

COUNTY COUNCIL MEETING – 01 DECEMBER 2023

Statement from Councillor Wendy Bowkett - Executive Councillor for Adult Care and Public Health

ADULT CARE

Day Services

Further progress has been made with the development of the Council's In-House Day Opportunities Services including a re-structure of the service to enhance the work aimed at helping people to maximise their independence. This work has led to an increased number of people with disabilities participating in volunteering and employment. We are also seeing a wider use of the day services buildings by the wider community.

The improvement work includes the re-provision and refurbishment of a number of the Day Services buildings to ensure that these are places we can be proud. We have successfully completed phase one of a major refurbishment of Ancaster Day Centre building in Lincoln and have further refurbishment work planned for the future including phase two of Ancaster, refurbishment work in Spalding Chappel Centre and when suitable accommodation can be sourced an alternative base for Grantham and potentially the Skegness service as well.

The Day Opportunities team have also supported the Butlin's ICE conference. The Butlins Inclusive Community Experience Conference welcomed more than two hundred and fifty participants to Butlins Skegness in September, offering a remarkable holiday experience to learning-disabled adults from across the county. This allowed family carers to take a well-deserved break. The central theme for this year's ICE conference was "Busting Barriers," with all workshops focusing on individuals' accomplishments despite the challenges they've encountered.

Lincolnshire Adults Safeguarding Board and Team Around the Adult

Good progress is being made against the key priorities identified in the second Lincolnshire Safeguarding Adults Board Prevention Strategy (LSAB) 2023-2026. Key areas of focus include further improvement in the quality and safety of residential and nursing care, preventing the impact of pressure sores, tackling domestic abuse of older adults, preventing financial abuse and safeguarding adults with complex needs by piloting phase two of Team Around the Adult (TAA). Senior Responsible Officers have been identified from across the partnership to lead on each of the key priorities and where appropriate, links have been made to other statutory boards to ensure a joined-up approach; for example the Safer Lincolnshire Partnership are leading on financial abuse work related to scams and fraud and the Lincolnshire Domestic Abuse Partnership are leading on work around Domestic Abuse and Older Adults.

The TAA phase two multi-agency audit group is progressing an audit of activity related to forty individuals who were frequently presenting to either the Police, District Councils, LPFT Crisis team or LCC Emergency Duty team. There has been great commitment to these meetings by all partners, sharing information and actively participating in meetings, fostering open

discussions, professional curiosity, and constructive challenges. The TAA task and finish group is analysing the findings and considering what system changes could help to identify the right support at the right time, reducing demand on services and leading to better responses and outcomes for individuals.

As a result of audits to date, the TAA multi-agency task and finish group has identified a need for training and resources which could be accessed by all practitioners working with those living with unresolved trauma. The Lincolnshire Safeguarding Adults Board agreed to take this forward and are working with the Lincolnshire Domestic Abuse Partnership and Lincolnshire Safeguarding Children's partnership to ensure that all those working across the Lincolnshire system have access to the same training and resources. This will support a consistent trauma-informed approach which will improve outcomes for the people we work with. Feedback and learning have also been shared to inform the review of the LSAB Self-Neglect Protocol, including the emerging findings associated with a frequent perception of 'non-engagement' and 'individuals not being ready for support'. To date thirty-five complex cases have been audited. Once complete, the Task and Finish Group will review the findings in their entirety to consider and agree next steps and further recommendations for improvement.

PUBLIC HEALTH

Drugs and Alcohol

It has been a busy year regarding our work around drugs and alcohol. The Lincolnshire Drug and Alcohol Partnership is now well-established with several priority activities underway. This includes expanding work to prevent drug and alcohol related harms and improving referral routes into specialist treatment. One You Lincolnshire continues to support people who want to cut back on their drinking, and With You provides specialist support for young people and adults of all ages with problem drug and alcohol use.

Mental Health and Wellbeing

Work to deliver the Prevention Concordat for Better Mental Health is well underway. Partners from across Lincolnshire are coming together to raise awareness of how to look after your mental wellbeing, through the 5 Ways to Wellbeing. We are also working across Lincolnshire to improve the health and wellbeing of people with serious mental illness, who are some of our most vulnerable residents and who experience worse health outcomes across the board. The new Suicide Prevention Strategy will be launched in early 2024, which sets out our approach to reducing suicide attempts and deaths in Lincolnshire for the coming years.

Oral Health

I'm pleased to tell you all that Lincolnshire Smiles – our local supervised toothbrushing programme – is thriving. In the last school year over one thousand three hundred children from twenty-eight schools and early years settings participated in the daily toothbrushing programme, helping them to develop healthy oral health habits for life. Our programme to deliver toothbrushing packs to settings across the county, including the Holiday Activity and

Food Programme, Food Banks and through the Health Visiting Service continues. The latest dental epidemiology survey, which helps us to understand oral health needs of children in Lincolnshire, is now underway for the 2023-2024 school year.

Ageing Better Conference

Our second annual Age Friendly Lincolnshire Conference, organised in conjunction the Centre for Ageing Better, took place at the end of September. The conference brought together organisations with a remit around housing, employment, community development and tackling inequalities, including those supporting or delivering services for people over the age of fifty.

The key highlights of our ongoing work in Ageing Better are:

- Design guides are improving the quality of new residential developments and meeting needs for older people.
- Activity sessions are set up for those living with dementia.
- Active care programmes exist for those with Parkinson's disease.
- Community hubs provide drop-in advice and information points to support people with issues ranging from benefits to IT access.
- Our Wellbeing Lincs service continues to provide the right support for people to live independent, long lives, keeping them safe and well at home and in their communities.

We also know that many people are struggling to make changes to their homes to keep them warm and safe. As we age, it becomes more challenging to maintain and improve our homes due to factors such as becoming less active and agile and not knowing where to go to seek advice.

Another aspect of our commitment to supporting Lincolnshire's ageing population is our exciting plan to develop additional extra care housing schemes in Lincolnshire. Extra care housing supports independent living with additional amenities and on-site support if needed. Work is progressing on the new Welton scheme, due to open at the end of next year. The joint project with Homes England, West Lindsey District Council and LACE Housing will feature sixty-two apartments for older people.

In addition, The Hoplands in Sleaford has now been awarded planning permission with work due to start in the new year. In partnership with North Kesteven District Council, the development will bring much needed accommodation to the district. It will include forty extra-care apartments for older people and twelve maisonettes providing community-supported living accommodation, specifically for adults with learning disabilities, physical disabilities and those who are autistic.

These schemes will add to our successful opening of De Wint Court in Lincoln and I'm looking forward to seeing this take shape for people and more extra care housing schemes come on board in other areas of the county in future years. They are a vital part of our package to support independence, improve the wellbeing and enhance the quality of life of our older residents.

On the 2 November 2023 The Council hosted a 'Summit' of senior leaders from across the Lincolnshire urgent and emergency care system. The 'Summit' reviewed our achievements and challenges on our mission to maximise the likelihood that people needing urgent care in the County are routed in a timely fashion to the most appropriate service in our systems.

Delivering appropriate and timely urgent and emergency care to our residents is a significant challenge in Lincolnshire, with significant distances between communities and services and areas with sparse population where it is difficult to provide services in a cost effective way. Working well with partners to overcoming this challenge in innovative and creative ways is essential and we have recently been commended for the quality of our approach to joint working during NHS England's review of our joint preparation for the coming Winter.

The Summit was chaired by the Leader of the Council and was very well attended by very senior representatives of organisations from the NHS, independent and voluntary sectors, emergency services and the University. Informative presentations proved a very good jumping off point for the discussions which followed.

Whilst we have much to celebrate in Lincolnshire, there was a consensus that there are areas which will require further improvement. We closed the Summit by securing commitment to a range of actions which will improve local people's experience and I look forward on reporting progress on these to Council as they progress.