

COUNTY COUNCIL MEETING - 9 DECEMBER 2022

Statement from: Councillor Mrs W Bowkett, Executive Councillor for Adult Care and Public Health

PUBLIC HEALTH

Lincolnshire Ageing Better Rural Strategic Partnership with the Centre for Ageing Better

The Lincolnshire Ageing Better Rural Strategic Partnership held its first stakeholder conference on 30 of September, bringing together over 80 representatives from various sectors to consider opportunities for ageing better in Lincolnshire. Delegates received information about areas of work taking place on housing and the national Good Home Inquiry recommendations, how organisations (particularly Lincolnshire small and medium sized businesses) can become age-friendly employers and how stakeholders can work together to create an age friendly county. Planning has commenced regarding solutions and actions that can be achieved to support the residents of Lincolnshire to prepare and enjoy life as they age. The date for next years' conference has been agreed to ensure that all actions are carried forward and showcased as they progress.

Housing Health and Care Delivery Group

The Housing Health and Care Delivery Group continues to go from strength to strength with Councillor Gray as its chairman and strong attendance from a wide range of partner agencies. As a subgroup of the Health and Wellbeing Board, the Group has an ambitious Delivery Plan to achieve the objectives set out in the Lincolnshire Homes for Independence blueprint. Our focus is on ensuring that people with care and support needs can have a home for life.

Over half of the 50 plus actions are now in train, led by working groups that have been reconstituted over the past twelve months. The Public Health Intelligence Team have increased capacity to provide a housing intelligence function, funded by the district councils, linking data and intelligence on housing standards to personal health data. This means that, in future, the County Council and partners can target initiatives and external funding towards people who will see the greatest health and wellbeing benefits.

Good Home Alliance

The Housing Health and Care Delivery Group is currently overseeing a major project in partnership with the national Centre for Ageing Better. The aim of this project is to develop and pilot a model to achieve a good home alliance in Lincolnshire. This aligns with our own Corporate Plan activity to create a one stop shop for equipment, aids, and adaptations. It is an exciting opportunity to improve access to services for people in need of support to maintain, improve or adapt their home. This project also provides us with an opportunity to share a model which could be rolled out nationally.

Ageing Better has funded a service design consultant to support the project. The consultant will work with our Public Health team, the Ageing Better Partnership Manager and partner organisations, including District Councils and voluntary organisations. There has been an extensive public and stakeholder engagement exercise, including surveys, interviews, talks

and workshops. The first two project phases to 'discover' and 'define' what is needed are complete and we will share this information once collated.

Lincolnshire Carers Service

Over the past 6 months, our Carers Support Service has been recommissioned and is now "Lincolnshire Carers Service". The previous provider, Carers First, was successful in securing the new contract. To avoid confusion and duplication, the service has been remodelled. This means that Serco Customer Service Centre (CSC) is now the only front door, with onward referral to Carers First for all assessments. The updated service began on 1 of October 2022 and will run for three years, with the option to extend for a further two years.

The number of carers supported has increased to 11,844 carers of adults supported over the previous 12 months including 2234 young carers. This is a rise of 432 more Carers overall, an 3.8% increase and a 10.98% increase of young carers. This appears to confirm national data which shows more carers supporting their loved ones following Covid.

Connect to Support Lincolnshire Long Covid Information Hub

According to data from the Office for National Statistics, overall prevalence of long COVID remains high. In England, 1.6 million people are estimated to have self-reported symptoms lasting longer than 4 weeks and 1.2 million have experienced symptoms lasting longer than 12 weeks. The most common symptoms of long COVID are extreme tiredness, shortness of breath, loss of smell and muscle aches.

To support people suffering the effects of long COVID, a new digital resource has been developed. Lincolnshire County Council (LCC) worked with local agencies, including Lincolnshire charity Every-One, to identify the needs of local people with long COVID and their families to develop an information hub. This hub provides guidance and information on long COVID, with links, documents and videos to help people to manage their symptoms and find additional help and support.

Vicky Thomson, Chief Executive Officer at Every-One said: "It became apparent whilst working alongside people with long COVID that it wasn't just themselves who needed access to support and resources. It was important to develop a digital hub that people's families, carers, employers and schools could access too, so the person was fully supported in all aspects of their lives. Long COVID affects people in many different ways, so we needed a multifaceted resource."

The long COVID information hub includes videos from people who have experienced long COVID, as well as pages on financial support and help at work. There are sections for children and young people, activities to help with symptoms and contacts for further support and advice. The hub, funded through an NHS Charities Together grant is hosted on a Connect to Support Lincolnshire webpage.

Care Charges Calculator

People who need adult social care services can now find out if they are likely to have to pay for care, with an estimate of how much this might be, before they have a conversation with

the council about their needs. The new care charges calculator takes around 5 minutes to complete and does not require any personal details to be submitted.

Substance Misuse

In September, we launched the Lincolnshire Drug and Alcohol Partnership, a multi-agency combatting drugs partnership to deliver the national drug strategy 'From Harm to Hope'. The Partnership is focused on the prevention (stopping people from using illegal drugs or developing harmful or dependent drinking) and treatment (supporting those people who have already developed harmful or dependent drinking or drug use to stop) of drug and alcohol related harm, supporting people of all ages. The three priorities of the Partnership will be to break drug supply chains, deliver world-class treatment and recovery services and to achieve a shift in the demand for recreational drugs.

Mental Health and Wellbeing

November was Men's Health Month, also known as Movember – and an important focus of this awareness event is men's mental health wellbeing and suicide prevention. In September, we launched our 5 Ways to Wellbeing Campaign to support people across Lincolnshire to find ways to feel less stressed, anxious or low. Techniques included getting active, connecting with others, taking notice of the world around you, keeping learning and being generous.

We are also encouraging people across Lincolnshire to complete brief, free suicide awareness training from the Zero Suicide Alliance. The Alliance provides free training that teaches people how to identify, understand and help someone who may be experiencing suicidal thoughts, supporting the principle that suicide is preventable. To find out more, please search for "Zero Suicide Alliance" online.

Oral Health

This school year, we will be supporting the Community Dental Service to complete a survey of dental health in children in Year 6. This follows on from the survey of 5-year-olds completed last school year. The survey is a really important tool for us to understand oral health needs of our children in Lincolnshire, and how those needs vary from place to place. The findings will be released later next year and will help us to plan oral health promotion activities across Lincolnshire.

ADULT CARE

Exploring Occupational Therapy Integration in the Community

We are exploring the opportunities presented by closer collaboration between Community Occupational Therapy services in Lincolnshire Community Health Services (LCHS) and LCC. Working closely with colleagues in the Primary Care Networks and our Neighbourhood Teams in the south of the county we are working together to prevent unnecessary duplication by ensuring people see the right therapist at the right time, the first time. We are exploring joint decision making at triage, joint training, shared documentation as well as myth busting that challenges custom and practice.

It is expected that these changes will also help speed up service response time and address the backlog of assessments that exist in both health and care organisations.

A final evaluation of the pilot is scheduled for February 2023, however the initial review doesn't show progression in reducing of the waiting list for LCC OT statutory assessment; but improvement has been made in length of time people are waiting for LCHS therapy services.

Active Recovery Beds and Wrap around initiatives

Adult Care continue to work with system partners to support the people of Lincolnshire to be discharged from hospital when they are ready to leave. With additional funding provided by NHSE/1 2 new services are being developed led by adult care.

Active Recovery beds – The plan is that 60 beds in residential care home across the County are commissioned to support people who will be returning to their own home but need a short period of reablement in a care home setting prior to this, so customers can be fully recovered from their hospital stay and achieve their maximum level of independence prior to returning home. The tender is currently out to the residential care market and evaluations will take place in early December with a plan for the beds to become available also early in December. Customers will spend time with occupational therapy and social work staff to agree what goals they would like to achieve to support a successful return home, and the care home will work with individuals to achieve their goals. This service will also support the wider home care service as the plan is that following a short period in an active recovery bed, customers will be discharged with a smaller or with no package of care.

Wrap around care – The aim of this service will be to reduce customers length of stay in emergency departments (ED's) across the county. The excellent work that our reablement provider currently does in acute hospitals on the wards will be refocused to the ED, so people who do not need an admission are supported to return to their home as quickly as possible with reablement support for a short period to enable a supported recovery following their visit to ED. This will be supported by Social Workers and Occupational therapists, which will ensure that customers have the wrap around support they need to support them.

Strengths Based Approaches

Maximising independence and improving outcomes for individuals remains a key priority and will help sustain support with the right people getting the right support at the right time. We have focused on supporting people to achieve the highest possible level of independence, supporting people in the context of their families and support networks. Momentum continues as we proceed in working with teams across Learning Disability and Adult Frailty and Long-Term Conditions, Acute Hospital, Community Hospital and Transition of Care, Safeguarding and Carers teams. This approach means that people experience a Strengths Based Approach right from their first contact and throughout their contact with Adult Care.

The Strengths Based Approach and MINDSPACE Behavioural Science framework initial roll out is entering its final phases. We have now worked with 45 teams across adult care who are using the approach to enable the people they are working with to achieve better outcomes. As a result we have seen that while there has been a significant increase in requests at the front door, this approach has limited the volume of cases progressing to area teams. We have

also seen fewer people in Q2 entering residential or nursing care when compared to the same time last year. We continue to strengthen working practices and practitioners report the work is having a positive impact in over 85% of cases. A further 5 teams across Carers Services are in progress.

We have worked with 37 teams to ensure we maximise the opportunity to use technology to improve quality of life. We have seen increased confidence and more conversations with people about how technology can help people maximise their independence and meet their outcomes. The next phase of the work is to sustain and build on the progress that has already been made.

Local Supported Employment

We have been successful in our application for the Local Supported Employment (LSE) funding from the Department for Work and Pensions. £210,000 of DWP funding will be secured over this period and Lincolnshire County Council will be contributing £90,000. The LSE initiative will provide dedicated employment support to people across Lincolnshire who have a learning disability and/or autism and want to get into paid employment. The LSE coincides with LCC's commitment to improving the life chances of and achieving equality for disabled people, which includes the opportunity to be able to work. This will help to tackle inequalities by providing more support for people with a learning disability and/or autism to have an opportunity to be able to get a job ensuring there is choice about the type of work people do just as for the rest of the working population.

The LSE initiative will run from November 2022 to March 2025, and it will primarily be targeting and supporting 60 people who are school and college leavers aged between 18-24 who want to move into paid employment. This initiative will be delivered by our established Maximising Independence Team, which will be enhanced with the recruitment of 3 new dedicated Job Coaches. The Job Coaches will be tasked with creating and developing existing relationships with local organisations and employers and focusing on providing direct support to young people who are leaving school and college into employment.

A Practitioners Guide to Supporting People with Communication Needs

A comprehensive guide that has been developed to help Practitioners to navigate the range of tools, resources, and techniques currently available to support them when working with individuals with communication needs. Practitioners need and want to involve people, when working with individuals to complete assessments, support plans and conduct reviews.

Communicating with the individual is fundamental to involving the person with care and support needs. The new guide supports practitioners' by giving them access to comprehensive information, tools, and resources to equip them when working with people who use alternative forms of communication. Work is underway to ensure this guide is also available to LPFT Adult Care Practitioners.

In House Day Services

During September, the Day Services staff who work in Boston and Horncastle supported 30 service users to enjoy a long weekend away in the Lake District. This allowed the people we support the opportunity to experience time in the mountains, whilst taking part in a variety

of challenging outdoor pursuits including rock climbing canoeing and abseiling. This allowed family carers a well-deserved weekend break.

The Lincolnshire Safeguarding Adults Board (LSAB)

The LSAB has a statutory responsibility to have a 3 year strategy that reflects identified areas of concern in Lincolnshire and to report back on its work each year in an annual report. In 2021 a large piece of work was undertaken to assess the needs of the adult population across Lincolnshire. The findings from the needs assessment created a picture of the predominant types of abuse and highlighted areas across Lincolnshire where disproportionate levels of abuse take place. This information and the input from all our partners at several assurance events was invaluable in shaping a new three-year strategy and deliver plan, which support our vision of ensuring that Lincolnshire is a place where adults feel safe, secure and free from abuse and harm.

The Board's overarching priority for the next three years is prevention and early intervention. Our ambition is to build on our strategies that reduce the risk of people with care and support needs, experiencing or being at risk of harm or abuse. The areas of work we intend to focus on can be defined in three key areas, making safeguarding personal, learning and shaping future practice and safeguarding effectiveness. Our key areas for work are:

- Continuing to develop the Team Around the Adult (TAA) to increase our capacity to support more adults with complex needs.
- Co-ordinate activities to prevent adults at risk from exploitation in particular financial exploitation and cuckooing.
- Develop strategies to prevent older adults at risk of domestic abuse.

Our expected outcomes are:

- Greater number and cross section of complex cases.
- Individuals supported through TAA and proactive prevention targeted at top 10 individuals.
- Reduced number of safeguarding referrals and greater awareness around financial exploitation and cuckooing
- Greater awareness of domestic abuse in older adults and more accurate reporting.

'Made with Care' The new national Adult Social Care recruitment campaign

The latest phase of the Department of Health and Social Care's national adult social care recruitment campaign launched on 2nd November to support the adult social care sector's winter recruitment activity and will run until March 2023. With advertising planned across England, the 'Made with Care' campaign will reach millions of people via video on demand, radio, and digital channels, raising awareness of the rewarding nature of care work and increasing the number of quality candidates that apply to roles.

The 'Made with Care' campaign shows the amazing work that staff across the adult social care sector do. It celebrates the way they empower the people they support and shines a light on the emotional rewards of the role to inspire more people to consider a job in adult social care. Campaign advertising will direct job seekers to www.adultsocialcare.co.uk. Here, they will be

able to find everything they need to research a career in adult social care and, crucially, search and apply for adult social care jobs near them through DWP 'Find a Job'.

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