

# Agenda Item 5

**Lincolnshire Health and Wellbeing Board – 29 September 2020**

## **Chairman's Announcements**

### **National Institute for Health Protection**

On 18 August 2020, the government announced plans to establish the National Institute for Health Protection (NIHP). The new organisation would bring together Public Health England (PHE), NHS Test and Trace and analytical capability of the Joint Biosecurity Centre under a single command structure to advance the country's response to the COVID-19 pandemic. In order to minimise disruption to the work dealing with the pandemic, the organisation will be formalised and operating from spring 2021.

The new organisation will support local directors of public health and local authorities respond to COVID-19. The responsibilities of the NIHP will include:

- NIHP local health protection teams to deal with infections and other threats;
- support and resources for local authorities to manage local outbreaks;
- the COVID-19 testing programme;
- contact tracing;
- the Joint Biosecurity Centre;
- emergency response and preparedness to deal with the most severe incidents at national and local level;
- research and reference laboratories and associated services;
- specialist epidemiology and surveillance of all infectious diseases;
- providing specialist scientific advice on immunisation and countermeasures.

Preventing ill health and reducing health inequalities also remain top priority. The Department of Health and Social Care and PHE will shortly announce plans and options on the future of PHE's remaining health improvement functions. This will include how to support the wider public health system.

### **APPG on Rural Health and Social Care – Inquiry session on social care**

On 25 August 2020, I took part in an inquiry session on Social Care conducted by the All Party Parliamentary Group (APPG) on Rural Health and Social Care. The online session was chaired by Anne Marie Morris MP and also included input from Care England; Nursing and Midwifery Council, Community Catalysts and Skills for Care. The purpose of the event was to discuss the biggest issues facing social care including the barriers to recruitment especially in rural areas; challenges facing providers in a rural market; the impact retirees relocating to communities have on the local health and care infrastructure; and what steps need to be taken to fully integrate health and social care.

The APPG Rural Health and Social Care inquiry aims to develop evidence based policy recommendations for the government on the rural health (both mental and physical) and social care economy in England. Current models are not suited to rural areas with sparse populations and a disproportionate number of over 85s with comorbidities including isolation and other mental health problems.

## **Joint Strategic Asset Assessment**

Covid19 has highlighted the importance of strong resilient communities. Whilst there has been joint focus on understanding health and wellbeing needs, in particular through the Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (JSNA), less attention has been given to identifying assets or strengths of the people, communities and population in Lincolnshire. The Joint Strategic Asset Assessment (JSAA) aims to identify a comprehensive range of assets, both physical and people resource, to understand the potential; maximise their use and help identify gaps. Connect 2 Support Lincolnshire has been agreed as the platform for the JSAA. A 12 month temporary post will be recruited by the end of October to work with communities and partners to identify and map assets, build the register and establish future sustainability.

## **JHWS Physical Activity Priority - One You Lincolnshire**

Maintaining a healthy lifestyle, taking regular exercise, stopping smoking and reducing alcohol intake are positive steps that people can take to reduce their risk of contracting the Covid-19 virus. The One You Lincolnshire (OYL) offer to adults during Covid-19 expanded with a greater number of self-referrals and engagement for lifestyle and behavioural support. All OYL pathways are offering support digitally and plan to maintain this through 2020/21. Prior to Covid-19, OYL supported 3,200 people to make positive lifestyle changes with over 1,000 adults supported to lose weight and be more active. Since Covid-19, from April to June, the new digital services have supported 1,100 clients to lose weight and move more.

Public Health has also been working in partnership with the Lets Move Lincolnshire Partnership to provide support and advice to people who were shielding or clinically vulnerable through the Active at Home pamphlet.

## **JHWS Mental Health Priority – Suicide Prevention**

One of the impacts of the pandemic has been the rise in people suffering with mental health issues, with a particular area of concern being Suicide. I am therefore pleased to report that the Suicide Audit, Suicide Prevention Strategy and Action Plan have been agreed and formally published in October 2020. In addition, Lincolnshire has been awarded £151k of funding by NHSE/I as part of the Wave 3 Transformation Programme. This non-recurrent money will be used to support our work on suicide prevention in Lincolnshire. We have also been awarded £3k by the Local Government Association which will be used to pilot a suicide bereavement support service.

## **JHWS Healthy Eating Priority - BBC Countryfile feature Washingborough Academy**

Towards the end of last year, the Lincolnshire Whole System Healthy Weight Partnership showcased the innovative food education work being done by Washingborough Academy. I am very pleased to report the efforts and enthusiasm of the staff and pupils have now been recognised nationally as best practice and was featured on the BBC's Countryfile programme on 30 August 2020. The programme was guest edited by Mary Berry, who spent time filming at the school.