

CABINET MEMBERS REPORT TO COUNCIL

23 February 2022

COUNCILLOR SAM SANDELL - CABINET MEMBER FOR PEOPLE AND COMMUNITIES

For the period 25th January 2022 to 10th February 2022

1 Progress on Portfolio Matters.

Home choice Register

1111 live app on housing register

3 Emergency
137 High
332 Medium
639 Low

206 new app/change of circs - increase likely due to forms being unavailable over Christmas period

22 lets

141 housing advice approaches.

The 141 is broken down to 65 converted to homeless investigation. This is due to relationship breakdowns, PRS notices. The other 76 will have been given appropriate advice on their housing options and signposting.

We as a Borough Council are benefiting from Government funding on helping our residents to improve the energy efficiency of their homes.

These are some of the work streams we have in place.

LAD 2

Overseen by the Greater South East Energy Hub (GSEEH)

Runs until June 2022 – it had a bumpy start as the Managing Agent pulled out of the project. GSEEH have appointed a new MA (Warmworks) and the project is progressing.

KLWN has an allocation of £523k to spend and is actively seeking any underspend from other consortia members to boost our allocation. Most of this funding is going to Social Housing schemes.

LAD 3

Otherwise known as Sustainable Warmth. It has two components LAD3 and HUG (Home Upgrade Grants). These are being delivered by the Norfolk Consortium (5 councils) and managed by the already established Norfolk Warm Homes Team

based at Broadland DC.

Scheme runs from March 2022 to March 2024 and provide grants to owner occupiers, private landlords and 10% of funding to RSL's. Home Upgrade Grants are much larger grants for eligible properties where they are off-gas.

KLWN will be represented on the project steering group.

The consortia has received

HUG £3,401,788.29

LAD3 £450,856.00

MEES (Minimum Energy Efficiency Standards)

The MEES enforcement project with regards the private rented sector is ongoing and cases are being investigated and enforcement action undertaken where necessary.

We anticipate that this activity will be retained beyond the end of March as a dedicated project for some time to come. The allocated funding of £95,030.21 will be fully committed.

This is the direct funding, the council is also involved in fuel poverty work, ECO3&4 schemes (the energy company schemes to deliver energy saving packages) and have just appointed on a 3yr contract an Energy Efficiency officer to oversee this work and identify other opportunities for energy efficiency work.

Housing First (provider Homestay)

Housing First is a specific intervention that provides self-contained accommodation to rough sleepers / former rough sleepers with multiple complex needs. In addition to the accommodation, intensive specialist client led support is provided. This service has been funded through a funding application to Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities in partnership with Broadland Housing who were able to purchase six one-bedroom properties from the open market with 'Homestay' providing the support.

Homelessness In reach / Outreach Intensive Support Service (provider Purfleet Trust)

This is a reactive homelessness outreach service that can rapidly assess and assist rough sleepers. The service also provides intensive in reach support for rough sleepers / former rough sleepers in temporary accommodation, into permanent accommodation and continues for as long as the client needs it. This service has been funded through a funding application to Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities. Ongoing support is critical to prevent rough sleepers returning to the streets and sustaining independent accommodation.

Accommodation for Ex-Offenders Scheme (provider Shelter)

This is a 12-month scheme to accommodate offenders coming out of prison or, who have served a custodial sentence within the last 12-months. This is a countywide service funded through a funding application to Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities. Locally, Shelter have been commissioned to provide the service for King's Lynn, West Norfolk and North Norfolk. The service will work with ex-offenders and private landlords to accommodate ex-offenders into permanent accommodation in the private sector for at least 12 months so that they do not risk sleeping rough.

Recovery / Reablement Mental Health Workers (provider Access Community Trust)

This specialist service will be provided by Access Community Trust who also provide The Steam Café in King's Lynn, a café that supports people with mental health

problems. The workers will be able to provide specialist mental health support to those with mental health issues and complex needs, seven days a week for people in self-contained accommodation, temporary accommodation, supported accommodation and for anyone sleeping rough.

NIDAS

NIDAS (Norfolk Integrated Domestic Abuse Service) is a domestic abuse support service for those assessed to be at high or medium risk of harm. They also offer dedicated support for Children and Young People, recovery programmes, coordinated multi-agency support, court support, a Domestic Abuse Champion network, and training for professionals, across Norfolk. NIDAS is a countywide provision that has been commissioned by the OPCC. The service supports all genders who are at medium – high risk of domestic abuse in the community.

2 Forthcoming Activities and Developments.

Is your Home losing heat?

The council are here to help you with guidance and advice. These events will help both landlords and tenants.

Dates are:-

Tuesday, 15th February 2022 – King’s Lynn (10am – 3pm) – town centre: corner of High Street and Purfleet Street

Saturday, 19th February 2022 – Hunstanton (10am – 2pm) – The Spinney

Saturday, 5th March 2022 – King’s Lynn (10am – 2pm) – town centre: corner of High Street and Purfleet Street

Friday, 11th March 2022 – Downham Market (8am – 3pm – market day) – Town Hall car park

Tuesday, 15th March 2022 – King’s Lynn (10am – 2pm – market day) – town centre: corner of High Street and Purfleet Street

Information is also available online at www.west-norfolk.gov.uk/mees

3 Meetings Attended and Meetings Scheduled

Active Clean Connectivity Meeting - 26-01-2022

QEH Briefing Update - 26-01-2022

Cabinet Briefing - 02-02-2022

Major Projects Board Briefing -04-02-2022

KPI meeting - 07-02-2022

Active Clean Connectivity Meeting -08-02-2022

County Line Briefing -08-02-2022

Cabinet Meeting – 09-02-2022

Cabinet Briefing -09-02-2022