms are still in place for supplier relief support for those providers where delivery against contracts have been affected.
- Finance and Audit contribution to ensuring accurate, robust and timely payments to local businesses affected by the national restrictions whilst managing the impact on the council's cash flow of grants paid out compared to the government funding received.
- As the business rates billing year draws to a close, we continue to offer advice and support in respect of payment plans for businesses who may have been financially impacted by COVID-19.

Protecting vulnerable people

- Ensuring that commissioned services are operating to the national restrictions and guidance and co-ordinating contact between providers and the Clinical Commissioning Group lead for the purposes of the vaccination implementation.
- The Contact Centre facility has been mobilised as part of the whole team approach to supporting the clinically extremely vulnerable.
- Continuation of the financial support mechanisms available for people facing economic hardship due to the pandemic. The Test and Trace Self Isolation grant has been extended to the end of March 2021. In addition, council tax hardship support and advice and guidance with council tax payment plans remain an integral part of the COVID-19 response.

Well led Council

- The financial impact of COVID-19 continues to be closely monitored. Additional reporting requirements in respect of national funding have been maintained alongside responding to new allocations made in the context of the latest restrictions. This includes audit and assurance of our systems and processes being reported as required.

3. OPTIONS FOR CONSIDERATION

- 3.1 Cabinet are asked to consider the report and note the update

4. ANALYSIS OF OPTIONS

- 4.1 Business continuity across governance and Partnerships continues to be maintained.
- 4.2 The positive working practices that have been successfully embedded throughout this period continue to inform our plans for recovery and emergence from the current restrictions.

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

- 5.1 The financial implications of COVID are being closely monitored against the emergency funding from government. The impact of funding assumptions and financial sustainability are regularly reported to Cabinet.

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

- 6.1 Decision taken as part of the response to the crisis phase have been made in accordance with the Council's schemes of delegation.

7. OUTCOMES OF INTEGRATED IMPACT ASSESSMENT (IF APPLICABLE)

- 7.1 Not applicable for the purposes of this report.

8. OUTCOMES OF CONSULTATION AND CONFLICTS OF INTERESTS DECLARED

- 8.1 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 GOVERNANCE AND PARTNERSHIPS

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Author: Becky McIntyre
Date: 12 January 2021

Background Papers used in the preparation of this report: None

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NORTH LINCOLNSHIRE COUNCIL

CABINET

Adults Social Care: End of year performance 2019/20

1. OBJECT AND KEY POINTS IN THIS REPORT

- 1.1 To seek Cabinet approval to publish the end of year performance outturn for Adult services.
- 1.2 The Council remains in the top 10 in England, for the number of Adult Social Care Outcomes measures in the top quartile.
- 1.3 The Council continues to support people to remain safe and well.

2. BACKGROUND INFORMATION

- 2.1. The National Adult Social Care Outcome Framework (ASCOF) comparator information for 2019/20 has been published, enabling North Lincolnshire Council to understand outcomes for local people and compare performance with other Councils in England, regionally and our comparator authorities.
- 2.2 These measures help us to understand how we enable the people of North Lincolnshire to be Safe, Well, Prosperous and Connected and how we are contributing to North Lincolnshire's priorities of 2019/20, which were:
 - Growing the economy
 - Keeping people safe and well
 - Enabling communities to flourish

2.3 **Feedback from people who receive support** - the views of people who use services are gathered through an annual survey called the 'National Adult Social Care User Survey'. The results of the survey for 2019/20 were very positive for North Lincolnshire, with more people reporting a good quality of life and telling us they feel safe as a result of the support they receive.

More people told us they are satisfied with the adult social care support they receive, enabling them to have control over their daily lives. This information helps us to continue to enable people to remain independent and connected to their communities.

One person told us "I feel the support I received enabled me to start re-living my life feeling safe and well."

Of the eight measures in the survey, seven were above the England and regional outcomes, demonstrating North Lincolnshire Council continues to prioritise the most vulnerable, enabling people to live the life they want to live.

2.4 **Feedback from carers** - The Carers Survey supports the Council to understand how services enable carers to be safe, have good health and wellbeing, and improved quality of life.

For all five questions asked of carers in North Lincolnshire, responses placed us above England, regional and comparator group outcomes and in the top England quartile. This tells us that carers:

- are happy with the care and support they receive
- are included in the plan for the person they care for
- experience a good quality of life
- have as much social contact as they would like
- find it easy to find advice and information

2.5 **People's needs are met early** - during 2019/20 the council supported 11,959 people with early help to remain independent.

Home First continued to provide rehabilitation, supporting people to remain at home longer, maintain their independence and keep connected to their community. North Lincolnshire remains above the England, regional and comparator group outcomes for availability and effectiveness of Rehabilitation and Reablement services, providing assurance that people are enabled to remain independent for as long as possible.

A person who received rehabilitation support told us “I didn’t think I would ever be able to get out on my own again, but today I managed to get to the post office.”

North Lincolnshire continued to work to support people to return home from hospital as quickly and safely as possible, reducing the negative impact that an unnecessary stay in hospital may have on their health and wellbeing. This is evidenced by the overall delays of stays in hospital being 7.6 per 100,000 compared to 10.8 nationally and a social care outturn of 1.7 compared to the England average of 3.2.

- 2.6 **Choice and control** - during 2019/20 the council supported 2,092 people with longer term needs to have choice and control over the way they want to live their life.

All people in receipt of longer-term services received self-directed support to enable them to have choice and control over how they receive and manage their support. People have full knowledge of their level of subsidy and are able to choose the mechanisms for managing their personal budget.

The England average for providing self-directed support is 91.9% with North Lincolnshire providing self-directed support to 100% of people receiving longer term support. More people than last year chose to take this as a direct payment, maintaining a position well above the England average.

The positive outcome in relation to choice and control is equally applicable in respect of carers. More carers than the England average have control and full knowledge of their personal budget.

- 2.7 **People are able to live independently** – The Council is committed to enhancing the quality of life for people in receipt of a longer-term service.

We are supporting more people to remain at home, reducing the need for older people to access long term residential and nursing placements, and we have supported more people of working age to live independently.

A person who moved into their own home told us “my confidence and self-esteem have improved now that I am living in a place of my own. I feel very settled and secure and now even have my own pet.”

Our priority continues to be to develop housing options for people as an alternative accommodation to residential care.

- 2.8 **Employment** - the number of people in employment with mental health needs or a learning disability continues to be below the England

average. The employment figures are drawn from the number of people with complex needs who are in paid employment.

North Lincolnshire Council is committed to improving the life chances of adults with higher needs and champions the right to an 'ordinary life' by seeking to increase employment opportunities. Further work will now be undertaken to address this area.

3. OPTIONS FOR CONSIDERATION

3.1 Cabinet notes agrees to publish the performance outturn for Adults

4. ANALYSIS OF OPTIONS

4.1 Assurance is provided to Cabinet, that the Council is prioritising the most vulnerable and achieving better outcomes for the people of North Lincolnshire.

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

5.1 None

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

6.1 None

7. OUTCOMES OF INTEGRATED IMPACT ASSESSMENT (IF APPLICABLE)

7.1 N/A

8. OUTCOMES OF CONSULTATION AND CONFLICTS OF INTERESTS DECLARED

8.1 NHS England surveys to carers and people receiving services were conducted and contributed to the 2019/20 performance outturn.

9. RECOMMENDATIONS

9.1 Cabinet notes agrees to publish the performance outturn for Adults.

DIRECTOR OF ADULTS AND COMMUNITY WELLBEING

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Date: January 2020

Appendix 1

Feedback from people who receive support and carers

Adult Social Care Survey Question	NL Outturn 2019/20	England Outturn	Regional Outturn	Comparator Outturn
Social Care related quality of life	19.6	19.1	19.1	19.1
Control over daily life	79.6%	77.3%	75.2%	77.2%
Social contact	51.0%	45.9%	46.2%	46.4%
Quality of life	0.445	0.401	0.378	0.416
Overall satisfaction with care and support	66.9%	64.2%	64.0%	64.9%
Information about services is easy to find	67.1%	68.4%	68.1%	67.6%
People who use services feeling safe	75.4%	70.2%	69.7%	70.2%
People feeling safe and secure as a result of services	91.4%	86.9%	88.5%	87.7%
Carer reported quality of life	8.0	7.5	7.7	7.6
Carers social contact	39.4%	32.5%	35.8%	29.1%
Carers overall satisfaction with care and support	44.1%	38.6%	39.7%	42.9%
Carer included/consulted in discussion about person cared for	74.6%	69.9%	70.9%	73.7%
Carers - information about services is easy to find	76.2%	62.4%	63.0%	67.0%

People have their needs met early

Adult Social Care Survey Question	NL Outturn 2019/20	England Outturn	Regional Outturn	Comparator Outturn
Delayed Transfers of Care (Low Number is Good)	7.6	10.8	9.4	8.2
Delayed Transfers of Care (Joint Social Care and NHS) (Low Number is Good)	0.6	1.0	1.0	0.7
Delayed Transfers of Care (Social Care)	1.7	3.2	2.7	2.6
Reablement/Rehabilitation (Effectiveness of Service)	89.6%	82.0%	80.4%	82.5%
Reablement/Rehabilitation (Availability of Service)	2.8%	2.6%	2.4%	2.4%
Outcomes from Short Term Support	91.4%	79.5%	73.1%	82.2%

People have choice and control

Adult Social Care Survey Question	NL Outturn 2019/20	England Outturn	Regional Outturn	Comparator Outturn
Self-Directed Support (people who receive services)	100%	91.9%	88.5%	92.6%
Direct Payments (people who receive services)	41.4%	27.9%	26.7%	27.9%
Self-Directed Support (Carers)	100%	86.9%	79.9%	83.3%
Direct Payments (Carers)	100%	77.1%	73.0%	78.4%

People live independently

Adult Social Care Survey Question	NL Outturn 2019/20	England Outturn	Regional Outturn	Comparator Outturn
New Long-Term Admissions (18-64) (Low Number is Good)	17.0	14.6	17.8	14.0
New Long-Term Admissions (65+) (Low Number is Good)	578.4	584.0	654.8	631.6
Learning Disability Independence	79.2%	77.3%	90.9%	82.3%
Mental Health Independence	33%	58%	67%	59%

Employment

Adult Social Care Survey Question	NL Outturn 2018/19	England Outturn	Regional Outturn	Comparator Outturn
Learning Disability Paid Employment	3.2%	5.6%	6.3%	5.7%
Mental Health Paid Employment	6%	9%	11%	8%

NORTH LINCOLNSHIRE COUNCIL

CABINET

Local Safeguarding Adults Board Annual Report 2019/20

1. OBJECT AND KEY POINTS IN THIS REPORT

- 1.1 Cabinet to note the publication of the Local Safeguarding Adults Board (LSAB) Annual Report outlining the work of the LSAB and its members to carry out and deliver the objectives of the strategic plan.
- 1.2 The contents of the report should be considered in relation to planning, commissioning and budget setting.
- 1.3 The report demonstrates that the LSAB:
 - listens and responds to the voices of adults with care and support needs, and adults with the lived experience
 - is effective in providing help and protection to adults with care and support needs
 - effectively meets statutory obligations
 - benefits from strong and consistent leadership
 - has made good progress on delivering the strategic objectives laid out within the strategic plan

2. BACKGROUND INFORMATION

- 2.1 The Care Act places the council's duties in respect of safeguarding adults with care needs who are at risk of abuse or neglect on a statutory basis.
- 2.2 The LSAB has a statutory requirement to publish an annual report, which offers assurance that local safeguarding arrangements and partnerships help and protect adults with care and support needs in its area. The annual report details the work of the LSAB during the year to achieve its main objectives, and deliver the strategic plan priorities, as well as detailing the findings of any Safeguarding Adult Reviews (SARs) that may have been undertaken.
- 2.3 The 2019/20 annual report has been approved and will be published on the NLSAB website.

- 2.4 The annual report is required to be distributed through relevant governance routes across safeguarding partner organisations. The contents of the report should be considered in relation to planning, commissioning and budget setting. Organisations should fully consider the contents of the annual report how they can improve their contributions to both safeguarding throughout their own organisation, and to the joint work of the LSAB.
- 2.5 The Care Act 2014 also requires the report to be submitted to the Local Police and Crime Commissioner, Chief Constable, chair of the Health & Wellbeing Board and Healthwatch via LSAB board members.
- 2.6 The annual report provides details of progress in relation to the boards strategic plan, and the six strategic priorities, which are:
- Prevention
 - Proportionality
 - Partnership
 - Empowerment
 - Protection
 - Accountability
- 2.7 The key achievements, and the positive impacts for adults with care and support needs and their families highlighted within the report are:
- There is a clear demonstrable commitment to safeguard and support adults with care and support needs, and their families across the area, through representation at the board by senior managers of all organisations.
 - There is a strong focus on engaging with and listening to adults, and their families to understand their views and experiences, these have been included within our strategic plan.
 - Adults with care and support needs were supported to design materials to enable them to share the safeguarding message amongst their family and friends, through workshops held in care homes.
 - Adults and their families are empowered to help them to recognise the signs of abuse, know how to report concerns and seek help to keep themselves and others safe - as a result several easy read documents have been co-produced and are now available on the website.
 - Information available to adults and their families in relation to the Mental Capacity Act 2005 has been strengthened.
 - There are strong relationships with the other key strategic partnerships – the Children’s Multi-agency and Resilience Safeguarding, Adults Voice Partnership, and the Community Safety Partnership.
 - To ensure that young people and their families feel supported when transitioning from childhood to adulthood, a joint plan with children’s services has been developed.

- There is ongoing development and implementation of our scrutiny and assurance framework, thematic and agency specific assurance events and practice learning line of sight events leading to changes in practice where appropriate.
- In order to help partners make continued improvements in keeping adults safe, learning from reviews have been shared.
- To ensure that the voice of the adult is central to safeguarding, several 7-minute briefings have been produced to support professionals.
- To help empower adults and their families, making safeguarding personal training sessions have been delivered to the Cross Sector Provider Partnership.
- Communications through the LSAB website have been enhanced as a means of sharing information and communication and publicising key documents, tools, and resources with adults and their families, as well as partner agencies.
- The safeguarding data shows the voices of the adult and their families are being listened to, the data dashboard has also been updated.

Future priorities

The board will continue to raise awareness of safeguarding and ensure that safeguarding duties are embedded into partner practice. The board is committed to continuing to work in partnership to seek assurance and ensure that safeguarding practice within North Lincolnshire is continually reviewed and improved.

In 2020/21 the board will be reviewing policies and procedures, considering experiences as a partnership to continue to improve and develop safeguarding practice.

The board will be focusing on engaging with, listening to, and learning from adults and their families to ensure a greater awareness of their views and experiences of safeguarding.

A key priority for the board in 2020/21 is to gain assurance from partner agencies about how any impact of Covid-19 on local safeguarding arrangements is being managed, particularly looking at how the current situation is impacting on adults who have care and support needs and on the effectiveness of safeguarding arrangements within North Lincolnshire. We will ensure that safeguarding remains a priority.

3. OPTIONS FOR CONSIDERATION

- 3.1 To note the publication of the LSAB annual report outlining what the LSAB and its members have done to carry out and deliver the objectives of the strategic plan.
- 3.2 The contents of the report should be considered in relation to planning, commissioning and budget setting.

4. ANALYSIS OF OPTIONS

4.1 None, for information only

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

5.1 None, for information only

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

6.1 None

7. OUTCOMES OF INTEGRATED IMPACT ASSESSMENT (IF APPLICABLE)

7.1 Not applicable

8. OUTCOMES OF CONSULTATION AND CONFLICTS OF INTERESTS DECLARED

8.1 There has been a range of consultation with adults who have care and support needs, adults with lived experience, as well as safeguarding partners and relevant agencies in the work of the NLASB, and implementation of the strategic plan. There will be further engagement opportunities as we continue to listen, learn, adapt, and review.

9. RECOMMENDATIONS

9.1 To receive the LSAB Annual Report 2019/20 and consider this where relevant in relation to planning, commissioning and budgets setting processes.

DIRECTOR: ADULTS AND COMMUNITY WELLBEING

Church Square House
30-40 High Street
Scunthorpe
North Lincolnshire
DN15 6NL

Author: Helen Rose Board Manager
Date: 22 December 2020

Appendix - LSAB Annual Report 2019/20

North Lincolnshire

Safeguarding Adults Board

Annual Report
2019-2020

Page 91



Foreword

It is my pleasure to introduce the 2019 / 20 annual report for North Lincolnshire Safeguarding Adults Board. We have had another busy and productive year as the report demonstrates. As Chair of the Board I would like to thank members for their commitment and hard work throughout the year, particularly for their support in developing our new strategic plan and partnership agreement, and on the progress that has been made in meeting the Board's strategic priorities.

During the year, the board have been looking at strengthening existing processes which support the transition arrangements between childhood and adulthood, developing pathways to implement the transitional safeguarding arrangements. We continue to work positively with the new children's safeguarding partnership arrangements and the overarching North Lincolnshire community safety partnership to streamline our priorities and address areas of common concern.

The board continues to monitor safeguarding activity in North Lincolnshire, looking at how we compare regionally and with the national picture. This includes looking at numbers of enquiries and outcomes, the extent to which people feel involved in decision making throughout the enquiry, the involvement of advocates and the quality of local care provision. Analysing this information helps us to identify themes and trends in safeguarding, informing areas for future development, innovation, and improvement. Board members are fully committed to the principle that safeguarding adults is everyone's responsibility. We want to ensure that all the communities in North Lincolnshire are equipped to play their part in preventing, detecting, and reporting neglect and abuse.

As part of its statutory duties, the board carried out an independent Safeguarding Adults Review (SAR) in relation to Adult A. Significant work has been undertaken by partners to understand how agencies could work better together to safeguard adults at risk in such circumstances. The SAR has been published on our website and has provided us with important learning to take forward in the future. The board is grateful for the way in which the family and partner organisations engaged with and contributed to this review.

I look forward to building on our progress and meeting the objectives identified within our strategic plan. As partners we will continue to learn and reflect on how we can work together to improve safeguarding practice within North Lincolnshire, raising awareness on how we all play a part in keeping people safe and making sure that the voices of people with lived experience are heard in everything we do.



Moira Wilson

Safeguarding Adults Board
Independent Chair

Moira Wilson

Introduction

This Annual Report details the work carried out by the North Lincolnshire Safeguarding Adults Board (NLSAB), to fulfil its statutory responsibilities for strategic development and oversight of adult safeguarding across the North Lincolnshire area.

The report covers the one-year period (1 April 2019 – 31 March 2020) highlighting the board's progress and achievements in delivering the priorities and objectives identified in its agreed Strategic Plan 2019-2022. The report includes how partners have contributed to the work of the board to promote effective adult safeguarding.

Safeguarding principles that support and guide our approach:

- Proportionality
- Prevention
- Partnership
- Protection
- Accountability
- Empowerment

Key Achievements

- Adults with a lived experience, their carers and board members have worked together with board members to publish its new Strategic Plan for the next three years (2019 -2022).
- The board has aligned its overarching strategic priorities, objectives, and its subgroups to the six principles of safeguarding.
- The board has had a sustained level of attendance and participation from members. There is a clear commitment to safeguard adults across the area.
- Board partners refreshed the North Lincolnshire LSAB Partnership Agreement, executive leads of our member organisations have signed the document to signal agreement to work together within North Lincolnshire to deliver the ambitions as set out within the strategic plan.
- The board has effective links with a number of strategic partnerships within North Lincolnshire, including Children's Multi-Agency and Resilience Safeguarding Board (CMARS), Community Safety Partnership (CSP), Adults Partnership and the Health and Wellbeing Board.
- The board has undertaken bespoke and participatory safeguarding workshops with local care homes, voluntary organisations and partner agencies.
- The board participated in a task and finish group to review all data dashboards across the Yorkshire & Humber region.
- The quality of the social care provider sector is higher than the national average in North Lincolnshire, with 87% of providers rated as either good or outstanding.
- More enquiries in North Lincolnshire than the England average led to risks being removed and making people be safe.
- The board have reviewed policies and procedures to help ensure effectiveness in our safeguarding practise.
- The board was part of a regional group which contributed to the completion of a national framework around safeguarding concern decision-making.

About the North Lincolnshire Safeguarding Adults Board

The NLSAB brings together partner organisations to work together to on priorities to reduce the risks for adults with care and support needs in respect of abuse and neglect. The board is a statutory partnership with specific duties and functions as set out within the Care Act 2014.

The overarching purpose of the board is to ensure effective co-ordination of response and services to safeguard and promote the welfare of local adults who may be at risk of abuse and harm. It does this by:

- Assuring itself that local safeguarding arrangements are in place as defined within the Care Act 2014.
- Assuring itself that practice is person-centred and outcome focussed.
- Working collaboratively to prevent abuse and neglect where possible.
- Ensuring that agencies and practitioners give timely and proportionate responses when abuse or neglect have occurred.
- Assuring itself that safeguarding practice is continuously improving and enhancing the quality of life of adults in its area.

The duties of the board as set out within the Care Act 2014 include:

- The publication of a strategic plan, outlining how the board will meet its objectives and how member organisations will support the delivery of the plan.
- The publication of an annual report, providing details of the work of the partnership to implement the strategy and achieve its objectives during the previous year.
- The commissioning of Safeguarding Adult Reviews (SARs) under section 44 of the Care Act 2014.

The NLSAB is made up of senior officers nominated by each member agency. Members have sufficient delegated authority to effectively represent their agency and make decisions on their agency's behalf, and, if they are unable to attend board meetings for any reason, they send a nominated representative of sufficient seniority.

Board Membership

Core statutory members:

- North Lincolnshire Council
- North Lincolnshire Clinical Commissioning Group
- Humberside Police

Additional members:

- Regulated health and social care provider representative
- Humberside Fire and Rescue Service
- Northern Lincolnshire and Goole NHS Foundation Trust
- Rotherham, Doncaster and South Humber Mental Health Trust
- Primary care
- National Probation Service
- Public Health
- East Midlands Ambulance Service
- ONGO (housing provider)

Advisory members:

- Care Quality Commission
- Healthwatch North Lincolnshire
- Cabinet Member for Adults and Health
- NHS England

Strategic Plan

In 2019, the board published its new strategic plan for 2019 - 2022, laying out the shared outcomes, goals and objectives for the next three years. The strategic plan was developed in partnership with adults who have a lived experience, their carers and board members. The plan covers how the board will focus on the prevention of abuse and neglect as well as making sure that organisations work together to keep people safe when abuse has occurred, giving people choice, control, and involvement.

The board's overarching strategic priorities and objectives are aligned to the six principles of safeguarding, which are underpinned by fourteen strategic objectives.

The NLSAB Executive Group (North Lincolnshire Council, North Lincolnshire Clinical Commissioning Group and Humberside police) and the full Safeguarding Adults Board monitors, and regularly reviews progress made against the strategic plan. In 2019 the board also reviewed the delivery framework to align it to the objectives within the strategic plan.



www.northlincssab.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2019/11/SAB-Strategic-Plan-2019-22-D.pdf

PREVENTION

This means:

The focus will remain on the issues that are going to make the greatest difference to safeguarding people in North Lincolnshire.

We will seek assurance that our partners are securing improvement with regard to the MCA and DoLS / Liberty Protection Safeguards.

PROPORTIONALITY

This means:

We will identify and support people at risk including carers.

We will work with community services to support individuals who may be at risk.

We will identify and learn from case studies and SARs and use this to develop preventative measures.

PROTECTION

This means:

We will strengthen existing processes which support the transitions arrangements between childhood and adulthood.

People who are receiving health and social care services in North Lincolnshire are protected from abuse and harm.

ACCOUNTABILITY

This means:

Board partners are clear as to expectations.

The Board is assured that Safeguarding arrangements and partners act to help and protect adult who may be at risk in North Lincolnshire.

PARTNERSHIP

This means:

The needs and aspirations of the vulnerable adult will be fundamental to their safeguarding journey.

We will engage with vulnerable adult, groups and communities to contribute towards policy, practice and awareness raising.

EMPOWERMENT

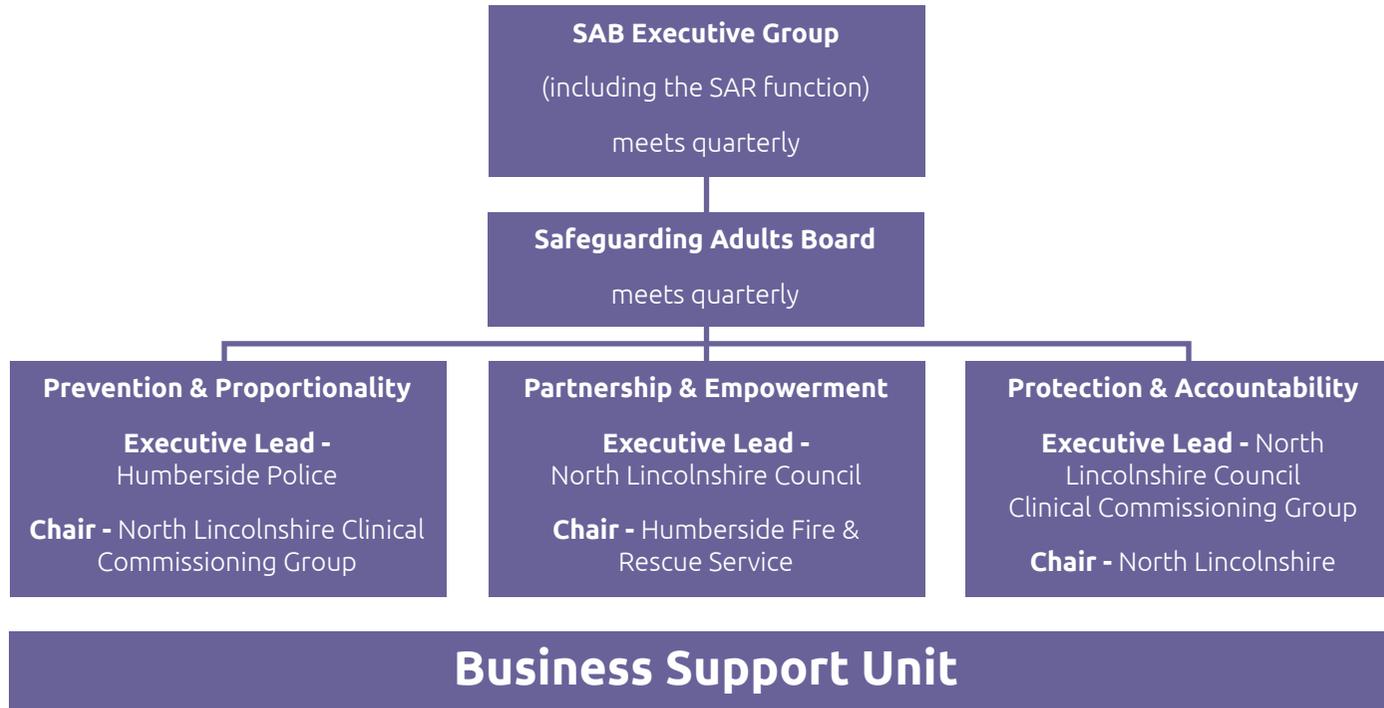
This means:

A joint and consistent approach to Safeguarding across all Boards and partnership arrangements.

We will explore a joint approach to safeguarding training and education.

Supporting the community to have an understanding of safeguarding, what support is available and how to access it.

Delivery Framework

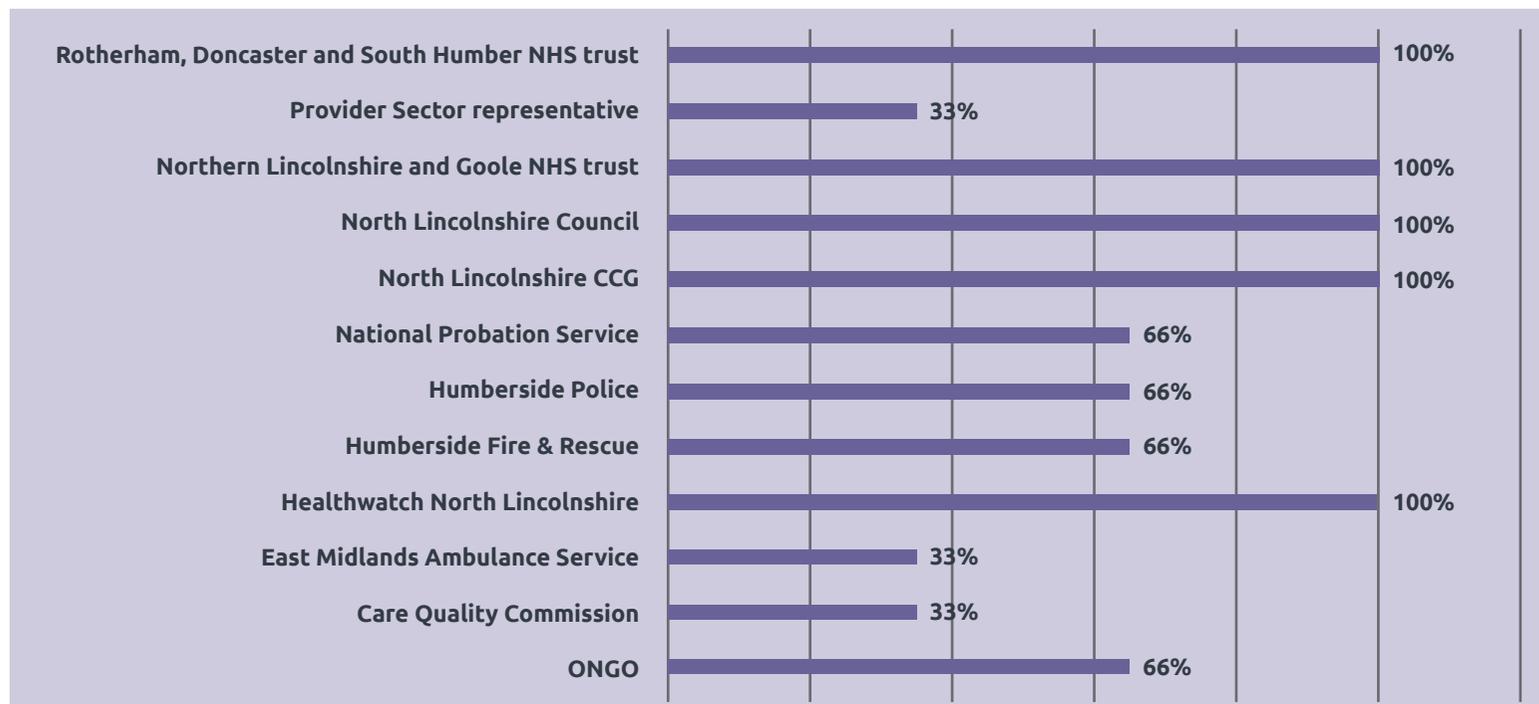


Board Attendance

During 2019/20 the executive group met every six weeks, and the full board met quarterly. In the intervening periods the subgroups (Protection & Accountability, Prevention & Proportionality, and the Partnership & Empowerment) regularly met and carried out safeguarding activity as outlined within the strategic plan, reporting progress and outcomes directly to both the executive group and the board.

The NLSAB is able to demonstrate a sustained level of attendance and participation from members. There is a clear commitment to safeguard adults across the area, through representation by senior managers of all organisations that have an investment in good safeguarding practice.

Due to the COVID-19 national emergency, the fourth board meeting of the year was postponed to a later date and subsequently this meeting is not covered within this annual reporting period.



Partnership Agreement

Along with the updated priorities and the new delivery structure, in 2019/20 board partners also refreshed the **North Lincolnshire LSAB Partnership Agreement**. The purpose of the partnership agreement is to provide all relevant partner agencies with a high-level description of the role and purpose of the NLSAB in relation to its statutory functions, local objectives, structure, operations, membership and the roles and expectations of its partner agency representatives.

Executive leads for each partner agency have signed the document to signal agreement to work together within North Lincolnshire to deliver the ambitions as set out within the strategic plan.

The partnership agreement also provides guidance for new board members, and agency representatives deputising for board members about the formal remit and operations of the NLSAB.

Links with other partnerships.

The board has effective links with a number of strategic partnerships within North Lincolnshire, including the Children's Multi-Agency and Resilience Safeguarding Board (CMARS), Community Safety Partnership (CSP), Adults Partnership and the Health and Wellbeing Board. This co-operation has led to a stronger focus on collective learning, bringing together partnership working and stronger support for adults with care and support needs within North Lincolnshire.

Actions completed by sub-groups to meet board objectives.

Partnership & Empowerment subgroup

The Partnership and Empowerment subgroup consists of representatives from Humberside Police, Humberside Fire and Rescue, Healthwatch, North Lincolnshire Council and ONGO, and is supported by several adults with a lived experience. The group is chaired by Jason Frary, Station Manager, Service Delivery for Humberside Fire and Rescue Services.

The group understand the value of working together with partner agencies and other professionals to get the best result for adults with care and support needs who are at risk of abuse and neglect. The group also recognise the importance of ensuring that the voice of adults who have a lived experience is heard, and that this directly informs the work of the board.

The group have undertaken bespoke and participatory safeguarding workshops with local care homes, which resulted in posters and stickers being designed by a group of adults who have a lived experience for use as promotional materials at local community events.

Page 102



Throughout the year the group have promoted safeguarding awareness and have attended several community events. In July 2019, the board attended Rescue Day. Members of the public were invited to give their views on safeguarding adult issues and the information was then used help inform future practise. As a result of the feedback obtained the board worked with adults with care and support needs, self-advocates and local care homes, providing them with safeguarding adult education, resources, and, information and tools to enable them to disseminate the safeguarding messages amongst their family, friends and within the local community.

The group has facilitated a number of safeguarding training and education sessions with partner agencies and voluntary organisations, including Humberside Fire & Rescue Service community advocates; Healthwatch North Lincolnshire volunteers and The Forge Project who provide support to homeless people.



Prevention & Proportionality subgroup

The subgroup understands that to support adults who have care and support needs, it is important that they are given clear and simple information about what abuse is, how to recognise it and seek help. It is also important that a proportionate response is given to any safeguarding concerns, and that partner agencies work in the best interests of adults who have care and support needs within North Lincolnshire.

The subgroup consists of representatives from North Lincolnshire Council, ONGO, Cloverleaf Advocacy Services, Humberside Police, independent provider sector, Northern Lincolnshire & Goole Hospitals NHS Trust, North Lincolnshire Council and is chaired by Sarah Glossop, Designated Nurse and Head of Safeguarding for North Lincolnshire Clinical Commissioning Group.

The group regularly review key messages from local, regional, and national Safeguarding Adult Reviews (SARs) and investigations, ensuring that any learning relevant to North Lincolnshire is appropriately shared and implemented. The group has produced several 7-minute briefings which have been disseminated amongst partner agencies. There are close links across all the subgroups, ensuring that information and learning from practice is shared with all organisations, enabling them to make changes or improvements that will keep adults with care and support needs in North Lincolnshire safer in the future.

It is important that all partner agencies have a good understanding around the Mental Capacity Act (MCA) 2005, and that the five key principles are used to underpin all actions and decisions. The group has shared and tools and identified good practice, as well as reviewing and publishing additional information in relation to the MCA 2005 on the NLSAB website.

A number of easy read documents have been developed and added to the website, including guides on how adults with care and support needs can stay safe online, keeping safe when using social media, and also raising awareness of fraud and scams within the community.

The subgroup regularly review the safeguarding resources available on the NLSAB website, which includes a range of e-learning training packages such as fraud awareness, forced marriage and domestic abuse, ensuring that any information is current and up to date. The board has been assured by its partners that their workforce in North Lincolnshire have sufficient training at the right level to discharge its safeguarding responsibilities.

The following training courses were available to the workforce during the year:

- Safeguarding Adults Tier 1 (eLearning) – providing an overview of what is meant by abuse and neglect, the duty to safeguard adults with care and support needs, ensuring immediate safety, and how to report concerns.
- Safeguarding Children Tier 1 (eLearning) – providing an overview of what is meant by safeguarding children, the duty to protect children and how to report concerns.
- Safeguarding Adults Tier 2 – aimed at operational practitioners. Providing an overview of safeguarding concerns and enquiries, making safeguarding personal, decision making in relation to safeguarding concerns and ensuring that staff can apply their own organisational procedures and processes for reporting and documenting safeguarding adult concerns.
- Safeguarding Adults Tier 3 – aimed at operational practitioners and managers. Staff are trained in how to undertake effective safeguarding enquiries, ensuring that enquiries are person-centred, and outcome focussed, in line with the Care Act 2014 and best practice.
- Mental Capacity Act & DOLs in Practice - Levels 1 and 2 – Staff are trained in the application of the Mental Capacity 2005 and have an understanding of the Deprivation of Liberty Safeguards.

In addition to the courses above, a number of bespoke training packages were delivered in relation to; domestic abuse; fraud and financial abuse; cuckooing and best practice in recording.

The group has worked to promote a continued focus on the making safeguarding personal (MSP) agenda, delivering bespoke training to the cross-sector provider partnership, emphasising the importance of informed decision making and person-centred practice.



Making it personal

I am asked what outcomes I want from the safeguarding process, these directly inform what happens - **Empowerment**

I am sure professionals will work in my best interest, only getting involved as much as needed - **Proportionality**

I understand the role of everyone in my life and so do they - **Accountability**

I am confident professionals will work together to get the best result for me - **Partnership**

I get help and support to report abuse and neglect. I get help so I can take part in the safeguarding process - **Protection**

I receive clear and simple information about what abuse is, how to recognise it and seek help - **Prevention**

MSP is also included within the safeguarding data dashboard, and any trends are monitored and responded to across the year. Overall, this year's data evidences a positive trend of listening to the voice of the adult with care and support needs, and working with individuals to achieve their desired outcomes.

Protection & Accountability subgroup

The board is committed to ensuring that safeguarding arrangements, and partner agencies of the board act to help and protect adults who may be at risk in North Lincolnshire.

The Protection & Accountability subgroup consists of representatives from Humberside Police, North Lincolnshire Clinical Commissioning Group, Northern Lincolnshire & Goole NHS Trust, Humberside Fire & Rescue, independent provider sector, Rotherham, Doncaster and South Humber Mental Health Trust, Healthwatch, ONGO and is chaired by Victoria Lawrence, Head of Social Work and Assurance for North Lincolnshire Council.

During 2019/20 the group completed a number of Line of Sight to Practise audits in relation to financial abuse enquiries. The audit identified some areas for improvement, alongside some areas of positive practise.

Learning

- Recognising the importance of considering potential coercion.
- Agencies being aware of their responsibilities in relation to information sharing.
- Language used by professionals reflecting views, wishes and feelings of the adult at risk.

Good Practice

- Evidence of effective multi-agency working, providing person-centred care and support in line with the adult at risk's views and wishes.
- Evidence that agencies interacted at the earliest opportunity, in the best interests of the adult.
- Evidence that professionals considered the needs of the adult, taking the time to ensure information was understood and retained following visits and meetings.
- Evidence that immediate risks were removed and / or reduced in a timely manner.
- Evidence that the adult was supported to meetings by professionals, who ensured views and wishes were heard and acted upon.

Results of the audits were fed back to the practitioners concerned, including where there was evidence of good practice. Several recommendations were made which will be taken forward and monitored by the Prevention & Proportionality subgroup, ensuring that all future learning is shared more widely, and is implemented by partners.

In 2019/20 the Protection & Accountability subgroup began work to develop a plan in co-ordination with children's services to ensure that there is an improved quality of transition experience for young people. The aim of the plan is to ensure that young people and their families feel supported transitioning from childhood to adulthood.

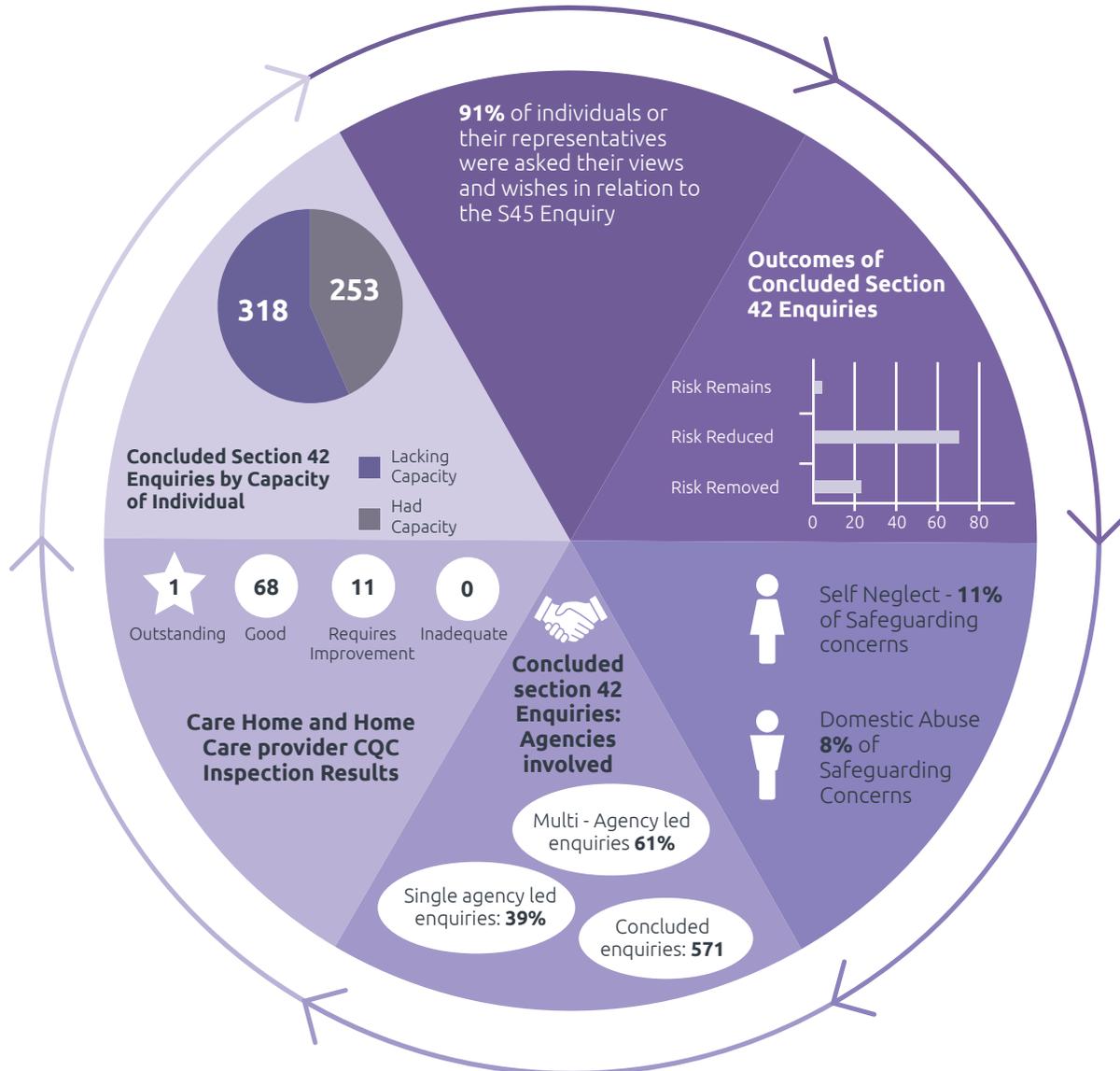
In 2019/20 board members also completed a joint assurance focussed visit, in with the Children's MARS Board to a partner agency. Dates for future joint visits have been identified for 2020/21.

As a result of the ongoing commitment to improve the quality and consistency of safeguarding data, the group was part of a task and finish group facilitated by the Association of Directors of Adults Social Services (ADASS) to review all data dashboards across the Yorkshire & Humber region.

The group has since established an updated safeguarding data dashboard, which provides quarterly performance information. The data is then used to highlight any emerging themes in relation to safeguarding, and formulating any actions required to improve practice.

Safeguarding Adults Data in 2019/20

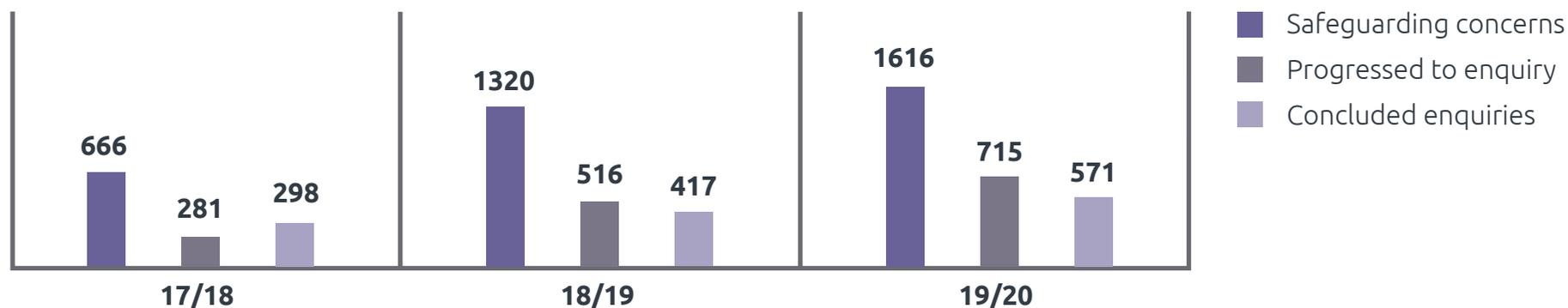
Page 109



- Empowerment
- Proportionality
- Prevention
- Partnership
- Accountability
- Protection

During 2019/20 **1616 safeguarding concerns** were received, **715** became **safeguarding enquiries** and a total of **571 safeguarding enquiries were completed** during the year.

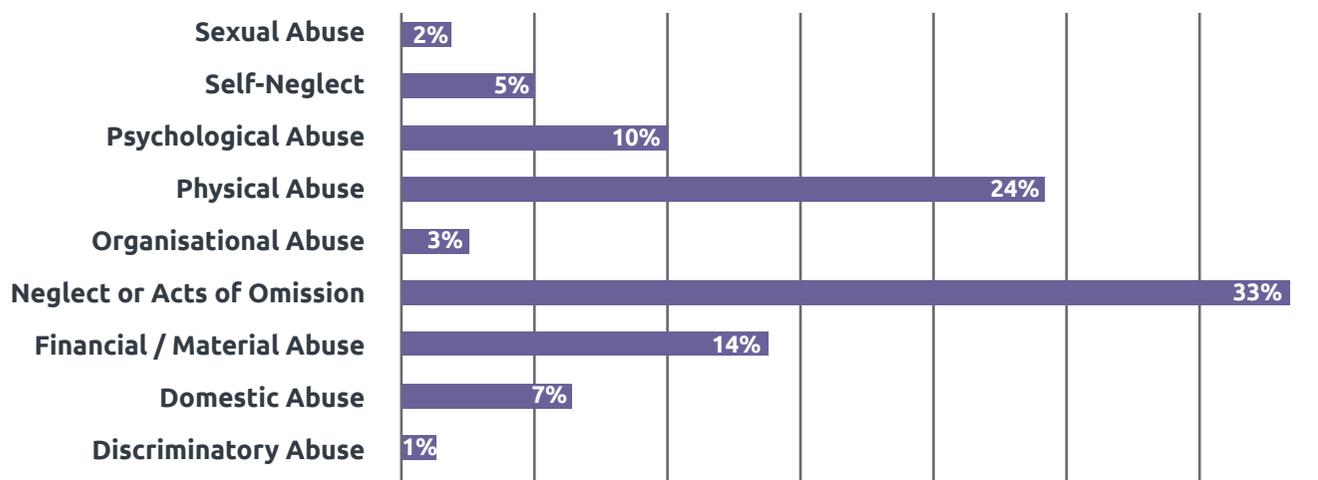
Safeguarding Activity



Over the last three years North Lincolnshire has continued to see an increase in both the number of safeguarding concerns and safeguarding enquiries, this is thought to be due to an increase in knowledge and understanding of what constitutes a safeguarding concern, as well as an increased awareness of how to report safeguarding issues to the council.

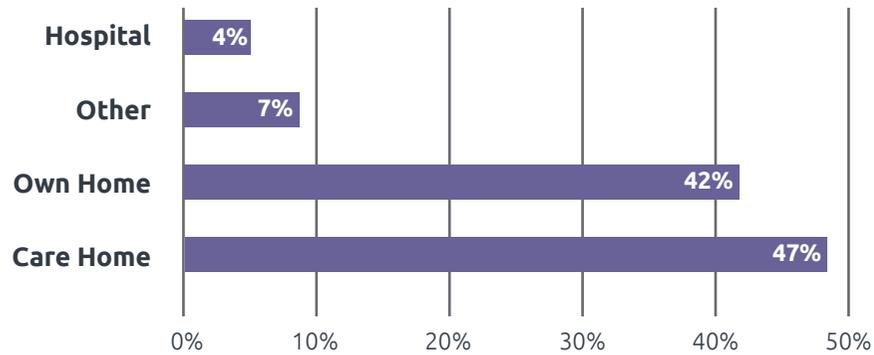
Page 110

Categories of Abuse - Concluded Enquiries



Over the last three years North Lincolnshire has continued to see an increase in both the number of safeguarding concerns and safeguarding enquiries, this is thought to be due to an increase in knowledge and understanding of what constitutes a safeguarding concern, as well as an increased awareness of how to report safeguarding issues to the council.

Location of alleged abuse and/or neglect - concluded enquiries 2019/20



Care homes have consistently been the highest location of alleged abuse and/or neglect in concluded enquiries for the last three years. This is seen as a positive indicator of the high quality care sector within North Lincolnshire, and of providers' understanding of their safeguarding responsibilities.

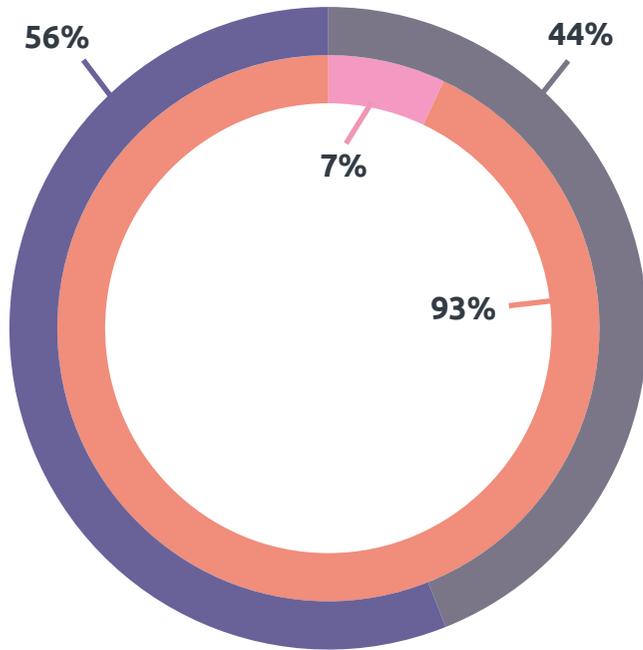
Concluded enquiries - risk outcome

■ Risk Removed
 ■ Risk Reduced
 ■ Risk Remained



At 79% risk identified and action taken remains the highest conclusion of concluded S42 enquiries, indicating that a correct threshold for S42 enquiries is in place. In 96% of enquiries the risk identified was either removed or reduced.

Mental Capacity and advocacy - concluded enquiries 2019/20



- 56% Had capacity
- 44% Lacked capacity
- 93% Supported by advocate
- 7% not supported

The number of individuals who lacked capacity in relation to the safeguarding concern and were supported by an appropriate advocate is 93%, a slight increase compared with the previous year when 92% of adults were supported.

Making Safeguarding Personal (MSP)

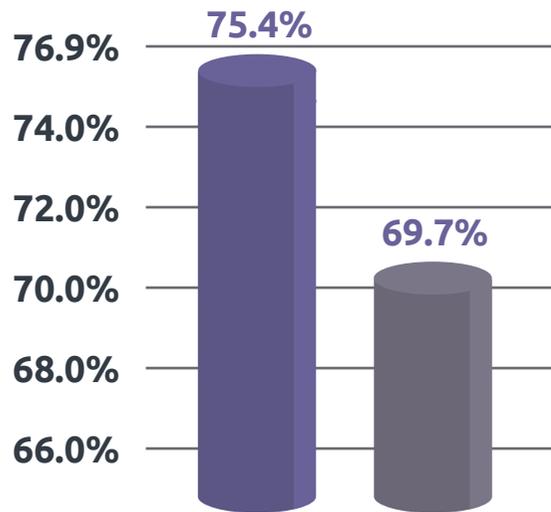
MSP is about having conversations with people about how to respond in safeguarding situations in a way that enhances involvement, choice and control as well as improving quality of life, well-being, and safety. The Care Act 2014 advocates a person-centred rather than a process driven approach. MSP questions comply with the standards set by NHS digital, ensuring they are comparable with all other authorities across England.

91% of individuals and / or their representatives were asked their views and wishes in relation to the S42 enquiry.

97% of individuals and / or their representatives felt their views and wishes had either been partially or fully met.

People Who Use Services Feeling Safe.

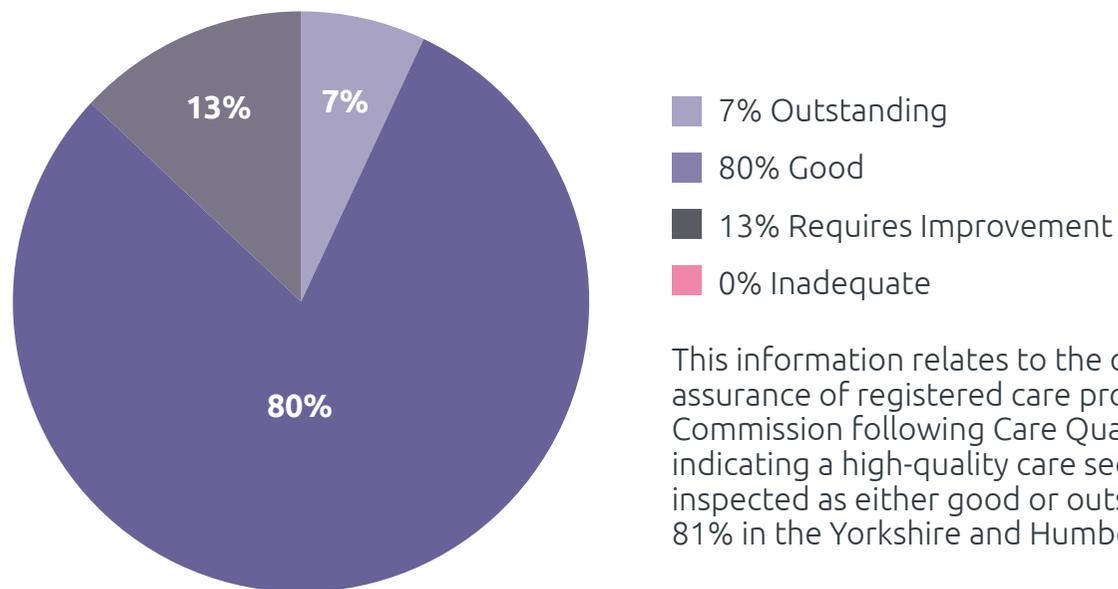
Page 113



- 75.4% North Lincolnshire
- 69.7% Yorkshire and Humber

In North Lincolnshire 75.4% of people, using services reported they felt safe, this is 5.7% higher than the regional average and a 1.2% increase on the previous year. This data was drawn from section 4A of the 2019/20 ASCOF which measures how well care and support services achieve the outcomes that mattermost to people.

Care Quality Commission ratings North Lincolnshire 2019/20



This information relates to the quality assurance of providers quality assurance of registered care providers following Care Quality Commission following Care Quality Commission (CQC) inspections, indicating a high-quality care sector with 87% of providers being inspected as either good or outstanding, nationally this is 84% and 81% in the Yorkshire and Humber region.

Safeguarding Adults Reviews

What is a Safeguarding Adult Review (SAR)?

A Safeguarding Adult Review takes place when agencies who worked with an adult who suffered abuse or neglect, come together to find out how they could have done things differently.

The aim of a SAR is to promote effective learning and improvement.

SARs should be used to explore examples of good practice, as well as those not so good, and should identify learning which can be applied to future cases.

The law says Safeguarding Adults Boards must arrange a SAR when:

There is reasonable cause for concern about how NLSAB, its partners or others worked together to safeguard the adult

AND

The adult died and NLSAB suspects the death resulted from abuse or neglect

OR

The adult is alive and NLSAB suspects the adult has experienced abuse or neglect.

SARs are overseen by NLSAB Executive Safeguarding Adult Review Group, consisting of representatives from the board's statutory partners (North Lincolnshire Council, North Lincolnshire Clinical Commissioning Group and Humberside Police). The group is chaired by Chief Superintendent Darren Wildbore of Humberside Police.

Learning Review

In 2019/20 the board completed one learning review. The group concluded that although the referral did not meet the criteria for a SAR, there would be benefit to collaborative learning, and agreed that a learning review in the form of a multi-agency reflective workshop should take place.

The case was in relation to two individuals, one of whom lost their life and the other who sustained life changing injuries. The case had been investigated by the police, and mental health services as part of their serious incident policy. Although there was no evidence to suggest the incident was as a result of any abuse or neglect, the reflective workshop identified some areas for improvement, and also areas of positive practice.

Learning identified

- Organisations should be clear of their own duties to report safeguarding concerns, and not be reliant that other agencies will do this.
- Case notes should be clear and concise, particularly around decision making.

Good practice

- Evidence of a timely, and person-centred response by professionals involved.
- Evidence that referrals to partner agencies were made on the same day.
- Evidence that partner agencies worked together in a collaborative way.

Learning from the case was shared with partner agencies and assurances given that all recommendations had been appropriately implemented.

Adult A SAR

In 2019 the board commissioned an independent SAR for Adult A.

Adult A was an 87-year-old gentleman who suffered from Alzheimer's disease. Adult A also had prostate disease and type 2 diabetes.

Adult A had been cared for at home by his family until June 2018 when he was admitted to a care home by his family due to a deterioration in his Alzheimer's presentation. Adult A's placement was self-funded.

Adult A was taken to hospital twice in July following falls. On the second occasion, medical staff were concerned by multiple bruises and raised a safeguarding concern.

On the second admission Adult A was diagnosed with multiple secondaries from a cancer of an unknown primary source and died as a result of this seven weeks later.

Concerns were raised in relation to how agencies had worked together to conduct the Section 42 enquiry.

The SAR looked at the involvement of all organisations involved, and a number of learning points were identified in relation to the following themes:

- Transition from home to a care setting.
- Managing falls and other behaviors in people with dementia.
- The effectiveness of the multi-agency safeguarding system.
- Review of policies and procedures.

The review identified 12 multi-agency recommendations. These recommendations have been accepted by the board; implementation is being monitored to ensure the learning has been put into practice with each organisation having developed an improvement plan to ensure changes are achieved.

The Board is grateful for the way in which the family and partner organisations engaged with and contributed to this review.

Board Development Sessions

It is a key function of the board to develop good safeguarding practice across the area and the board hold regular development sessions to keep members informed about significant safeguarding issues and provide updates on research and best practise. It is expected that each member will disseminate this knowledge within their individual organisations.

The following development sessions with board members took place during 2019/20:

- A presentation following the publication of the Learning Disability Mortality Reviews (LeDeR) Annual Report, giving members an overview of the statistical data in relation to reviews undertaken during the previous year, highlights of the key points, identified best practice and key recommendations.
- A development session following the exposure of the abuse which took place at Whorlton Hall.
- A briefing session in relation to Fraud and Scams, and the effects on adults who have care and support needs, facilitated by Humberside Police.
- A group session about cuckooing, the impacts this has on adults who have care and support needs and the key indicators to look for.

Conclusions and future priorities.

In 2019/20 the board has made considerable progress in relation to its main objectives and priorities outlined within the strategic plan. The board will continue to raise awareness of safeguarding and ensure that safeguarding duties are embedded into partner practice. The board is committed to continuing to work in partnership to seek assurance and ensure that safeguarding practice within North Lincolnshire is continually reviewed and improved.

In 2020/21 the board will review policies and procedures, considering experiences as a partnership, and in order to continue to improve and develop safeguarding practice.

The board will be holding a safeguarding conference in the winter of 2020, designed and facilitated in partnership with adults with a lived experience. The three key themes for the event have been identified by them as loneliness, fraud, and cuckooing.

Safeguarding during Covid-19 2020/21

During the Covid-19 pandemic, the goal is to ensure people continue to have their care and support needs met and are safe and well, and to ensure effective partnership working as far as possible, being alert to the pressures which health and social care providers continue to be under.

Duties and responsibilities to safeguarding adults remains a statutory duty and Sections 42-45 of the Care Act 2014 that relate to safeguarding adults have not changed or been 'eased'. Consequently, safeguarding adults continues to be the responsibility of local authorities and partner agencies – to keep everybody safe from abuse or neglect.

It is important that the board and its partner organisations continue to closely monitor safeguarding activity and use this intelligence to support flexible partnership responses to meet needs. The board will continue to review data to understand safeguarding trends locally and re-prioritise the strategic plan to support services to respond to any changes in the themes and trends of safeguarding activity within North Lincolnshire.

A key priority for the board in 2020/21 is to gain assurance from partner agencies about how any impact of Covid-19 on local safeguarding arrangements is being managed, particularly looking at how the current situation is impacting on adults who have care and support needs and on the effectiveness of safeguarding arrangements within North Lincolnshire.

Partnership contributions

North Lincolnshire Council

**North
Lincolnshire
Council**
www.northlincs.gov.uk

Empowerment: People being supported and encouraged to make their own decisions and informed consent.

"I am asked what outcomes I want from the safeguarding process; these directly inform what happens."

North Lincolnshire Council takes a progressive and enabling approach to achieving its three priorities of:

- Growing the economy
- Keeping people safe and well
- Enabling communities to flourish

Our council values underpin everything we do::

- Equality of opportunity so everyone can have a good quality of life.
- Striving for excellence and high standards.
- Using our resources wisely and with integrity.
- Self-responsibility and people having choice and control over their own lives.

The council has a strong focus on ensuring residents in receipt of longer-term services have maximum choice and control over their lives. All people in receipt of longer-term services have full knowledge of their level of subsidy and are able to choose the mechanisms for managing their personal budget. The national average is 89.0% and North Lincolnshire is only one of 30 Councils with an outturn of 100%. The number of people choosing to take this as a direct payment is also increasing and again, we are higher than the England average.

The positive outcomes in relation to choice and control is equally applicable for Carers. More carers than the England average have control and full knowledge of their personal budget.

Strengths based practice and making safeguarding personal is embedded into social work and safeguarding practise within Adult and Community Wellbeing. In 92% of enquiries in 2019/20 the person or their representative was asked their views and wishes for the outcome of the enquiry. There has also been an increase from the previous year in the persons' views and wishes being fully or partially achieved to 97%.

Prevention: It is better to take action before harm occurs.

"I receive clear and simple information about what abuse is, how to recognise it and seek help."

The North Lincolnshire Council training plan includes mandatory adult safeguarding awareness training for the whole workforce which is completed as part of a new employee's induction and then every three years. This provides increased knowledge and understanding supporting the wider early identification of potential abuse and neglect by our workforce both in their roles and communities. Safeguarding champions are being embedded throughout the council.

We have supported the wider social care sector through workshops on safeguarding, self-neglect and the Mental Capacity Act.

The wellbeing and safety of all council employees has remained paramount during the coronavirus emergency with the information and resources provided to the workforce including a focus on safeguarding.

The views of people who use adult services are gathered through an annual National Adult Social Care Survey. Most people (72%) told us that they found that information about services is easy to find.

We are committed to ensuring information is accessible to everyone and are developing with people who have care and support needs an 'easy read' information pack and referral form.

The Adult and Community Wellbeing offer continues to ensure people's needs are met early. More people than the England average can access rehabilitation and reablement services.

Rehabilitation services continue to improve the outcomes for people to remain at home longer. We support more people than the England average to meet their needs early and regain their independence, 94.9% for North Lincolnshire compared to England average of 82.4%.

Services, working together with the hospital, are continuing to perform well to ensure that people can return home as soon as possible.

The Carers Survey supports the council to understand how services are enabling carers to be safe and well, have good health and wellbeing and improved quality of life. The survey identified more people in North Lincolnshire have said:

- They experience a good quality of life.
- Have as much social contact as they would like.
- Are happy with the care and support they receive.
- Are included in the plan for the person they care for.
- Find it easy to find advice and information.

All five Adult Social Care Outcome Framework indicators in relation to carers place North Lincolnshire above national, regional and comparator group outturns and in the top national quartile.

Early in the coronavirus pandemic we recognised that people including those with care and support needs were at increased risk of domestic abuse. We supported our workforce do obtain further knowledge and skills through the completion of a comprehensive online training package for domestic abuse, endorsed by Skills for Care.

Protection: Support and representation for those in greatest need.

"I get help and support to report abuse and neglect. I get help so I can take part in the safeguarding process."

The primary purpose of the council is to work with residents and partners to promote the safety and wellbeing of people living in North Lincolnshire. The councils' role is to prevent harm and prioritise the most vulnerable. The council continues to work hard to keep people safe and leads partnership working across North Lincolnshire to promote wellbeing and improve health outcomes for everyone.

The views of people who use adult services are gathered through an annual National Adult Social Care Survey. The results are very encouraging for North Lincolnshire, with more people who use services reporting a good quality of life and telling us they feel safe as a result of the support they receive. Both measures are higher than the England average.

Within Adult and Community Wellbeing we have strengthened the leadership in relation to safeguarding and Deprivation of Liberty Safeguards with additional dedicated Service and Specialist Team Leader posts. Through this restructuring of our social work teams, we have also increased the number of specialist social worker posts including Approved Mental Health Professionals and Best Interest Assessors.

Where individuals lacked capacity to make decisions regarding safeguarding concerns, there has been an increase in 2019/20 from the previous year in the proportion of people who were supported by an advocate, family member or friend.

Risk management and reduction is a critical element of safeguarding enquiries. In relation to the outcomes of safeguarding enquiries 'risk identified, and action taken' continued to be the highest (79%) outcome in 2019/20. The risk was removed or reduced for the vast majority (95%) of people in 2019/20, an increase from the previous year.

Although the Coronavirus Act 2020 included some amendments to the Care Act, local authority safeguarding duties under section 42 of the Care Act remained unchanged throughout the pandemic. We continued to respond to all safeguarding concerns received and undertake safeguarding enquiries. We strengthened the resilience of the Safeguarding Adults Team by adopting a one social work team model where safeguarding enquires are prioritised by the whole service and rotating social workers into the team.

The social work teams have provided additional communication and welfare checks to those people who are most vulnerable throughout the coronavirus emergency.

The care sector plays a vital role in keeping some of the most vulnerable people safe and well in North Lincolnshire. The council has worked with partners across the health and social care system to ensure that people living and working in care homes are supported during the unprecedented challenges that COVID-19 presents. North Lincolnshire has a long history of working together with the care sector and we have built on existing partnership arrangements to design our care home support plan. The care home support plan has been developed to support sector resilience through an enhanced offer of support to enable the delivery of quality care and the safety of both residents and staff.

The care home support plan includes how we manage and support the following key elements of leadership, infection prevention and control, testing, personal protective equipment, clinical support and workforce support.

Proportionality: The least intrusive response appropriate to the risk presented.

"I am sure professionals will work in my best interest, only getting involved as much as needed."

The council designs and delivers services based on an organisational model where people's needs are met at the earliest point delaying and preventing the need for specialist services. The council works with communities to enable them to flourish supported with universal and community enablement services. We offer targeted support and services to enable people to recover and regain independence and specialist services for those people with acute and chronic needs.

Strengths based practise and the changing conversations model is well embedded in Adult and Community Wellbeing recognising and building on the strengths and resilience of the person and their family to promote their wellbeing.

We extensively use digital solutions across the council including within Adult and Community Wellbeing. We offer modern solutions for example Alexa alongside more traditional telecare.

The council worked with volunteers and community groups to champion the groundswell of community spirit from the beginning of the coronavirus outbreak, promoting 'do one thing to help one person'.

The council rapidly established an offer of advice and support for people who were extremely clinically vulnerable and advised to shield. The shielding and community enablement offer worked with the voluntary and community sectors to keep people safe, well and connected.

Within Adult and Community Wellbeing we quickly identified the most vulnerable people and families at the start of the coronavirus pandemic to provide additional communication and wellbeing support.

Partnership: Local solutions through services working with communities. Communities have a part to play in preventing, detecting and reporting abuse and neglect.

"I am confident professionals will work together to get the best result for me."

The role of the council is to lead the place of North Lincolnshire through engaging with communities and listening to residents.

We lead strong and effective partnerships which promote wellbeing and improve health outcomes and opportunities for everyone.

The voice of people with care and support needs continued to be strong across North Lincolnshire throughout 2019/20 including through the Learning Disability Partnership and Carers Partnership.

We have been creative and innovative including lending people smart devices and supporting them to safely use social media, to keep people connected to each other and us throughout the coronavirus outbreak.

We are actively working with Humberside Police and health partners to enhance partnership working in respect of safeguarding with a multi-agency safeguarding hub (MASH).

We have progressed work across the council and with wider partners to develop transitional safeguarding arrangements to improve the experience and outcomes of young people and their families as they become adults.

We have commenced a partnership approach to the implementation of Liberty Protection Safeguards in North Lincolnshire.

We participate fully in MAPPA, MARAC and MACE.

We have worked across the council and with partners and the care home sector to develop and implement a comprehensive offer of support to care homes to support them to care safely for their residents and maintain resilience during the coronavirus outbreak.

Accountability: High challenge, high support and transparency in delivering safeguarding.

"I understand the role of everyone in my life and so do they."

The North Lincolnshire Council training plan includes mandatory safeguarding awareness training for the whole workforce which is completed as part of a new employee's induction and then every three years. The completion of this training is monitored by the cross council Safe Organisation Group. Adult and Community Wellbeing front line staff complete level two safeguarding training and level three training is also provided for those social workers and managers who complete and oversee enquiries. We have commissioned additional bespoke level three training from a specialist national training provider EDGE for autumn 2020.

Reflective supervision and employee performance reviews are fully embedded within Adult and Community Wellbeing and monitored at a service and council level.

We have an effective line of sight to practise through case file audits and utilise the safeguarding audit tool developed by the Yorkshire and Humber ADASS Group and PSW Network. The tool is split into three sections: concerns, section 42 enquiries and outcomes and incorporates the six principles of adult safeguarding.

The Head of Social Work and Assurance is the chair of the Safeguarding Adult Board Protection and Accountability group.

We engaged fully in the Safeguarding Adult Review for Adult A including undertaking a comprehensive and self-reflective agency review of our involvement which informed the implementation of a robust action plan. We have positively supported members of our teams to reflect and learn from participation in the SAR.

We have reviewed and updated our internal Adult and Community Wellbeing Safeguarding Adults Practise Guidance in 2020. In addition, we have introduced a policy in respect of referrals for an autopsy for a person with an open safeguarding enquiry.

The council audit and assurance plan for 2019/20 included an audit of adult safeguarding which provides not only assurance but an opportunity for further learning and enhancing our safeguarding responses.

Following the Coronavirus Act 2020, which made amendments to the Care Act we developed a framework for implementation of the Care Act Easements which details the governance and operational arrangements if implementation required. Throughout the pandemic, we have been closely monitoring our own workforce capacity and care sector capacity. The measures we have put in place have prevented the need to seek to streamline assessment and support planning or prioritise the meeting of care and support needs.

We actively utilise and apply the range of guidance available from SCIE, ADASS, the Department of Health and Social Care to inform safeguarding and social work services and interventions.

We contribute to and utilise regional and national networks and forums to share and develop best practise.

North Lincolnshire Council case studies

'Without the help and support of my family I would find it very difficult to continue to care for my sister. Having a direct payment allows me to arrange carers to come into assist me and allows me time to attend events and appointments. The respite and day services this pays for allows me time to take a break which is much needed.'

A social worker from the Safeguarding Adult Team spoke to a man about the outcome of the safeguarding enquiries regarding cuckooing. As it was difficult to speak to him to a home, she went to find him on a bench where he often sat. He said 'that chat has helped. I didn't want any fuss, but I've appreciated the advice and any further problems I know where to come to for support.' He thanked them for locating him to discuss the outcome.

The help I can tap into in this area of N Lincs is very good - all the relevant agencies i.e.: adult social care, Alzheimer's society, admiral nurse knows and respect each other and always point me in the right direction for the help I need. They are lovely people, so kind and caring, and though busy, always make me feel as if I am valued and my needs are as important as my husbands. I feel reassured by their attention even though caring is still hard!

'I look after my mother who has Alzheimer's. I have contacted the adult care team to discuss an emergency plan if needed in the future. I have booked a place on the next understanding Dementia programme. I have also started to go to Dementia peer support group meetings, all of these things have made such a difference to me and are a great.'

North Lincolnshire Clinical Commissioning Group



Empowerment: People being supported and encouraged to make their own decisions and informed consent.

"I am asked what outcomes I want from the safeguarding process, these directly inform what happens."

North Lincolnshire CCG are core members of North Lincolnshire Safeguarding Adult Board, and also the key commissioners of health services provided to the North Lincolnshire population.

Providers of services commissioned by North Lincolnshire CCG are expected to work closely with all service users including adults with care and support needs to ensure they are able to influence the services they receive, including any assessment of safeguarding need, or activity to reduce risk. This expectation is set out in safeguarding standards which are included in all contracts.

Through participation in SAB and other multi-agency partnership activity, NLCCG has promoted a consistent and integrated approach to safeguarding individuals and combatting contextual risks, whilst ensuring service users are empowered to influence personal outcomes. This approach is also reflected in the direct work that the CCG's clinical assessment and safeguarding services provide.

Prevention: It is better to take action before harm occurs.

"I receive clear and simple information about what abuse is, how to recognise it and seek help."

Prevention is one of the 6 identified Delivery Programmes for NLCCG in 2019-2024, and whilst, as the key commissioner of health services in North Lincolnshire, the identified goal to "support our population to be as healthy as possible ..." may be perceived as preventing physical or mental ill-health, and thus reducing the demand on health and care services, this approach aligns closely with the NLSAB focus on issues which will make the greatest difference to safeguarding people in North Lincolnshire. NLCCG recognises that the prevention of safeguarding concerns, or early intervention to support adults with care and support needs is part of their approach to Prevention.

The NLCCG Head of Safeguarding chairs the SAB's subgroup which focuses on Prevention and Proportionality.

Protection: Support and representation for those in greatest need.

"I get help and support to report abuse and neglect. I get help so I can take part in the safeguarding process."

NLCCG is committed to ensuring all individuals are protected from harm.

During 2019/20, NLCCG strengthened its safeguarding governance arrangements with the creation of a Safeguarding Assurance Group with membership from across all Directorates, including representation from commissioning and contracting staff.

CCG staff particularly those involved in commissioning individual packages of care, and those involved in incident management and complaints processes work alongside the safeguarding team to identify and where appropriate support individuals and families to report abuse and neglect. The CHC/case management and safeguarding team work closely with NLC Safeguarding Adult Team to support individuals and families to be part of safeguarding processes.

The NLCCG Director of Nursing and Quality (Executive Lead for Safeguarding) is the SAB Portfolio Lead for Protection and Accountability.

Proportionality: The least intrusive response appropriate to the risk presented.

"I am sure professionals will work in my best interest, only getting involved as much as needed."

NLCCG Safeguarding and CHC teams (and where necessary other staff) work closely with the North Lincolnshire Council Safeguarding Adult Team, other health organisations, and partner organisations to ensure appropriate and proportionate information sharing, clinical and safeguarding assessments to inform plans to protect and support individuals.

Partnership: Local solutions through services working with communities. Communities have a part to play in preventing, detecting and reporting abuse and neglect.

"I am confident professionals will work together to get the best result for me."

North Lincolnshire CCG are core members of the NL Safeguarding Adult Board, represented on the Executive Group by the Director of Nursing and Quality, and on the full Board, and in the work of the SAB by the Head of Safeguarding, Named GP and other members of the CCG Safeguarding Team.

The CCG clinical teams work closely with the North Lincolnshire Council Safeguarding Adult Team, other health organisations, and partner organisations to ensure appropriate and proportionate decision making and planning with a focus on the most appropriate outcome for adults at risk.

Accountability: High challenge, high support and transparency in delivering safeguarding.

"I understand the role of everyone in my life and so do they."

North Lincolnshire CCG has a Safeguarding Policy which is publicly available.

This outlines the roles and responsibilities of all staff and officers of the CCG, signposts to SAB procedures and provides specific single agency/ organisational guidance which complements the SAB procedures.

This policy also reflects the CCG's responsibility to ensure and assure themselves that organisations from which they commission have effective safeguarding arrangements in place. This is fulfilled via the inclusion of safeguarding standards in contracts of all commissioned services.

Humberside Police



Empowerment: People being supported and encouraged to make their own decisions and informed consent.

"I am asked what outcomes I want from the safeguarding process; these directly inform what happens."

Humberside Police have a monthly audit regime to monitor outcomes for all victims to ensure they receive a good service. Lesson learnt are cascaded in the organisation.

Humberside Police also takes part in Multiagency audits on a regular basis and fully supports and engages with all types of safeguarding adult reviews and serious case reviews.

Prevention: It is better to take action before harm occurs.

"I receive clear and simple information about what abuse is, how to recognise it and seek help."

All Humberside Police staff are undergoing Vulnerability Training. Front line officers and staff understand that their responsibilities include taking action to safeguard individuals as well as referring to partner agencies. Guidance has been provided to staff in 2020 around when and how to make a referral. The Force uses technology to allow for prompt and accurate raising of concerns.

Humberside police are also engaged with the National Policing Vulnerability Knowledge and Practice Programme and self-assesses against the standards set as part of the programme.

Protection: Support and representation for those in greatest need.

"I get help and support to report abuse and neglect. I get help so I can take part in the safeguarding process."

There is a performance review structure in place especially across the Protecting Vulnerable Persons Unit which examines performance around safeguarding. This ensures that there is a qualitative as well as a quantitative assessment and informs local and force performance accountability meetings.

The Force is developing a Safeguarding Governance Unit which will enhance the ability to conduct targeted assessments of performance through the multi-agency audits and the internal audits.

Proportionality: The least intrusive response appropriate to the risk presented.

"I am sure professionals will work in my best interest, only getting involved as much as needed."

The Police will support victims and vulnerable persons as a core part of our service ensuring we engage with victims to seek their wishes on the outcomes.

The views and concerns of the victims are at the heart of police processes. Assessments and investigations are taken with the views of the victim or the person at risk of abuse or neglect as an influential factor in progressing the case.

To enable inclusive engagement for all people investigators use the support networks to facilitate full engagement with the criminal justice system.

The police also engage in processes to obtain and consider the experiences that have come into contact with the service. This can be through specialist partner agencies such as domestic abuse support agencies and victim support.

Partnership: Local solutions through services working with communities. Communities have a part to play in preventing, detecting and reporting abuse and neglect.

"I am confident professionals will work together to get the best result for me."

Humberside Police aim to provide a consistent service across the Force. Services and partnership processes have been developed with the different agencies in mind. Humberside Police fully understands the importance of working in partnership with all agencies and has police representation in the Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub who understand the thresholds and is responsible for applying any local agreements.

There is also representation at senior level on the Safeguarding Adults Board and associated sub-groups.

Accountability: High challenge, high support and transparency in delivering safeguarding.

"I understand the role of everyone in my life and so do they."

The commitment to protecting the vulnerable is reinforced in publications including the Police and Crime Plan for Humberside (April 2017 to March 2021) and the Plan on a Page which highlights the key priorities for the Force including keeping people safe and protecting the Vulnerable.

The Police comply with our Victims Code of Practice to ensure victims of crime are informed of our role and receive regular updates on the matter concerned. This is audited on a monthly basis at local and Force level to identify best practice.

It has been recognised that new staff to the PVPU or MASH DDM role require an induction process and this is being developed and progress monitored through the Force Vulnerability Board.

Northern Lincolnshire and Goole NHS Trust



Empowerment: People being supported and encouraged to make their own decisions and informed consent.

"I am asked what outcomes I want from the safeguarding process, these directly inform what happens."

Page 130

Patients receiving care within the Trust are involved in plans regarding their care and discharge. They are consulted wherever possible when a Safeguarding Concern is proposed. This will generally include reflection on the relative merits of making and not making a referral.

Prevention: It is better to take action before harm occurs.

"I receive clear and simple information about what abuse is, how to recognise it and seek help."

Safeguarding Adults (SA) training is delivered within the Trust.

Training figures:

SA L1 – 92% up 1%

SA L2 - 86% up 1%

SA L3 – 54% down 1%

SA L4 – 86% down 2%

Training includes a clear request to provide all potential victims with contact details that could provide support services should they want to leave the situation they are living in.

Protection: Support and representation for those in greatest need.

"I get help and support to report abuse and neglect. I get help so I can take part in the safeguarding process."

Vulnerability ward rounds take place and include the Named Nurse for Mental Capacity Act (MCA) /Deprivation of Liberty Safeguards (DoLS), Named Nurse for Adults as well as members of the wider vulnerability team. This gives patients and staff the opportunity to identify as well as discuss concerns and formulate action plans.

The Safeguarding Named professionals within NLaG work closely with each other and this will further develop as we ensure that the Trust is ready for Liberty Protection Safeguards (LPS) in 2022.

Proportionality: The least intrusive response appropriate to the risk presented.

"I am sure professionals will work in my best interest, only getting involved as much as needed."

The Trust Safeguarding professionals work closely with the vulnerability professionals to identify patients who require intervention and to ensure that appropriate action plans are developed for these patients.

Partnership: Local solutions through services working with communities. Communities have a part to play in preventing, detecting and reporting abuse and neglect.

"I am confident professionals will work together to get the best result for me."

The vulnerability team is moving to join the safeguarding team with NLaG, this will strengthen the already good working relationship between the two teams and help to ensure a smoother service for patients as required.

Accountability: High challenge, high support and transparency in delivering safeguarding.

"I understand the role of everyone in my life and so do they."

NLaG continues to work closely with partner agencies and have proactive representatives at both adult and children's boards and subgroups.

In line with the Boards outcomes and actions the Trust is investing in improving the organisations understanding of the principles of the Mental Capacity Act 2005 to improve outcomes for patients that have foundations in rights-based care. This is particularly important in light of the forthcoming Liberty Protection Safeguards and the challenges this will present for Acute Trusts such as ours.

Rotherham Doncaster and South Humber NHS Mental Health Trust



Empowerment: People being supported and encouraged to make their own decisions and informed consent.

"I am asked what outcomes I want from the safeguarding process, these directly inform what happens."

Page 132

Staff working within RDaSH adopt a Making Safeguarding Personal approach to all aspects of the Safeguarding process. All patients or their representative are directly consulted at the point of any concern being submitted and are kept informed and updated throughout the process. Work has been completed by a group of patients in conjunction with the Safeguarding Team to create a user-friendly leaflet with regards to safeguarding and the processes involved within it.

All staff within the Trust receive Safeguarding training, which is commensurate to their post, but all levels make reference to the 6 safeguarding principles and how these are applied in practice, in order to empower those who access our services.

Prevention: It is better to take action before harm occurs.

"I receive clear and simple information about what abuse is, how to recognise it and seek help."

All patients have access to the keeping safe the RDaSH way leaflet. Additional resources also include; videos for the signing community and all literature can be translated into a variety of languages. We routinely use translators to support face to face discussions when English is not the first language of the patient.

Protection: Support and representation for those in greatest need.

"I get help and support to report abuse and neglect. I get help so I can take part in the safeguarding process."

All staff within the Trust receive Safeguarding training which is commensurate to their post, and will ensure they are appropriately equipped to support patients to raise concerns.

The patients within the Trust have access to advocacy services who can support them through the various meetings and contacts in relation to the safeguarding process.

Proportionality: The least intrusive response appropriate to the risk presented.

"I am sure professionals will work in my best interest, only getting involved as much as needed."

Our staff take the time to explain the purpose of safeguarding and the individuals involvement in the process. Attention is given to ensuring that the person is fully aware of how information will be shared and the purpose for this.

Protection plans are routinely completed with the patient to ensure that they are agreeable to the suggestions being made in order to safeguard them in the least restrictive and proportionate manner, paying attention to their human rights and rights to autonomy.

Partnership: Local solutions through services working with communities. Communities have a part to play in preventing, detecting and reporting abuse and neglect.

I am confident professionals will work together to get the best result for me."

Staff within the Trust continue to be committed to Multi-Agency working to ensure the most appropriate approach to safeguarding the patients they support.

Representatives from the Trust continue to attend the Safeguarding Adults Board, subgroups and task groups as and when required.

Accountability: High challenge, high support and transparency in delivering safeguarding.

"I understand the role of everyone in my life and so do they."

Anyone who accesses the Trust services will have a nominated key worker who will outline their role and responsibilities in respect of the care to be provided. All patients are made aware of their right to complain and will be supported to raise any issues or concerns.

We also encourage the completion of 'Your Opinion Counts' surveys - the content of which is used to inform the development of teams and services within the Trust.

Making Safeguarding Personal – "The patient as the Educator"

Mary is a 43yr old lady who has accessed services for over 20 years – she has had a number of in- patient admissions and on- going support from MH services whilst residing in the community. Mary shared her story with a Safeguarding Lead and her named nurse over a number of visits to the ward. Mary expressed an interest in the role and function of the safeguarding team within RDaSH and during discussion "cited" a number of occasions and events during her life where she felt she had not been appropriately safeguarded or protected.

Mary felt she wanted to summarise her life story which she did in the form of an extended essay, once completed time was taken to explore with Mary how such incidents would/should be managed now by adopting a Making Safeguarding Personal approach and utilising the Six Safeguarding principle. During this time Mary was involved, with the Safeguarding Lead ,in creating her own version of the six principles , making a video about her experience of safeguarding and contributed to staff awareness sessions. Mary` s video has been shared during Safeguarding Adult Boards events and her work has been included in the patient project "Keeping Safe the RDaSH way". Finally Mary was involved in creating her own safeguarding protection plan which was effectively implemented when she made the transition from the ward into her first independent tenancy.

ONGO



Empowerment: People being supported and encouraged to make their own decisions and informed consent.

"I am asked what outcomes I want from the safeguarding process; these directly inform what happens."

A conversation takes place with all tenants prior to any safeguarding concern being made. This conversation asks the tenant what it is that they hope to achieve in the future in relation to feeling safe. However difficult it may be – if a tenant does not want an alert to be made then their wishes are followed (unless others are at risk or a crime is being committed). However, internal support is still available to the tenant and they are advised that if they change their mind about action to be taken then they can always contact us again.

Within Ongo's support service, our customer risk assessment / support plan template contains a question in relation to safeguarding. Our support staff are all fully trained to ask appropriate questions that may encourage customers to answer honestly.

Ongo has a Safeguarding Vulnerable Adults Policy. There are safeguarding guidance procedures in place to assist staff in recognising and reporting through their concerns.

Prevention: It is better to take action before harm occurs.

"I receive clear and simple information about what abuse is, how to recognise it and seek help."

Safeguarding articles are included in our tenant magazine (Key News – which is distributed to around 10,000 homes twice a year, as well as an additional two digital Key News editions during the year).

There is a section on Ongo's website that provides information on safeguarding and also other relevant contact numbers.

Ongo has a dedicated person who deals with safeguarding and provides support and training to staff members and tenant groups.

Protection: Support and representation for those in greatest need.

"I get help and support to report abuse and neglect. I get help so I can take part in the safeguarding process."

All staff undertake mandatory safeguarding training as a new starter.

Customer facing staff receive refresher safeguarding awareness annually.

Ongo has a safeguarding vulnerable adults and children's policy and procedure.

Proportionality: The least intrusive response appropriate to the risk presented.

"I am sure professionals will work in my best interest, only getting involved as much as needed."

If a customer has capacity they are encouraged to make their own decisions in relation to actions being taken. Ongo has a positive risk-taking policy/procedure.

Partnership: Local solutions through services working with communities. Communities have a part to play in preventing, detecting and reporting abuse and neglect.

"I am confident professionals will work together to get the best result for me."

Joint working is a very important part of safeguarding. Our Support Services Manager represents Ongo at the safeguarding sub-groups. This allows us to influence decision making and keep up to date with joint working practices.

Where required, staff attend multi-agency meetings where the best interest of the tenant is always at the heart of the process.

Accountability: High challenge, high support and transparency in delivering safeguarding.

"I understand the role of everyone in my life and so do they."

All staff are trained and aware of the importance of reporting their concerns and that safeguarding is everyone's business.

Ongo Case Study

Mr G was not receiving the care he required from an external care company. This meant that the family as well as neighbours were required to fill the gap and provide care to Mr G. Mr G did not have capacity and the family were finding it difficult to cope. Joint working between Ongo, the family and NLC resulted in a move to more suitable accommodation and a care package which fitted Mr G's needs.

Healthwatch North Lincolnshire



Empowerment: People being supported and encouraged to make their own decisions and informed consent.

"I am asked what outcomes I want from the safeguarding process; these directly inform what happens."

If safeguarding referrals are made, this is always discussed with the individual.

Prevention: It is better to take action before harm occurs.

"I receive clear and simple information about what abuse is, how to recognise it and seek help."

Staff and volunteers are all trained in safeguarding and can recognise different types of abuse. All safeguarding updates are shared with the team, who are able to convey this to service users when needed.

Protection: Support and representation for those in greatest need.

"I get help and support to report abuse and neglect. I get help so I can take part in the safeguarding process."

We have a robust process for volunteers to escalate any potential safeguarding issues that come through from the telephone buddy service and the staff team support the individual in the safeguarding process

Partnership: Local solutions through services working with communities. Communities have a part to play in preventing, detecting and reporting abuse and neglect.

"I am confident professionals will work together to get the best result for me."

We liaise with other professionals involved in the individuals care to ensure the best outcome.

Accountability: High challenge, high support and transparency in delivering safeguarding.

"I understand the role of everyone in my life and so do they."

Where possible we support individuals to understand the role of professionals.

Healthwatch – case study

I have a mental health condition and was feeling very isolated and depressed. I was neglecting my self-care, had stopped eating properly and was struggling to continue living independently without support.

My telephone buddy helped me understand that I needed help and supported me to access support from adult social services and mental health services. I now have a package in place and do not feel as scared and alone.

National Probation Service



Empowerment: People being supported and encouraged to make their own decisions and informed consent.

"I am asked what outcomes I want from the safeguarding process; these directly inform what happens."

The NPS is a criminal justice agency, responsible for managing those offenders in the community, and before their release from custody, who pose the highest risk of harm and have committed the most serious crimes. We engage with those individuals under our supervision, to support them to complete their orders/licences and give them the best opportunity to turn their lives around. We undertake an annual survey of our service users and a regional forum was well-embedded pre-Covid-19.

Under the statutory Victim Contact Scheme, the NPS ensures that victims of the most serious offending are provided with appropriate information and are offered the opportunity to make representations about licence conditions on release.

Prevention: It is better to take action before harm occurs.

"I receive clear and simple information about what abuse is, how to recognise it and seek help."

Service users receive an induction, which covers our information sharing agreement and requirements to work with the partnership to share information of concern. It also includes advice on how the individuals we work with can report concerns/seek support etc.

Protection: Support and representation for those in greatest need.

"I get help and support to report abuse and neglect. I get help so I can take part in the safeguarding process."

The NPS protects the public through our assessment and management of those offenders who have committed the most serious offences. Our staff can make an important contribution to the early identification of care and support needs of offenders in the community, including offenders who are carers. We work collaboratively across agencies to reduce risk and ensure individuals are appropriately supported.

Proportionality: The least intrusive response appropriate to the risk presented.

"I am sure professionals will work in my best interest, only getting involved as much as needed."

We work with Safeguarding Adults Board members via the Humberside Multi-Agency Public Protection Arrangements (MAPPA). Together we have ensured the proportionate and necessary risk management of adult offenders, balanced with support for their rehabilitation, to reduce longer-term risk.

Partnership: Local solutions through services working with communities. Communities have a part to play in preventing, detecting and reporting abuse and neglect.

"I am confident professionals will work together to get the best result for me."

The NPS works in partnership with a range of agencies to achieve our aims of protecting the public, supporting victims and reducing reoffending, for example:

Working with CRCs and other service providers to motivate service users and support them to desist from offending.

Sharing information with domestic abuse agencies through MARAC and MATAAC, to support the protection of victims and commissioning services from the CRC to enable offenders to change their behaviour; Contributing to Prevent and Channel processes.

Signposting female service users to domestic abuse services, which opens up access for them to a range of services, including a refuge.

Accountability: High challenge, high support and transparency in delivering safeguarding.

"I understand the role of everyone in my life and so do they."

See above re our induction process. We also work transparently with service users regarding our enforcement processes, whenever that can be done safely.



NORTH LINCOLNSHIRE COUNCIL

CABINET

FUTURE HIGH STREET FUND

1. OBJECT AND KEY POINTS IN THIS REPORT

- 1.1 To update Cabinet on the recent announcement from Government on the Future High Street Fund.

2. BACKGROUND INFORMATION

- 2.1 A full business case was submitted to the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG) on 31 July 2020, bidding for grant funding for Scunthorpe to build a mixed-use development on the former Scunthorpe Market Site as well as public realm Improvements to Church Square and Library Square and the delivery of meanwhile uses.
- 2.2 An additional clarification exercise was requested, which was submitted on 12 October 2020. The FHSF was oversubscribed, we were informed that we may not secure our full funding ask.
- 2.3 Government confirmed on 26 December 2020 that North Lincolnshire Council had received a provisional funding offer of £10,675,323.
- 2.4 We received an in-principle offer on 29 December 2020 from Government detailing the next steps.
- 2.5 The above funding offer is subject to updating the proposal to reflect the funding envelope, a revenue grant of £5,000 has been accepted to enable us to adapt our plans.
- 2.6 We are working to submit our revised plan before 26 February 2020 and will have a confirmed offer from Government by the end of March 2021.

3. OPTIONS FOR CONSIDERATION

- 3.1 Accept the funding allocation from Government to deliver our FHSF proposals.

4. ANALYSIS OF OPTIONS

- 4.1 Through the delivery of our FHSF proposal we will re-purpose and develop Scunthorpe Town Centre, embedding new projects in the history of the town and creating a bold statement to attract people to Scunthorpe in the present and future. It will give us the opportunity to make a 'big splash' intervention in Scunthorpe that will create a vibrant and engaging destination.
- 4.2 We will create a bespoke design connected to Scunthorpe, the design will create a space which will encourage investment and attract activity from residents, businesses and visitors alike. Public spaces will be transformed through the proposal. The innovation hub will be the beginning of a new diversified economy, providing workspace for a range of new businesses and building Scunthorpe's reputation in education, through a new student accommodation offer.
- 4.3 The proposal will deliver the following objectives and themes:

Objectives:

- **Connectivity** - to improve connectivity within the town centre and surrounding area.
- **Housing** - to support the development of housing in the town centre.
- **Employment** - to provide conditions to strengthen employment opportunities.
- **Quarters** - to create the conditions for prosperous quarters.
- **Quality** - to improve the quality of life for those living, working, and visiting the town centre.

The proposals will enable these objectives to be delivered and act as a key catalyst in the wider range of projects being undertaken across Scunthorpe.

The proposal is based upon the ambition in our Economic Growth and Council Plans whilst supporting projects that have already been completed.

The proposals will deliver four themes for change:

Stimulate development: Support and undertake key developments to instigate larger scale development by the private sector.

Higher Value Employment: Support and encourage the creation of higher value employment.

Diversify the offer: Increase the offer of the town centre, including leisure, education, social and employment opportunities to draw more visitors.

Densify the Town Centre: Increase the number of people living and working in the town centre to support the local economy.

4.5 The delivery of this proposal, alongside Towns Fund and Local Growth Fund, is creating a series of showpiece projects that are succinct with our ambitious plans for North Lincolnshire that can draw visitors from further afield and begin the journey of diversifying our economic future.

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

5.1 The grant funding envelope offered to NLC is £10.67m, this is based on match funding of £1m Towns Fund (urban park) and £3m NLC Capital Programme (subject to approval).

5.2 The Council has funded site preparation on the site of the old market.

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

6.1 The project team will consider all issues in relation to the Environment, crime, disorder, and equalities through the development of the project. A risk assessment will be maintained for the project by the project lead.

6.2 The project will contribute to the Council's three priorities.

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

7.1 An integrated impact assessment formed part of the submission to Government.

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

8.1 Consultation on the FHSF project was undertaken through the formulation of the submission. Further consultation will take place with relevant stakeholders as the project continues to the next stage.

9. **RECOMMENDATIONS**

9.1 That Cabinet welcomes the funding allocation of £10.67m from Government

- 9.2 That Cabinet receives a further update following confirmation of the revised funding offer in April 2020.

DIRECTOR OF BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT

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Date: 21.01.21

Background Papers used in the preparation of this report –

NORTH LINCOLNSHIRE COUNCIL

CABINET

SCHOOLS FUNDING FORMULA 2021-22

1. OBJECT AND KEY POINTS IN THIS REPORT

- 1.1 To update Cabinet regarding the 2021-22 funding allocations for Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) and the amount available for Individual School Budgets.
- 1.2 To seek Cabinet approval to allocate funding to North Lincolnshire mainstream schools by the North Lincolnshire Local Funding Formula.
- 1.3 The Schools Block allocation for North Lincolnshire 2021-22 is £121.080m.

2. BACKGROUND INFORMATION

- 2.1 The Education and Skills Funding Agency (ESFA) publish an operational guide annually outlining the arrangements to help local authorities and their schools forum plan the local implementation, calculation and allocation of school funding formulas for the forthcoming financial year.
- 2.2 On 17th December 2020 the ESFA published the 2021-22 Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) Allocations, based on October 2020 School Census data. The allocation for North Lincolnshire is £152.810m, an increase of £10.574m from last year.
- 2.3 The element of DSG which is available for the Individual Schools Budget (ISB) for all mainstream schools is £121.080m, an increase of £8.410m from last year. The Operational guide sets out how ISB shares can be calculated.
- 2.4 There are a number of factors to be taken into consideration for 2021-22.

- The mandatory Minimum Per Pupil Funding Levels (MPPL) have been increased to £5,715 per secondary pupil and £4,180 per primary pupil.
 - The grants for teachers' pay and teachers' pension contributions have been added to the schools National Funding Formula (NFF) allocation for 2021/22 and will no longer be paid as separate grants.
 - Key formula factors in the NFF have increased by 3% and every school allocated 2% more pupil-led funding per pupil compared to the 2020-21 baseline.
 - Local authorities continue to set a minimum funding guarantee (MFG) in local formula, which must be between +0.5% and +2.0%.
 - Additional funding for small and remote schools will increase in 2021-22, with an increase in the maximum sparsity value for primary schools of £45,000 and £70,000 for secondary schools. The DfE have indicated that there will be further expansion of the support the NFF provides for small remote schools from 2022-23.
 - The 2019 updated data for Income Deprivation Affecting Children Index (IDACI) has been incorporated so that deprivation funding allocated is based on latest data.
 - Following cancellation of assessment in the summer due to COVID-19, local authorities are unable to use this data for setting a low prior attainment factor. Instead, the 2019 assessment data has been used as a proxy for the 2020 reception and year 6 cohort.
- 2.5 To continue the introduction of the NFF the DfE intends to consult on forward plans to move to a 'hard' NFF in the future so that resources are distributed based on the individual needs and characteristics of every school in the country.
- 2.6 North Lincolnshire Councils' local formula now reflects the NFF for all factors except for the variation to use pupils travel distance to school measured by road or footpath, rather than 'as the crow flies' when applying the criteria for sparsity. The DfE continue to work on a more suitable formula to allocate sparsity funding.
- 2.7 This report sets out the final proposals for the North Lincolnshire schools funding formula 2021-22.

3. OPTIONS FOR CONSIDERATION

- 3.1 **Option 1:** To approve the use of the North Lincolnshire local formula factors and apply a MFG of 2.0%.
- 3.2 **Option 2:** To approve the use of the North Lincolnshire local formula factors and apply a MFG of 0.5%.

- 3.3 The local authority can, if it wishes, fund the MFG by scaling back overall gains of individual schools.
- 3.4 Alternatively, any shortfall in funding could be financed from the DSG earmarked reserve.

4. ANALYSIS OF OPTIONS

- 4.1 Option 1 would cost £121.262m, £183k more than the funding allocation. 16 schools would receive protection.
- 4.2 Option 2 would cost £121.136m, £56k more than the funding allocation. 7 schools would receive protection.
- 4.3 Scaling back of gains would see funding for schools scaled back by 2.2% to fund 0.5% MFG and by 7.8% to fund 2.0% MFG.
- 4.4 The DSG earmarked reserve is ring fenced and must be used to support the schools' budget,
- 4.5 The formula factors and values are detailed in Appendix 1; this also details the factor values used in 2020-21.
- 4.6 The formula factors meet the requirements of the DFE guidance and uses the data as prescribed by the DFE.
- 4.7 The schools' forum were notified of options on 1st October 2020 and endorsed the application of MFG at the maximum level which could be afforded including use of DSG earmarked reserves as appropriate.
- 4.8 The schools' forum will be updated on final proposals and allocations on 21st January 2021.

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

- 5.1 The final DSG, schools block allocation from the DfE is £121.080m. The DSG schools block earmarked reserve is £1.351m

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

- 6.1 There are no other relevant implications.

7. OUTCOMES OF INTEGRATED IMPACT ASSESSMENT (IF APPLICABLE)

- 7.1 None

8. OUTCOMES OF CONSULTATION AND CONFLICTS OF INTERESTS DECLARED

- 8.1 All mainstream schools have been consulted on the funding formula changes. Ten responses were received.
- 8.2 Local authorities were directed to set a MFG between +0.5% and +2.0%; the consultation therefore gave two options
 - a) To allocate the maximum affordable MFG between the range +0.5% and +2%
 - b) To set the MFG at +2.0% and scale back gains to fund any shortfall.
- 8.3 Schools were also consulted on the allocation of any additional funding if available after application of the funding formula. There is no additional funding available this financial year.
- 8.4 Nine respondents gave preference to option a); one respondent gave preference for option b).
- 8.5 Results of the consultation have been taken into consideration when preparing the final formula for 2021-22.

9. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 9.1 The factors detailed in Appendix 1 be used to calculate the individual schools budget shares for mainstream schools within North Lincolnshire for 2021-22.
- 9.2 The minimum funding guarantee be set at the maximum of 2% and that the schools block earmarked reserve is used to finance the shortfall of £183k.

DIRECTOR OF GOVERNANCE AND PARTNERSHIPS

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Date: 5th January 2021

Background Papers used in the preparation of this report –
Schools Revenue Funding 2021-22: Operational Guide
National Funding Formula for Schools and High Needs Policy Document 2021-22

Funding Formula Factor Values				
Pupil-Led Factors	2020-21		2021-22	
	Primary	Secondary	Primary	Secondary
AWPU - Primary	£2,890		£3,123	
AWPU - Secondary KS3		£4,040		£4,404
AWPU - Secondary KS4		£4,590		£4,963
Deprivation				
FSM	£450	£450	£460	£460
FSM Ever 6	£560	£815	£575	£840
IDACI Band F	£210	£300	£215	£310
IDACI Band E	£250	£405	£260	£415
IDACI Band D	£375	£535	£410	£580
IDACI Band C	£405	£580	£445	£630
IDACI Band B	£435	£625	£475	£680
IDACI Band A	£600	£840	£620	£865
Looked After Children				
English as an Additional Language	£535	£1,440	£550	£1,485
Mobility - children starting school outside of normal entry dates	£875	£1,250	£900	£1,290
Prior Attainment	£1,065	£1,610	£1,095	£1,660
Other Factors				
Lump Sum	£114,400	£114,400	£117,800	£117,800
Sparsity	£26,000	£67,600	£45,000	£70,000
Minimum Per Pupil Funding Level (MPPL)	£3,750	£5,000	£4,180	£5,415

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NORTH LINCOLNSHIRE COUNCIL

CABINET

DIGITAL DEVELOPMENT UPDATE & VISION

1. OBJECT AND KEY POINTS IN THIS REPORT

1.1 To provide Cabinet with an update on the council's digital development and vision going forward.

1.2 The key points are:

- A step change in the council's digital capability has taken place over the last year
- The Covid-19 pandemic has highlighted the importance of digital connectivity and accelerated the delivery of enabling digital solutions
- To build on progress a digital vision 2021 - 2024 has been developed to lead both the council and place towards an optimum digital state.

2. BACKGROUND INFORMATION

2.1 Digital is an enabler for change and at the core of the way the council works, helping to create a mindset and new methods of service design fundamental to achieving its council plan ambitions.

2.2 The Covid-19 pandemic has highlighted the importance of digital connectivity and capability. The council's response occurred at a pace of change that required its workforce to operate in a wholly agile way, at scale, demonstrating flexibility and responsiveness, strengthening its collaborative approach and in doing so informing the next phase of its organisational development. New operating models were designed based on agile principles to meet new requirements and have accelerated progressive and sustainable ways of working, enabled by new technological solutions. Examples included:

- Providing creative core offers for communities such as online leisure activities, access to heritage and arts offer via digital media and a digital library offer, achieving a 200% increase in participation
- Ensuring continuity of learning through virtual and digital platforms such as the Adult Education and Community Learning offer, which was recognised nationally for its innovative response
- Providing online career events by working with local businesses and further education providers, promoting local training and future careers within North Lincolnshire
- Enabling remote training and support for schools and early years settings
- Provision of new contact and data platforms helping the council to protect the most vulnerable residents including residents recognised as clinically extremely vulnerable to Covid-19 who required Shielding.

- Introduction of simple eForms, accessible using any connected device, to make it easy for residents and businesses to request help and support with financial and other wellbeing issues
- Redesigning the council's website to better meet the needs of people and place as a trusted and accessible source of information, advice and guidance. In particular the Covid support and related news pages received around 250,000 views with almost 4 million pages over the last 12 months
- Providing continuity of democratic processes, decision making and partnership working through use of digital virtual platforms with enhanced public and democratic engagement and participation
- Enabling secure "agile from home" capabilities at scale with 1,750 different IT users accessing the IT infrastructure remotely
- Modernising business systems has resulted in more efficient and environmentally friendly practice with a significant reduction in print facilities and reduction in printed documents by 3 million units since 2019
- Implementing modern and secure agile digital tools, such as MS Teams, as a collaboration platform and the creation of new workforce engagement methods such as online webinars.

2.3 The pandemic also highlighted the importance of digital inclusion for enabling residents to access employment, education, essential services and wellbeing opportunities. To help ensure that no resident is disadvantaged due to digital access, a range of support offers and arrangements were put in place, including:

- The council's contact centre was equipped to provide assistance for residents without digital access to help in accessing key services and support during the pandemic
- The Brigg Community Hub opened providing modern digital technology throughout the building including digital touch screen facilities for residents enabling them to self-serve
- Prioritising access by appointment to public computers in community hubs during recent and current restrictions
- In April the government announced support for young people who do not have access to a digital devices during the coronavirus outbreak. Laptops and tablets were provided to support remote education and help children and young people stay in touch with social care services. 510 devices were allocated to children and young people across North Lincolnshire.
- Providing better access to fast, reliable internet connectivity for businesses and residents following work with commercial internet and telecommunications providers. Access to superfast broadband (30+mps) is now available to 95.7% of premises with ultrafast (100+mps) available to 52.1% of premises. Access to gigabit capable "fibre" connectivity also increased from 2% to 10% of premises.
- In addition a further £1m of government funding was secured to deliver better broadband to 133 rural businesses with further local funding injected to increase this to c. 500 business.

2.4 To build on this progress and to frame our digital ambition going forward, a digital vision 2021-2024 has been determined. Its aim is to draw together current and future thinking, initiatives and activities in driving towards a **Digital Council** and a **Digital Place** which underpin the Council Plan. This dual approach aims to enable the council's priorities through modern, digitally enabled service delivery and as a stimulus for investment and local economic growth and prosperity.

2.5 As a **Digital Council** we will provide a digital offer shaped around customer needs and expectations. Our services and information will be made more accessible and personalised, helping customers to self-serve and make better informed choices. Key themes include:

- **Customer Engagement** – reimagining and designing customer access through modern contact channels and platforms. This means driving the pace of digitisation and more agile ways of working, accelerating channel shift to online delivery where that is appropriate and making digital a positive choice and experience for customers, businesses and visitors.
- **Service Redesign** – driving the digitisation of our service models through designing solutions that promote enablement, self-responsibility and self-service.
- **Technology Transformation** – accelerating our “cloud first” strategy by implementing and joining cloud-based technology to provide more resilient, agile and modern platforms that to improve our organisational and environmental performance.
- **Agile Workforce** – developing a digitally capable and agile workforce, equipping them with the new skills, mindset, capabilities and ways of working for the future.
- **Harnessing Data** - developing data platform and data analytics capabilities to drive intelligence led/outcome focussed service planning and decision-making. We will integrate and use our data to target our service priorities, taking preventative actions to support the people who need the most help.

2.6 As a **Digital Place** we will have futureproofed area-wide digital fibre and 5G infrastructure to connect residents, local businesses and public services across the place. We will work with partners to help our residents acquire and nurture digital skills and expertise to create pathways into high-value contemporary employment and attract new businesses and investment whilst supporting the evolution of existing ones.

- **Futureproofed Digital Infrastructure** – securing investment to build and extend a modern digital fibre and 5G futureproofed digital infrastructure that benefits residents and businesses and enhances public services connectivity.
- **Data-Rich Place** – using and sharing data openly across a smart place to support change and innovation and new service developments for our residents and businesses, using real-time community information to provide responsive public services and support. Using new infrastructure technologies to power the Internet of Things to help create safer and better environmental, housing and transport systems.
- **Smart & Connected Place** – harnessing the power of a digital infrastructure to build a smart connected place. Using data and working with partners in the smart connected place, we will help enhance local business and the retail economy, providing useful real-time information to the public, visitors and businesses.

- **Digital Economy** – work with business, industry and education bodies to motivate and upskill the local and emerging workforce to create an agile, highly skilled and digitally included workforce to support future economic prosperity. Investment in digital infrastructure will be used to enable new assets and facilities to support inward investment, attract start-ups, grow our SME base and help the place become a digital destination of choice.
- **Community Enablement** – collaboration with health and care, regeneration, education, business and voluntary sector Partners support and grow our communities. We will engage with and help residents and local businesses to access and fully embrace digital, driving digital literacy and take-up. We will support and enable wellness for residents and communities through digital technology in the home, and via information and guidance and tools that enhance self-help and independent living. We will motivate and enable digital communities to engage and connect people with each other and local organisations and strengthen civic life and local democracy. We will provide information and guidance, self-management and self-care tools to access local services keeping people safe and well.

3. **OPTIONS FOR CONSIDERATION**

- 3.1 Cabinet is invited to note the the digital update and priorities associated with the digital vision 2021 - 2024.

4. **ANALYSIS OF OPTIONS**

- 4.1 There are no options to consider within this summary report.

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

- 5.1 Not applicable.

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

- 6.1 There are no other relevant implications.

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

- 7.1 An integrated impact assessment is not applicable.

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

- 8.1 There are no consultations or conflicts of interests to report.

9. **RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 9.1 Cabinet is invited to note the digital update and priorities going forward associated with the digital vision 2021- 2024.

DIRECTOR OF GOVERNANCE AND PARTNERSHIPS

SCUNTHORPE
North Lincolnshire
DN15 6NL
Author: Martin Oglesby/Jason Whaler
Date: 19 January 2021

Background Papers used in the preparation of this report
Digital Vision & Roadmap 2021 - 2024

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NORTH LINCOLNSHIRE COUNCIL

CABINET

REGULATION OF INVESTIGATORY POWERS 2000 (RIPA) UPDATE

1. OBJECT AND KEY POINTS IN THIS REPORT

- 1.1 To inform Members of the Council's activity relating to surveillance matters under the RIPA regime for the period 1st January 2020 to 31st December 2020

2. BACKGROUND INFORMATION

- 2.1 RIPA provides a legislative framework which details a system of authorisation which exists to secure the lawfulness of surveillance activities and ensure that they are consistent with obligations under the Human Rights Act 1998.
- 2.2 The different types of authorisation include covert surveillance directed at a person(s); the use of a "covert human intelligence source" (CHIS) which involves the establishing of a relationship for the covert purpose of obtaining information and access to communications data such as telephone subscriber details and itemised phone logs.
- 2.3 Between 1st January 2020 and 31st December 2020 the Council did not grant any RIPA authorisations as no RIPA applications were presented to the Authorising Officers. The reason for this is that the nature of enforcement activity changed during 2020 due to the impact of COVID 19 on businesses and intelligence was gathered using different methods.
- 2.4 The Investigatory Powers Commissioner's Office did conduct an arms-length inspection of the Council's RIPA Policy and procedures in July 2020. The inspection was satisfied that the information provided by the Council Officers demonstrated a good level of compliance and that the RIPA Policy and procedures currently in place remain fit for purpose. The Cabinet Member report dated 9th July 2020 provided detail on this inspection.

3. OPTIONS FOR CONSIDERATION

3.1 To note the contents of this Report and approve the existing RIPA Policy

4. ANALYSIS OF OPTIONS

4.1 Guidance indicates that Members should be made aware of RIPA usage within the Council.

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

5.1 The RIPA provisions are already in place within existing resources.

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

6.1 The application of the RIPA provisions will ensure the Council is “safe” and “well” as covert surveillance will only be conducted in accordance with the legislative framework and guidance.

7. OUTCOMES OF INTEGRATED IMPACT ASSESSMENT (IF APPLICABLE)

7.1 Not applicable

8. OUTCOMES OF CONSULTATION AND CONFLICTS OF INTERESTS DECLARED

8.1 The provisions are either statutory or good practice which the Investigatory Powers Commissioner will expect to be followed.

9. RECOMMENDATIONS

9.1 That the content of this Report is noted and the existing RIPA Policy is approved.

DIRECTOR OF GOVERNANCE AND PARTNERSHIPS

Church Square House
SCUNTHORPE
North Lincolnshire
Author: Lisa Langdon
Date 11.1.2021

Background Papers used in the preparation of this report – North Lincolnshire Council RIPA Policy