

CABINET MEMBERS REPORT TO COUNCIL

4 July 2019

COUNCILLOR ADRIAN LAWRENCE - CABINET MEMBER FOR HOUSING

For the period May to July 2019

1 Progress on Portfolio Matters.

Home Choice

There were 254 new applications/change of circumstances received in May

There are 1131 live applications

1 Emergency

162 High

316 Medium

652 Low

47 Housed

Rough Sleeper funding

The Council has successfully bid for funding which the Government has made available to tackle rough sleeping (Rapid Rehousing Pathway). The £106K allocated for 2019/20 will fund 3 posts hosted by The Purfleet Trust. Two rough sleeping 'navigators' will help rough sleepers into settled accommodation, and support them in an intensive way to access health and other services they need. A further role will involve on-going support in a less intensive way to those re-settled in private rented accommodation to ensure their tenancy is sustained. The Purfleet Trust is working with some private landlords to identify some properties for this purpose.

West Norfolk Housing – new affordable housing

The Council's wholly owned Registered Provider of social housing West Norfolk Housing Co. (WNHC) Ltd is marketing its first shared ownership property. Shared ownership is a low cost home ownership product and a fantastic opportunity for people who wish to buy a property but cannot afford to buy outright. Shared ownership enables you to buy a share in the home via a mortgage or savings and you pay a reduced rent on the part you do not own. The initial percentage that you buy would be between 25% and 75%

based on what you can afford. WNHC will initially have a 3 bed house available at Nar Valley Park and 2 and 3 bed houses on the Dewside development at Lynnsport.

Home First

The pilot that involved staff from Care and Repair and Housing Options team working directly with members of the hospital discharge team at the QEH has proved a success 12 months on. One of the drivers for this service was the situation of people being discharged with no home to go to. The early identification of housing issues (including the need for adaptations; disrepair; homelessness) at a point someone is admitted, rather than when they are leaving creates time for some planning and co-ordination of services. This valuable time is resulting in fewer inappropriate hospital discharge cases.

Housing Advice and Money Advice services

The Council has re-tendered the advice and information services relating to housing and homelessness and debt and income maximisation. These two services will be delivered by two different organisations.

I am pleased to say that Shelter will deliver the housing advice service, and a new organisation 'Money Advice Hub' the debt management advice service. Both will have a local presence and will both be focussed making services highly accessible. The services will start to operate next month and further details will follow in a press release and other forms of marketing.

Early Help Hub

The Council together with other public sector organisations including the police, children's and adults social services as well as voluntary sector partners have come together to form a new service. The service exists to help professionals involved in supporting individuals or families in need find the most appropriate services that can help. The needs could be associated with people struggling as lone parents, domestic abuse, housing or debt issues. The 'Help Hub' co-coordinator facilitates weekly meetings where cases referred in can be presented and decisions made on getting the right help in a timely way. For further information follow this link
https://www.west-norfolk.gov.uk/info/20001/housing/730/west_norfolk_help_hub

2 Meetings Attended

Cabinet Sifting
Cabinet

Cabinet Briefing
Full Council/ Mayor Making
Meetings with Officers
Portfolio meeting
Cabinet and Officers Briefing