

COUNTY COUNCIL MEETING ON 12TH FEBRUARY 2010

Statement from: Councillor Sue Woolley, Executive Councillor for Health, Housing and Third Sector

Healthier Communities

It is with great sadness that I must inform Council of the death of two local children from complications associated with Swine Flu.

I am sure that everyone will share my desire to sincerely commiserate with the families at what is a very difficult time for them.

Thankfully I can report that Swine Flu is now firmly on the wane and the numbers of people becoming ill is now close to what we might expect at this time in an 'average' winter.

With the recent very cold snaps, I am pleased to be able to talk about a number of activities we are engaged in to promote wellbeing.

The "Good Life Guide" is now available to people in its second edition and has a number of hints and tips to help older people stay warm, safe and well in winter.

This new edition has been improved over the extremely well evaluated first one by significant input from older people.

28 January saw the official launch of the First Contact scheme at a county level. I was very pleased to attend and learn more detail about the difference this scheme is making to older people.

This scheme is transforming the way we deal with older people and gradually supporting the shift we need to make towards services that support wellbeing and prevent loss of wellbeing.

Housing Strategy

The Health and Wellbeing Fund Board has agreed a joint way forward with Sustainable Communities colleagues to redouble efforts to make homes in Lincolnshire more energy efficient. A new project will see investment in schemes for local houses leveraging in many times the value of our investment.

This will develop services to advise county householders on the most effective measures for their homes, alongside schemes to grant or subsidise the cost of these improvements. As well as reducing our carbon footprint these

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services will help vulnerable people stay warm and reduce avoidable illness, admission to hospital and longer term problems from cold related illnesses.

The county housing authorities have recently been criticised for failing to adequately “join up” our approach to housing planning.

Great strides are being taken for the first time to improve our approach across the seven district authorities, the NHS and the County Council including both the Development and Adult Social Services areas. Working alongside local housing providers, planners and support service deliverers this should quickly start to improve the experience for local people in housing need.

I will keep you informed of progress on this increasingly high profile part of my portfolio in the coming months.