

Public Document Pack

Date of meeting Monday, 14th September, 2020
Time 7.00 pm
Venue Health, Wellbeing and Partnerships Scrutiny - Virtual Meeting - Conference
Contact Geoff Durham 742222



**NEWCASTLE
UNDER LYME
BOROUGH COUNCIL**

Castle House
Barracks Road
Newcastle-under-Lyme
Staffordshire
ST5 1BL

Health, Wellbeing & Partnerships Scrutiny Committee

AGENDA

PART 1 – OPEN AGENDA

- 1 APOLOGIES**
- 2 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**
- 3 MINUTES OF LAST MEETING** **(Pages 3 - 10)**
To consider the minutes of the last meeting of the Committee held on 1 June 2020.
- 4 UPDATE FROM CABINET**
Nothing to report.
- 5 UPDATE - TOWN CENTRE REOPENING POST LOCKDOWN,
HOMELESSNESS LESSONS LEARNED AND DOMESTIC
VIOLENCE SERVICES POST LOCKDOWN** **(Pages 11 - 14)**
- 6 PARKS AND GREEN SPACES**
To consider a verbal update on progressing the Parks and Green Spaces Scrutiny Review.
- 7 MINUTES OF THE HEALTHY STAFFORDSHIRE SELECT
COMMITTEE -** **(Pages 15 - 18)**
To receive feedback from members of this committee who attended the meetings of the Healthy Staffordshire Select Committee
- 8 WORK PROGRAMME** **(Pages 19 - 24)**
- 9 PUBLIC QUESTION TIME**

Any member of the public wishing to submit a question must serve two clear days' notice, in writing, of any such question to the Borough Council.

10 URGENT BUSINESS

11 DATE OF NEXT MEETING - 7 DECEMBER 2020

Members: Councillors Ian Wilkes (Chair), Miss Julie Cooper (Vice-Chair), John Cooper, Ms Allison Gardner, Tony Kearon, Barry Panter, Mrs Ruth Wright, Mrs Sue Moffat, Kenneth Owen, Mrs Silvia Burgess and Mark Holland

Note: only the following Members from the full membership who have been nominated to attend this Zoom meeting are required:

Councillors Ian Wilkes (Chair); Miss Julie Cooper (Vice Chair); Mark Holland; Allison Gardner; Ruth Wright; Sue Moffat; and Kenneth Owen.

Members of the Council: If you identify any personal training/development requirements from any of the items included in this agenda or through issues raised during the meeting, please bring them to the attention of the Democratic Services Officer at the close of the meeting.

Meeting Quorums :- 16+= 5 Members; 10-15=4 Members; 5-9=3 Members; 5 or less = 2 Members.

SUBSTITUTE MEMBER SCHEME (Appendix 9, Section 4 of Constitution)

The Constitution provides for the appointment of Substitute members to attend Committees. The named Substitutes for this meeting are listed below:-

Substitute Members:	Mrs Jennifer Cooper	Andrew Fox-Hewitt
	Andrew Fear	Mrs Gill Heesom
	Ms Sarah Pickup	Graham Hutton
	Bert Proctor	Miss June Walklate

If you are unable to attend this meeting and wish to appoint a Substitute to attend in your place you need to:

- Identify a Substitute member from the list above who is able to attend on your behalf
- Notify the Chairman of the Committee (at least 24 hours before the meeting is due to take place) NB Only 2 Substitutes per political group are allowed for each meeting and your Chairman will advise you on whether that number has been reached

Officers will be in attendance prior to the meeting for informal discussions on agenda items.

Online Committee Meeting Joining Instructions

This meeting will be held virtually using Zoom.

Watching the Meeting.

You can attend the meeting in the following ways:

Web: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82235145439>

Using the Zoom App

Telephone: 0330 088 5830 or 0131 460 1196

The Conference ID for telephone and Zoom App users is: 822-3514-5439

You do not require a password or pre-registration to access this committee meeting.

Please note, as an attendee you will only be able to watch the meeting. You will not be able to vote, ask questions or discuss the materials presented to the committee.

HEALTH, WELLBEING & PARTNERSHIPS SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Monday, 1st June, 2020

Time of Commencement: 7.00 pm

Present: Councillor Ian Wilkes (Chair)

Councillors: Miss Julie Cooper Mrs Sue Moffat Paul Northcott
Ms Allison Gardner Kenneth Owen Mrs Helena Maxfield
Mrs Ruth Wright Mark Holland

Officers: Andrew Bird Head of Recycling, Waste and Fleet Services
Daniel Dickinson Head of Legal & Governance /Monitoring Officer
Geoff Durham Mayor's Secretary / Member Support Officer
Martin Hamilton Chief Executive
Simon McEneny Executive Director - Commercial Development & Economic Growth
David Elkington Head of Customer and Digital Services
Rob Foster Head of Leisure and Cultural Services
Mrs Joanne Halliday Head of Housing
Mrs Sarah Moore Partnerships Manager

Note: In line with Government directions on staying at home during the current stage of the CV-19 pandemic, this meeting was conducted by video conferencing in accordance with the Local Authorities and Police and Crime Panels (Coronavirus) (Flexibility of Local Authority Police and Crime Panel Meetings) (England and Wales) Regulations 2020.

1. **APOLOGIES**

There were no apologies.

2. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of interest stated.

3. **MINUTES OF LAST MEETING**

Resolved: That the Minutes of the meeting held on 2 March, 2020 be agreed as a correct record subject to the inclusion of apologies from Councillors' Panter and Wright.

4. **CORONAVIRUS UPDATE AND RECOVERY PLAN**

Consideration was given to a report providing Members with a Covid-19 update in terms of issues arising and actions taken within the service areas that fell under this Committee's remit.

The Council's Chief Executive, Martin Hamilton advised Members that the Council had been busy over the last couple of months responding to the pandemic and preparing for recovery.

Mr Hamilton stated that he had been chairing an Incident Management Team every morning at the beginning of the lockdown but that had now moved to two meetings each week.

Considerable effort had gone into protecting the vulnerable, homelessness and rough sleeping. A helpline had been set up for vulnerable people which was being manned by staff from J2.

Bereavement Services had been extremely busy and the culture and leisure provision had been severely impacted upon.

Vulnerability:

The Portfolio Holder for Community Safety and Wellbeing, Councillor Maxfield stated that the team had worked incredibly hard to ensure that vulnerable residents were being looked after. Members' attention was drawn to paragraph 2 of Appendix 2 which stated that there were other vulnerable groups and Mrs Maxfield stated that the Council needed to ensure that people were not being overlooked.

The Executive Director for Commercial Development and Economic Growth, Simon McEneny stated that since lockdown there had been a concerted effort working with partners to help the vulnerable.

The temporary closure of J2 had provided manpower for the Council to set up its own call centre to provide help and advice. Over the weeks, calls had reduced but deliveries of food parcels and prescriptions were still ongoing.

The Council's Partnerships Manager, Sarah Moore advised that the Realise Foundation, partners and Support Staffordshire had been excellent and they had direct contact with approximately eight and a half thousand vulnerable people straight away.

Councillor Gardner advised that she had had interaction with the Realise Foundation and other organisations which had been very positive although she did have concerns about the heavy reliance on volunteers.

Mrs Moore assured that this had not gone amiss and the matter had been discussed with colleagues at the County Council.

Councillor Moffat congratulated the officers of the Council and its partners for their work through a difficult period stating that the Council had 'done itself proud'. In addition, the communities of Newcastle should be applauded for their great spirit.

Mrs Moore agreed that communities and town and parish councils had all stepped up.

Mr McEneny stated that there had been enormous support from volunteers and that this needed to be taken forward. The support that some residents had received had provided reassurance and comfort and this should not just stop after lockdown. A way needed to be

found to harness this. There was now a good database of where help was needed. The Council should continue to enhance and embrace the community support.

Councillor Northcott stated that the Council needed to be clear with the communication that volunteers were still needed. If this was not done, on a weekly basis, people could assume that it had been taken up by other groups.

Mrs Moore suggested that there were many groups on a County basis who could help with this.

Domestic Abuse:

Mrs Moore stated that the Council had not seen any noticeable increase in the demand for help in relation to domestic abuse which was fairly static at the present time. However, preparations were under way for any potential increase.

There could be a link with safeguarding referrals for children and the fact that they were not presently attending school. Once children return to school there could potentially be an increase in referrals.

Councillor Maxfield stated that she wanted everyone to note any noticeable increases in cases and said that it was heartening to know that the Council was keeping an eye on this and that all agencies were working together.

Councillor Gardner stated that the static number in cases could either be down to the reduced stresses, for example not having to get their children to school on time and other daily stress factors or it could be, more worryingly that people are just not able to reach out in isolation. Councillor Gardner asked how people could reach out safely and also how such people could get legal aid support.

Mrs Moore asked Councillor Gardner to email some details so that she could respond.

With regard to reaching out safely, the partners each had ways that people could use to reach out in safety.

Bereavement Services:

Mr Hamilton stated that there had been changes made in response to the pandemic.

To help with social distancing, the number of mourners allowed to attend services had been reduced to ten. At the crematorium, the length of the service had been shortened. These were both uncomfortable messages to communicate to the bereaved.

Mr Hamilton stated that he was proud of the Council's Bereavement service and how families and the bereaved had been awarded respect and dignity at such a difficult time.

Councillor Moffat stated that a number of her electorate had lost loved ones and they had praised how well the situation had been conducted with the changes and with live links for example. People were appreciative of the efforts that had been made.

Housing, Homelessness and Rough Sleeping:

The Council's Head of Housing, Regeneration and Assets, Joanne Halliday advised Members that the Council had stopped doing proactive home inspections during the lockdown period and had turned to customer needs, looking at homelessness and housing

issues through telephone calls, emails or online help. Residents had been able to send in photographs of any disrepair and repairs had been carried out safely.

Help for the disabled had been slightly more difficult as many were shielding. However, a lot of work had been done in respect of specifications and design work.

Homelessness and rough sleeping had seen an increase and it had been challenging to find accommodation for rough sleepers.

The Open Door charity based in Newcastle had opened up a 7 bedroom unit to help rough sleepers and a Rough Sleeper Outreach Worker had now been appointed.

Councillor Maxfield thanked the staff dealing with homelessness and rough sleeping stating that the service had continued to run at full operation.

Councillor Julie Cooper asked if the number of rough sleepers had increased since the Covid-19 outbreak.

Mrs Halliday stated that over the past five years there had been a consistent handful of cases. However, since the outbreak this number had become consistently higher.

Mrs Moore added that, although there was a verified number of rough sleepers, there was also a hidden population who had not been taken into account.

Councillor Holland thanked officers for the report and stated that there had been a lot of success in getting people off the streets and the Government would like to take the opportunity to ensure that people do not return to rough sleeping.

Councillor Holland asked what this Council could do to help those who were sleeping rough prior to the lockdown to harness this.

Mrs Moore stated that the Council could look to influence its partners. There was now considerably more investment in this area compared to last year but to ensure sustainability the Council would need to ensure that the measures were still in place afterwards.

Councillor Moffat stated that now was the time for collaboration not completion, with everyone working together.

Cultural and leisure provision:

The Council's Head of Leisure and Cultural Services, Rob Foster advised Members that J2 had closed on the 20 March. Since that time, information had been sent out in respect of exercising at home and on 3rd June there would be the first live streaming of stretching and fitness exercises.

A number of staff from J2 had been redeployed to the helpline and the Crematorium and some staff had recently been furloughed.

Reopening of the Centre could commence on 4 July and guidance was being followed to put plans in place for this.

Councillor Holland asked if officers were confident that Covid-secure measures would be ready for 4 July and also, if the return of the staff to the Centre would leave a shortfall elsewhere.

Mr Foster stated that it was anticipated that the Centre would reopen on a phased basis with the pool potentially being the last to open later in the year.

Reopening the gym and the studios could achieve social distancing if people are already in their exercise kit upon arrival and do not have access to the showers afterwards.

The gym layout would have to be looked at and this was being done at present.

There was also debate as to whether the over 70's should be allowed to return during the first tranche.

The Brampton Museum closed on 19 March and staff were currently concentrating on the digitalisation of its collection. There was 34,000 items in the collection and a programme for the digitalisation had previously been set to carry this out.

There had been continued engagement with social media and the project to provide a new galley had continued.

Plans to provide a vacant shop unit for displays once the Museum closed for refurbishment had also continued.

Community Centres:

Advice had been provided to the management Committees and support had been given in respect of available grants.

Parks and Open Spaces:

Mr Hamilton advised Members that throughout the lockdown, play areas within parks had been closed off but the parks themselves had remained open to allow people to take their daily exercise.

The Council's Grounds Maintenance staff had initially been moved to help with recycling and waste collection but as lockdown continued the grounds maintenance had to be stepped back up in terms of grass cutting.

Birchenwood and Bathpool Parks had both been closed but they had now been reopened.

Fresh bedding plants would be put out shortly. The contract for these had been placed some time ago and Parks and Streetscene staff would be attending to this.

The Chair temporarily lost internet connection.

Councillor Julie Cooper in the Chair

Councillor Cooper stated that she had been made aware of people travelling and leaving litter behind and also, that there were no public toilets open.

Councillor Cooper asked if this was nationwide or just in this area.

Mr Hamilton stated that this was applicable to significant tourist destinations. There had been local issues with fly tipping but these had been dealt with.

Councillor Gardner stated that when fly tipping was on a road there was a link with County Highways but people were unable to telephone them directly and asked if there was a way to do joint working.

The Council's Head of Recycling, Waste and Fleet Services, Andrew Bird advised that, as the litter Authority it was the Council's responsibility to remove it.

Whilst the household waste sites had been closed, staff from the sites had been utilised to remove fly tipping. Now that those workable links had been made they could continue to be used.

Councillor Gardner referred to the Borough's green spaces and how important they had been during lockdown and they needed to be invested in.

Councillor Gardner asked if outdoor gyms had been closed. Mr Hamilton confirmed that this was the case and that they would remain so until further guidance was received.

Councillor Cooper enquired how the smaller shops reopening from 15 June in Castle Walk would achieve social distancing.

Mr Hamilton advised that any shops reopening would need to put a process in place to ensure that social distancing is achieved and it would be up to each premise to decide their own approach. The Council would offer advice on how it could be achieved and there would be monitoring in place..

As part of the economic development aspect for getting retail back into operation, fliers were being sent out advising upon Covid-secure requirements.

Mr McEneny added that the Market was set to re-open later this week and retail shops would follow. Signs were being arranged to assist with social distancing.

Member and Officer Wellbeing:

Mr Hamilton advised that from the beginning of the lockdown a lot of staff had been working from home. Ahead of the pandemic, the council had invested in the equipment to do this.

Regular messages had been sent to staff through the Communications Section giving tips on how to look after their wellbeing and were also being encouraged to take time out to speak to colleagues on non-work matters.

For Members, the Council had sought to carry on business as usual without the need to go into Castle House.

Mr Hamilton stated that, across the board, the Council's services had held up really well. Giving an example, Mr Hamilton advised that the Planning Service had continued to process plans and the Planning Committee was the first formal meeting to be held through Zoom.

Mr Hamilton advised that as the Council looked to opening up, there was the need to ensure that social distancing was in place and that risk assessments were carried out for those working outdoors.

Councillor Gardner asked if staff were booking leave to ensure that they were having a break from work. In addition, upon returning to Castle House, would hot-desking and conferencing still continue.

Mr Hamilton advised that all staff were being encouraged to take leave and as the country comes through lockdown, people may wish to take a more 'quality' break.

With regards to returning to Castle House, it was expected that people would be phased back in steadily. Desks had been identified which would ensure social distancing and each Service had been asked to prepare a plan for a phased return.

Staff were finding working from home better than they had expected and as a result there could be a growth in that area in the future. In addition, with the technology, there may not be a need to travel into Castle House for some meetings.

Hot-desking would be discouraged to minimise the risk of spreading the virus but, post-pandemic that would return.

The Chair stated that someone had seen three men in a refuse collection vehicle shoulder to shoulder and asked if there was any way to reduce that.

Mr Hamilton stated that more cabs had been put on to enable two-man teams. Where it was not possible to move away from three-man teams those teams had been kept together and had continued to use the same vehicle.

Mr Bird stated that the time spent together, when it was a three-man team, had been reduced and the Council had hired an extra 12 vehicles in order to achieve social distancing but it had not been possible to achieve it across the board. The staff in question had stated that they were happy to work in three's as long as they were kept together. It was pointed out that the staff were not in the cab together for the entire day, just when the vehicle was travelling to and from their destinations. The vehicles were deep cleaned daily and were not swapped between the teams.

Mr Bird added that Newcastle was the only Authority in Staffordshire who had taken measures within this service area to achieve social distancing.

Councillor Gardner stated that the whole process had been handled brilliantly.

Councillor Holland echoed Councillor Gardner's comments and stated that it would be interesting to learn more in the future about the lessons learned as a result of the changes made to rough sleeping and vulnerability during the Coronavirus pandemic and asked if Cabinet Members would commit to bringing a report to this Committee in the future.

- Resolved:**
- (i) That the report be received.
 - (ii) That Cabinet be requested to bring a report to a future meeting of this Committee on the lessons learned in respect of changes made to the vulnerability and rough sleeping services during the Coronavirus pandemic.

5. URGENT BUSINESS

There was no urgent business.

**COUNCILLOR IAN WILKES / COUNCILLOR MISS JULIE COOPER
Chair**

Meeting concluded at 8.50 pm

Health, Wellbeing and Partnerships Scrutiny Committee update

14th September 2020

Work undertaken to ensure town centre visitors feel safe with the reopening post lockdown

In line with the Government guidance the Council has sought to introduce measures to enable the safe use of our high streets. In the main town centres of Newcastle and Kidsgrove this has included signage and marking of the streets to support town centre users to abide with the social distancing measures. In the smaller areas significant queuing outside of businesses has not been an issue and advice has been offered, alongside working with Parish Councils where appropriate.

The Council has also undertaken a thorough cleansing operation in the town centres in advance of reopening, installing a new suite of litter bins, removing graffiti, jet washing under market stalls, applying weed killer and removing fly posting. It has implemented the annual floral displays of hanging baskets, barrier troughs and bedding plants and resumed maintenance of the ring road roundabouts to ensure that the town centres look attractive and cared for to support economic recovery.

The Council has been working closely with Newcastle Business Improvement District (BID) on a work programme to support businesses and the safe reopening of the town centre. The Council and BID have jointly introduced a range of marketing and safety measures.

The Council has also worked with the Business Growth Hub and a number of other Staffordshire local authorities to produce and promote Safe Staffordshire. This included filming within Newcastle town centre with local businesses. These short social media clips were used to promote the reopening of the town centre and safe visits.

Within the market control measures now in place include the following:

- minimum spacing between traders on stalls.
- distancing markers on the floor in front of stalls for social-distancing measures.
- Safe distancing signage at head-height on every stall, in front and at the rear.
- Contactless, cashless payment being introduced for the collection of rents by the Market Supervisor
- Sanitizer to be provided and used by traders. Public toilets in Hassell Street to remain open for trader and shopper use, with increased cleaning frequency.
- Online ordering and click-and-collect encouraged and supported on social media advertising, website, etc as a safe option for shoppers.
- To protect our staff and shoppers, traders will only work from a stall if they are well and no one in their household is self-isolating.
- Hazard tape and barriers to small walkways through some stalls.
- Increase the frequency of cleaning and disinfection of table tops.
- Safety advice based on guidelines available will be given to traders still dealing in cash.

Sanitiser has been provided at key locations around the town centre to complement sanitiser provided in individual businesses to ensure that town centre users can regularly sanitise.

Homelessness, Rough Sleeping and temporary accommodation – lessons learned

Newcastle Housing Advice (NHA), the Borough homelessness and housing options service, delivered by Midland Heart, have reported an increase in demand for service over the last 6

months, particularly for emergency housing. The service is operating with a full complement of staff, offering telephone support with staff working from home. NHA are being assisted by the Council's Housing and Partnerships Team and the Safe Recovery service (commissioned by the Council using the annual Locality Deal Funding allocation from Staffordshire Commissioner's Office), is also giving support to the service, particularly with cases presenting with the most complex needs.

The NHA service is due to return in house to the Council in April 2021 and preparations are underway for a smooth transition. A working group has been created to ensure the delivery of a detailed project plan to manage procurement of systems, introduction of a new housing allocations policy, integration with current Council Customer services and digital systems and the transfer of 9 members of staff. The challenges presented by COVID have demonstrated that the service can be operational in a different way and that efficiencies can be made by the evolving digital offer for the majority of customers.

The Rough Sleepers Team service, delivered by Brighter Futures and commissioned by the Council jointly with Stoke-on-Trent City Council, have also advised that they are operating as normal, whilst using social distancing good practice and have full capacity. There has been an increase in demand for the service across North Staffordshire but it is currently unclear how much this has increased specifically in Newcastle because of the transient nature of the cohort between the City and the Borough.

At the end of March 2020, the Minister for Local Government and Homelessness wrote to all local authorities asking them to urgently accommodate all rough sleepers. Local authorities were advised that they may use third party accommodation providers to comply with this request, including local hotels and bed and breakfasts.

People who are rough sleeping or living in temporary accommodation are disproportionately affected by the pandemic because of their complex needs e.g. mental health and substance dependency, along with the fact that they are unable to self isolate. Those rough sleeping are especially vulnerable to the worst effects of COVID-19 and our primary concern is to secure accommodation for everybody who is rough sleeping, where they can self-isolate if need be and obtain appropriate support.

The Council used its discretionary powers and additional funding made available from the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government to find temporary accommodation for all people rough sleeping, regardless of local connection, immigration status, eligibility or priority need. This was an extremely difficult task because most hotels and bed and breakfasts locally either closed for business or advised that they would only accept guests who are key workers or people who can be guaranteed not have substance misuse or mental health issues, thus leaving Officers with extremely limited options.

After considerable research and having exhausted all available contacts in the Borough, temporary accommodation placements were made for a number of rough sleepers at the Crown Hotel in Longton, which has been used by the Council for this cohort for a number of years. The Crown Hotel also has a sister hotel in Stone and when the Longton site was fully booked, rooms at Stone were made available to Newcastle cases and booked on a short term basis by NHA, the Council's homelessness and housing advice service, until an alternative could be sourced.

Four rooms were also booked at the Crown in Longton as COVID-19 self isolation rooms. The intention being that these could be brought into use for any rough sleepers reporting or presenting with symptoms to the Rough Sleepers service.

Officers recognised that bed and breakfast is not sustainable for rough sleepers and other complex needs cases and sought an alternative model of accommodation with support, initially for a twelve week period, which was later extended on further government guidance. The Council and NHA are working with local charity Open Door to create a 7 bedroom temporary accommodation unit, which is staffed by support workers 24/7. The unit is situated in Stoke-on-

Trent, as a suitable property in Newcastle couldn't be identified at short notice and was mobilised on Monday 13th April.

In Newcastle, there is already a commitment from partners to provide a holistic approach to rough sleepers, including debt/benefit advice from DWP, input from criminal justice agencies and a range of support from the local third sector. This is supported by the existing Rough Sleepers Co-ordinator and Navigator roles funded by MHCLG. Officers are also working on an additional proposal seeking further MHCLG funding to complement the existing mechanisms and local provision.

Rough sleeper figures have slowly increased over the last financial year and were averaging about 5-7 at each count. Most of these cases are known to have complex needs and many have been excluded from housing providers and the emergency temporary accommodation usually used by NHA on behalf of the Council, thus presenting a challenge to the Council in delivering the 'Everyone in' obligations. The COVID period also presented challenges because of limited options due to B&B closures and providers that remained open limiting room access and overall capacity for bookings. We also faced competition with other local authorities in securing availability of the reduced bed spaces so created the emergency unit as an alternative.

Other temporary accommodation is also being used by NHA, for other homeless presentations and there are a further two shared supported houses used to transition individuals into independent accommodation. Families who present as homeless are able to access two 2 bedroom temporary accommodation properties owned by Midland Heart. Since the changes to homelessness legislation and the duty owed to homeless individuals in early 2019, Officers have recognised that there is more demand for temporary accommodation presenting to the NHA service and more placements in temporary accommodation are being made.

Officers are aware that demand for temporary accommodation is continuing to rise and are working closely with partners to develop more housing options and tactics to move people on where possible. There have been some issues with housing providers ceasing to turn over void properties and make lettings but these seem to be being addressed and worked through on a one to one basis.

The Furniture Mine, who are a local charity helping homeless households with furniture and white goods, have advised that they have closed for business, which may have a knock on effect when trying to move people from temporary accommodation into a permanent tenancies. Officers have been liaising with the Furniture Mine to ensure that the remaining furniture stock can be accessed if required to ensure that households can be supported and sustained in new tenancies.

As another alternative to the Furniture Mine, Officers developed a similar scheme, using homelessness prevention funding, to pay for a furniture pack, in order to set a homeless household up in a tenancy and move them from temporary accommodation. Although there is an initial financial outlay for this it would save the cost of continued B & B in the longer term for some and therefore present a longer term saving.

All in all the demand for the NHA service continues and following a review of temporary accommodation undertaken by the Council, Officers have recommended continuation of the emergency temporary accommodation unit and complementary temporary accommodation share units as an alternative to the use of B & B, with the further development of supported move-on options, subject to sourcing and securing additional available funding.

Domestic violence – post lockdown

The Borough Council are continuing to assist more complex cases and other vulnerable households with partners through the work of the Daily Vulnerability Hub, Multi Agency Risk Assessment Conference (MARAC) and the Newcastle Housing Advice (NHA) service. There has been an increase in cases being referred into the Daily Vulnerability Hub.

The Council is also contributing to a number of pan Staffordshire task groups, which have been established to co-ordinate activity that is supporting and managing assistance to vulnerable households. These groups include the Civil Contingency led Staffordshire Resilience Forum Vulnerability and Voluntary Support Group and the Police led C-19 Safeguarding, Vulnerability and Partnerships sub group and Domestic Abuse task group.

Staffordshire Police advise that there has been no noticeable increase in demand in relation to reporting of domestic abuse, but they have prepared for a potential increase as the lockdown has been eased. Presently the majority of the jobs received remain lower level, however there are concerns that these incidents could escalate into something more serious if unaddressed and early intervention is key.

The weekly Multi Agency Risk Assessment Conference (MARAC), at the time of writing had four cases with another four cases being prepared for the MARAC next week. The MARAC deals with more serious cases and puts an emphasis on a co-ordinated partnership approach to ensure that appropriate support and safeguarding is offered and made available to victims of domestic abuse and their families as a priority.

New Era, the County domestic abuse service commissioned by Staffordshire Commissioner's Office, advise that there has been an increase in referrals for service. The service is operating with a full complement of staff and are making preparations for potential increase in provision. They are offering telephone support and staff are working from home. They report that there have been some front line barriers experienced with complications with accessing legal aid as self-isolation reduces the options to provide proof of identity.

GLOW, the provider of the Newcastle Children and Young Persons (CYP) service, who also own and manage the Elizabeth House Refuge, report that referrals are increased to all elements of their services. The Refuge staffing and occupancy is stable at Elizabeth House. The CYP is being offered predominantly as telephone based support but visits will be undertaken if necessary and safe to do so. Schools are continuing to refer children and young people to the Glow service, these are currently children that are not in school and are a mix of primary and secondary school children.

Officers have also been working closely with colleagues at NHA to monitor the situation closely, in relation to homelessness presentations approaching due to domestic abuse. This has led to the Council working with GLOW to identify some short term funding for 4 specialist units of temporary accommodation for victims of domestic abuse until October 2020.

Officers have prepared and shared information around available domestic abuse services for dissemination to staff and the wider public, which has been shared by our Communications Team.

Staffordshire Commissioner's Office have launched a County wide domestic abuse communications programme, which Officers have been sharing alongside the more local campaigning.

**Healthy Staffordshire Select Committee – 6 July 2020
District/Borough Digest**

Under the Health Scrutiny Code of Joint Working with District and Borough Councils, Authorities have undertaken to keep relevant Partners informed of their consideration of health matters having regard to the general working principle of co-operation and the need to ensure a co-ordinated Staffordshire approach. Therefore, the following is a summary of the business transacted at the meeting of the Healthy Staffordshire Select Committee held on 6 July 2020 - link to Agenda and reports pack:-

<http://moderngov.staffordshire.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=871&MId=11768&Ver=4>

Agenda Item	District(s)/Borough(s)
<p align="center">Healthy Staffordshire Select Committee – 6 July 2020</p> <p>The Healthy Staffordshire Select Committee received a joint presentation/report from (i) the Director of Health and Care; (ii) Chief Executive of Midlands Partnership NHS Foundation Trust and; (iii) Chief Executive Officer North Staffordshire Combined Healthcare NHS Trust regarding the mental health burden arising from the 2020 Covid-19 Pandemic in Staffordshire.</p> <p>Members scrutinised and held the Trusts to account over the various measures they had implemented to deal with the effects of the Pandemic including:- (i) service changes to comply with social distancing guidelines; (ii) forward planning for a potential increase in demand; (iii) ensuring access to services by existing patients were maintained and; (iii) their efforts to reach residents in high risk groups who were not already known to providers. With regard to the County Council’s Public Health responsibilities, they heard that whilst the longer-term effects of the pandemic were not yet known, actions to improve mental health in the wider population would require a sustained system-wide, multi-agency approach lasting many years.</p> <p>In response to the above, the Committee identified certain immediate actions aimed at improving access to services in the County.</p> <p>In addition, the Select Committee received a presentation/report from the Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Health, Care and Wellbeing regarding Residential Care Provision and the 2020 Covid-19 Pandemic in Staffordshire.</p> <p>Members learned that whilst approximately 50 % of Care Homes in the County had recorded at least one case of the virus (amongst residents and staff), all Homes had been affected to a degree (i) operationally; (ii) clinically and/or; (iii) financially. However, in line with Central Government requirements, the County Council had implemented a Care Homes Support Plan to provide (i) Advice and guidance; (ii) training in infection control; (iii) supplies of Personal Protective Equipment; (iv) surveillance and response to cases and outbreaks; (v) Clinical support; (vi) testing; (vii)</p>	<p>All Districts and Boroughs</p>

intensive support with staffing where required; (viii) arrangements to reduce the movement of staff and; (ix) additional funding. They were pleased to note that the plan had helped to alleviate the position in respect of the above-mentioned areas but agreed to keep Staffordshire's response to the Pandemic under review as the situation both nationally and locally developed.

Their next meeting will be held on Monday 10 August 2020 at 10.00 am Virtually/on-line.

**Healthy Staffordshire Select Committee – Monday 10 August 2020
District/Borough Digest**

Under the Health Scrutiny Code of Joint Working with District and Borough Councils, Authorities have undertaken to keep relevant Partners informed of their consideration of health matters having regard to the general working principle of co-operation and the need to ensure a co-ordinated Staffordshire approach. Therefore, the following is a summary of the business transacted at the meeting of the Healthy Staffordshire Select Committee held on Monday 10 August 2020 - link to Agenda and reports pack:

<http://moderngov.staffordshire.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=871&MId=11769&Ver=4>

Agenda Item	District(s)/Borough(s)
<p style="text-align: center;">Backlog of Hospital Appointments arising from the 2020 Covid-19 Pandemic</p> <p>The Committee received a joint presentation/report from (i) Staffordshire Clinical Commissioning Groups (CCG); (ii) University Hospitals of North Midlands NHS Trust; (iii) School Aged Immunisation Service (SAIS); (iv) University Hospitals of Derby and Burton NHS Foundation Trust and; (v) Royal Wolverhampton NHS Trust regarding the backlog of hospital appointments arising from the Covid-19 pandemic.</p> <p>Members were provided with detailed statistical and graphical information relating to:- (i) Capacity; (ii) performance against the NHS Two Week Cancer Wait Target; (iii) progress in reducing the 62 and 104 Days Cancer Pathways backlogs; (iv) Cancer Endoscopy Waits; (v) progress with regard to the implementation of various Cancer Screening Programmes; (vi) Follow-up Appointments; (vii) Routine Surgery Referral to Treatment Pathway Waiting Lists; (viii) Accident and Emergency Unplanned Pathways and; (ix) Inpatient and Outpatient Activity etc.</p> <p>Members scrutinised and held the CCGs, Trusts and SAIS to account over their performance asking questions and seeking clarification where necessary. They learned that whilst the Pandemic initially had a significant impact on the NHS, many of those services which had been halted, were now in the process of being restored. Other services such as routine GP appointments had adapted/been managed remotely during the crisis in order to comply with social distancing guidelines. In addition, they were pleased to note that Staffordshire NHS Trusts/CCGs had robust plans in place for the recovery period until March 2021 and had refreshed their long-term Plans to take account of the significant change in circumstances which had occurred including identification of future risks and challenges and appropriate measures to mitigate their impact. Also, the joint working which had taken place in Health was noted and welcomed.</p> <p>The Committee went on to make various suggestions as to how the recovery phase could be improved for the benefit of residents in the County and undertook to keep the developing situation with regard to Covid-19 under close scrutiny, as necessary.</p>	<p>All Districts and Boroughs</p>

their next meeting will be held on Monday 14 September 2020 at 10.00 am Virtual/on-line.

HEALTH, WELLBEING AND PARTNERSHIPS SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Work Programme 2020/21

Chair: Councillor Ian Wilkes

Vice-Chair: Councillor Julie Cooper

Members: Burgess, John Cooper, Gardner, Holland, Kearon, Moffat, Owen, Panter, Wright

Portfolio Holders covering the Committee's remit:

Councillor Helena Maxfield - Cabinet Member – Community Safety and Well Being

Councillor Jill Waring - Cabinet Member – Leisure, Culture and Heritage



The following services fall within the remit of this Scrutiny Committee:

Health and Wellbeing	Leisure Facilities (Leisure Centres etc.)
Anti-Social Behaviour	Museum and Art Gallery
CCTV	Community Recreation
Homelessness	Community Centres
Civil Contingencies / Emergency Planning	Parks and Gardens – Recreation and Leisure
Community Safety (Police and Crime Panel and Safer and Stronger Board (Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership)	Britain in Bloom
Domestic Violence Reduction	
Business Crime Reduction	

Classification: NULBC **UNCLASSIFIED**

The core Work Programme is determined at the beginning of the municipal year. Issues can be added throughout the year with the Chair's approval or where a new priority area comes to the Committee's attention.

For more information on the Committee or its work Programme please contact Denise French on 01782 742211 or at denise.french@newcastle-staffs.gov.uk

DATE OF MEETING	ITEM	BACKGROUND/OBJECTIVES
Monday 10 th September 2018	Newcastle Town Centre	To consider the Councils responsibilities, strategies, initiatives and involvement with partner agencies and including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Purple Flag Scheme • Update on the Review of the Public Space Protection Order (PSPO) • 'Make in Count' Scheme • Homelessness
	Emergency Planning	Scrutiny of the Boroughs preparations for the impact of Winter on the Provision of, and demand for, services. NB The remit for this Committee includes Civil Contingencies/Emergency Planning.
	Britain in Bloom	Evaluation report on the Boroughs involvement and participation in the 2018 Scheme.
	Update on Mental Health Challenge	
	Work Programme	To discuss the work programme and progress of scrutiny activity and to consider any amendment/additions to the Programme.
Monday 3 rd December 2018	Leisure Provision	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community Recreation and Leisure Strategy • Evaluation of impact and effectiveness of Educational Programmes

Classification: NULBC **UNCLASSIFIED**

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Kidsgrove Sports Centre – Community Group Business Plan
	SPACE Scheme	Evaluation report on effectiveness of 2018 Scheme.
	Parkinson’s Disease Feedback	Support and advice service for people with diabetes and Parkinson’s Disease. From Councillors Panter and Maxfield on their review.
	Work Programme	To discuss the work programme and progress of scrutiny activity and to consider any amendment/additions to the Programme.
	CCTV Report on options to enhance the current CCTV provision within the Borough	
	Britain in Bloom (from 10 th September meeting)	Evaluation report on the Borough’s involvement and participation in the 2018 scheme.
Monday 4 th March 2019	Consultation on the Future of Local Health Services in Northern Staffordshire	NSCCG invited to attend.
	Work being done to address the issue of monkey dust	
	Opportunities for adult learning at Brampton Museum	
	Feedback to officers on the Active Lives surveys	
Wednesday 19 th June 2019	Safeguarding	
	Work Programme	Review of the Impact of the Committee’s Work. To discuss the work programme and potential topics that Committee members would like to scrutinise over the forthcoming year.

Classification: NULBC **UNCLASSIFIED**

Monday 9 th September 2019	Dementia	Dementia friendly activities in Newcastle-under-Lyme.
Monday 2 nd December 2019	Leisure Provision	Consideration of the marketing of J2.
	SPACE Scheme Evaluation	
	Domestic Violence	An examination of the incidence of domestic violence and the impact of local initiatives. Representatives from the Commissioner's Officer and Staffordshire County Council/Stoke-on-Trent City Council invited to attend.
Monday 2 nd March 2020		Investigation of ways to encourage greater use of the parks and green spaces to encourage physical and mental wellbeing.
Monday 1 st June 2020	Emergency Planning	Specifically in relation to climate change and the impact of flooding.
Monday 14 th September 2020	Partnership working to support the town centre re-opening Homelessness, vulnerable people and rough sleepers Domestic Violence Parks and Green Spaces Scrutiny Review	To consider the work of the Borough Council and partners in making residents and visitors feel secure in the town centre; social distancing measures etc. Lessons learned in respect of changes made to the service during the pandemic Update on the service post lockdown Progress update
Monday 7 th December 2020		
<p>Suggestions for potential future items:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Feedback/Monitoring reports from bodies on which the Borough Council has member representation: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Healthy Staffordshire Select Committee -District and Borough Digest – summary of work of Committee • Staffordshire Police and Crime Panel – summary of Panel discussions (ongoing) 2. Review of SPACE provision (December 2019 Committee) 3. NHS Provision in North Staffordshire (consultation exercise anticipated in Autumn 2018) 4. Mental Health Challenge (ongoing) 		

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5. Dementia (considered at September 2019 meetings, ongoing)
6. Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE) (report considered at 19th June 2019 meeting)
7. Safeguarding (report considered at 19th June 2019 meeting)
8. Domestic Violence (December 2019 committee)
9. Counter Terrorism
10. Purple Flag – 19th June 2019
11. An examination of the incidence of domestic violence and the impact of local initiatives – December 2019
12. Emergency planning specifically in relation to climate change and the impact of flooding.
13. Examination of ways to encourage greater use of the parks and green spaces to encourage physical and mental wellbeing – March 2020
14. To receive a report of air quality (reported to 25th November 2019 Economy, Environment and Place Scrutiny Committee)
15. Plans for the delivery of a no deal Brexit (County Council examining this)
16. Report to a future meeting on lessons learned in respect of changes made to the vulnerability and rough sleeping services during the Coronavirus pandemic (from meeting held on 1st June 2020).

Task/Finish Groups:

1. Use of parks and green spaces to promote physical and mental health and wellbeing
2. Domestic Abuse services

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