

CABINET MEMBERS REPORT TO COUNCIL

1 September 2022

COUNCILLOR - SAM SANDELL .CABINET MEMBER FOR PEOPLE AND COMMUNITIES

For the period 4th July to 18th August 2022

Progress on Portfolio Matters and Forthcoming Activities and Developments.

Members Support Group

We held our first Member support group meeting. This was attended by Cllr Joyce, Cllr Squire, Myself and Alexa. The purpose of the group is to have a bit of a platform for issues affecting Cllrs and making Cllrs roles a little easier. We discussed intimidation in public life and putting something in the induction packs when new Cllr are elected. If you have any thing that you would like to raise, please email any of the above Cllrs who can bring the issues to the meetings. We are looking to meet every 8 weeks the next meeting is 22nd September.

Housing register

1345 live applications

4 Emergency

208 High

393 Medium

740 Low

202 new or change in circumstances received

Housing Options

137 applicants given housing advice, of these 83 progressed into homeless declarations and/or are ongoing investigations

No lets have been advised so far for July 2022. You'll be aware of the issues Freebridge are having with empty properties and void turnaround. We are in discussions with them regarding this. One of their actions is that they will no

longer advertise a property until they have an estimated available date for letting. This means there will be a reduction in Freebridge properties in the Homechoice advert for the next few weeks.

There is significant blockage on temporary accommodation due to this and an impact on spending on B&B.

People are presenting themselves to the council who have never wanted help before as they can't find anywhere to live. This is due to several factors, landlords selling due to EPC ratings having to be a C by 2025. House prices in West Norfolk are very high and people are selling, re evaluation of lives after Covid. This is having a huge impact on our services. The Housing Team are working very hard, and I would like to publicly thank them.

Careline Community Service department update

Careline

Careline serves West Norfolk, North Norfolk and surrounding counties. As of July 2022 we currently had 3750 clients. Client numbers have reduced slightly, which is monitored closely. The main reasons for cancellations remain; Death, followed by Going into Care.

The Careline service offers Personal alarms, falls pendants, Key Safes, Smoke and Carbon Monoxide alarms and Assistive Technology (Motion Sensor Lights/Pager Systems). Careline continues to explore new products for its clients.

www.careline-cs.org.uk

Going Home project

The I'm Going Home project was implemented as a pilot in October 2019 to support the discharge team at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital, King's Lynn. If a patient was deemed as being able to go home but needing reassurance and support, then the Buddy Button (this is a GPS tracking and falls detector) was allocated to them free of charge for 6 weeks. After the 6 weeks the client was contacted by a member of the Careline team to see if they would like to take on the Buddy Button and pay for it or to have any other alarm provision from Careline. If they did not want to carry on with the product then it was collected, cleaned and cleared and returned to the QEH for re-issue.

To date there have been 69 clients discharged from hospital with the support and reassurance of a Buddy Button. This could contribute to reducing the need for a hospital bed for longer than necessary.

Lily

Lily continues to provide support to the residents of West Norfolk to tackle social isolation and loneliness. The new NCC commissioner has been appointed to the Social Isolation and Loneliness contract based from County Hall. The current model continues to work well with targets constantly met. Referrals are coming in as expected and charity partners are working well as ever.

The team are starting work on a refresh of the Lily website Project Managed

by the Careline Community Service Manager, plans and quotations are currently being executed.

In October 2021 central government announced that it would be allocating a 6-month fund to support individuals in Hardship to Borough and District Councils to administer. The criteria was generally wide (but restricted to not being spent on Debt Advice or Mortgage payments), it was for individuals experiencing fuel or food poverty due to the removal of the Universal Credit uplift which was implemented through Covid-19. The fund was to be spent by 31st March 2022, although it did not commence until the end of November 2021. There was huge pressure to get these funds out to those in need. West Norfolk was allocated £225,000. A temporary member of staff was employed to assist with the delivery of this. The fund was not promoted by local authorities to reduce the likelihood of saturation of demand. Clients approached us via phone call or online application form. Each client was personally dealt with and triaged, exploring their hardship situation and supporting in the most effective way that was deemed possible. This fund has now completed.

Lily was successful with their bid for the Orsted Community Benefit Fund. This project has now concluded and delivered a Food for Thought 12-week healthy eating initiative at the Discovery Centre, North Lynn in partnership with Freebridge Community Housing and the College of West Anglia. The aim is to encourage local residents of all ages to partake in coffee, chat and to find out more about healthy eating. The sessions include nutrition, shopping on a budget, cooking for one, special diets, food for families and more. This ties in to a piece of work currently being undertaken with the CCG and other partners looking at inactivity in the North Lynn area and also with the issues we have seen from HSF and throughout COVID with people living in hardship in the North Lynn area. Lily has applied for further funding from the Health and Wellbeing Board to extend and expand this initiative.

Alive West Norfolk

Theatre

The new brochure for Sept-Dec has been posted to 20K customers. Initial sales are good with some shows already selling out. Highlights include Snooker greats, Tony Blackburn sound of the 60's ,Dave Gorman, Russell Kane, Marti Pellow and children's show Room on the Broom.

2022/23 Ticket sales are currently lower than budgeted. This is down to 4 shows being cancelled or moved into next year from June. 2 shows on National tour in 2023 have already been pulled along with a musical (Blood Brothers) pencilled for November 2023, leaving me with a week to programme before the pantomime in 2023. We belong to a group of 70+ theatres and COVID and cost of living are being seen nationally as the reason for lower than anticipated ticket sales.

The Pantomime, Snow White is on track with sales and is being launched with the press on Monday 5th September. KL favourite Dame *Ian Marr* & comic *Scott Cripps* make a welcome return. We have decided to move away from a pantomime *star* for the second year. The *Star* name is extremely expensive and don't bring about extra bums on seats.

Secondary spend, Food & Beverages are on track with budget.

Cinema

It been a great couple of months for Cinema with Top Gun & Elvis doing great business for us.

The Cinema LIVE events continue to sell out. We have put on an extra 3 screenings of the National Theatre performance *Prima Facia* starring Jodie Comer. It looks like we may have to add a 4th!

All other NT Live performances have sold out as well as Andre Rieu in September. We have Royal Opera House and MET opera performances booked for 2023& 2024.

Leisure

Children's Summer Holiday activities

Free Activity and Meal for target groups

Holiday Activity Numbers (25.07.2022 to 05.08.2022):

Site	Number Attended
Lynnsport	580
Downham	368
Oasis	44

Summer Of Play Information (25.07.2022 to 05.08.2022) – juniors only: £1 and 50p activities (Concession card holders)

Activity	Site	Attendance
KASET	Lynnsport	222
Tumble Teds	Lynnsport	332
Rollerskating	Oasis	159
Alive Adventures	Oasis	501
Swimming	St James	1,382
	Downham	577
	Oasis	1,883
	Total Swimming	3,842
OVERALL TOTAL		8,898

Development

Alive West Norfolk have recently been awarded £50,000 from the Kings Lynn and West Norfolk Health and Wellbeing Partnership which will allow a number of current initiatives to continue to be provided and the introduction of a wide range of new activities across the Borough. These include:

Childhood and women's Obesity Programmes – A range of weight reduction programmes

All to Play For – Football sessions for men to help improve mental health – in partnership with Man v Fat

Community Fitness Classes – Urban and rural locations

Social Soccer – family football session for 5-85yrs

Park Lives – pop up activities across the Borough

Play Street – Doorstep activities in North Lynn, Fairstead and South Lynn

Jolly Joggers -Walk, jog, run sessions for beginners in North Lynn, Fairstead and South Lynn

Buggy Walks – Across the Borough

Parent and Toddler Activity Groups – South Lynn, Downham

More information to come as these activities are still being developed,

3 Meetings Attended and Meetings Scheduled

4th July Housing Challenges and Plan meeting

7th July Kings Lynn West Norfolk Health and Wellbeing board

7th July Cabinet Briefing

11TH July Cabinet Sifting

14th July Full Council

18TH July Officer Meeting

19th July Active Clean Connectivity Meeting

19TH July Cabinet Briefing

20th July Towns Fund ACC meeting

21st July Lynn News Education awards Knights Hill

26th July Cabinet Briefing

27TH July QEH Briefing

27th July Town Deal ACC meeting

2nd August Cabinet

8th August I choose solar together

9th August Cabinet Briefing

10th August Strategic Housing Meeting

10th August Cabinet

11TH August Member support group

Meetings in diary

Cabinet briefings, Cabinet sifting and Full council.