

Public Document Pack

Date of meeting Monday, 7th December, 2020
Time 7.00 pm
Venue Health, Wellbeing and Partnerships Scrutiny - Virtual Meeting - Conference
Contact democraticservices@newcastle-staffs.gov.uk



**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 - 6)
To consider the minutes of the last meeting of the Committee held on 14th September 2020.
- 4 UPDATE FROM CABINET** (Pages 7 - 12)
- 5 TEMPORARY ACCOMMODATION POLICY** (Pages 13 - 22)
- 6 MINUTES OF THE HEALTHY STAFFORDSHIRE SELECT COMMITTEE - 26 OCTOBER 2020** (Pages 23 - 24)
To receive feedback from members of this committee who attended the meetings of the Healthy Staffordshire Select Committee
- 7 MEETING WITH THE CLINICAL COMMISSIONING GROUP** (Pages 25 - 28)
- 8 WORK PROGRAMME** (Pages 29 - 34)
- 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 - 1 MARCH 2021**

Members: Councillors Ian Wilkes (Chair), Julie Cooper (Vice-Chair), John Cooper, Allison Gardner, Tony Kearon, Barry Panter, Ruth Wright, Sue Moffat, Silvia Burgess, Bert Proctor, Mark Holland and Marion Reddish

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:	Kenneth Owen	Andrew Fox-Hewitt
	Jennifer Cooper	Gill Heesom
	Andrew Fear	Graham Hutton
	Sarah Pickup	June Walklate

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

- 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.

HEALTH, WELLBEING & PARTNERSHIPS SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Monday, 14th September, 2020
Time of Commencement: 7.00 pm

Present: Councillor Ian Wilkes (Chair)

Councillors: Julie Cooper Ruth Wright Kenneth Owen
Allison Gardner Sue Moffat Mark Holland

Officers: Andrew Bird Head of Recycling, Waste and Fleet Services
Denise French Democratic Services Team Leader
Martin Hamilton Chief Executive
Roger Tait Head of Operations
Gillian Taylor Housing Team Leader

Also in attendance: Councillor H Maxfield,
Portfolio Holder for
Community Safety and
Wellbeing

6. APOLOGIES

An apology for absence was received from Councillor J Waring, Portfolio Holder for Leisure, Culture and Heritage.

7. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no Declarations of Interest stated.

8. MINUTES OF LAST MEETING

Resolved: That the minutes of the meeting held on 1st June 2020 be confirmed as a correct record.

9. UPDATE FROM CABINET

There were no items to update from Cabinet.

10. UPDATE - TOWN CENTRE REOPENING POST LOCKDOWN, HOMELESSNESS LESSONS LEARNED AND DOMESTIC VIOLENCE SERVICES POST LOCKDOWN

Councillor Helena Maxfield, Portfolio Holder for Community Safety and Wellbeing, presented an update report on a number of services within the Committee's remit that had been impacted by the Coronavirus pandemic:

- Work undertaken to ensure town centre visitors feel safe with the reopening post lockdown – the report outlined the various measures undertaken to provide Covid secure town centres including signage, markings to encourage

social distancing and provision of hand sanitiser. There had been a number of measures introduced for the market including minimum spacing between stalls and contactless collection of rents. There had been thorough cleansing of the street environments in the main centres and floral displays in place. Partnership working had taken place with the Newcastle Business Improvement District and other agencies including Staffordshire County Council.

- Homelessness, rough sleeping and temporary accommodation, lessons learned – the report outlined how services had adapted to provide for homelessness and rough sleepers. Work was continuing to develop provision for those needing temporary accommodation and to find an alternative way to provide furniture and white goods for those moving into permanent accommodation following the closure of Furniture Mine. The focus of the service was now towards preparing for colder weather and sub-zero temperatures.
- Domestic violence post lockdown – Councillor Maxfield outlined that Police had reported no increase in cases since lockdown. The weekly Multi Agency Risk Assessment Conference (MARAC) dealt with more serious cases and had four cases at the time of writing the report with a further four to be considered the following week. The GLOW service was for children and young people and had seen an increase in all areas of its service provision.

Members raised a number of queries and issues as follows:

- Some shops did not have signage relating to Covid secure measures and there was concern that some shoppers did not wear face coverings. Roger Tait advised that signage had been displayed in town centres and Environmental Health Officers had visited some premises to give advice. The Chief Executive pointed out that the Council could not mandate how shops and businesses operated. Members noted that signage could be displayed but it was not the role of shopkeepers to enforce and there was a risk of verbal abuse.
- There was concern about young people gathering in the town centre and it was reported that students had been told that if they did not have a lecture then they were not to be on site. It was recognised that many young people would be from outside the area and may have some anxiety about being in a new town and at a new setting. Members referred to a meeting with the County Council which was going to address these type of issues direct with the college.
- Were specific figures around homelessness available and could they be included in future reports? Councillor Maxfield advised that this was possible and that the current figures were 18 families in accommodation detailed as follows - 1 family in temporary accommodation awaiting to go into private rented accommodation; 1 family in B&B accommodation awaiting transfer to temporary accommodation; 7 families in Copeland; 9 families in lower level supported accommodation and there were 4 rough sleepers who were known to the services.
- Was the situation around Domestic Abuse monitored which Councillor Maxfield confirmed it was.

Resolved: That Cabinet be asked for an update to the next meeting on the following areas:

- (a) Work undertaken to ensure town centre visitors feel safe with the reopening post lockdown – update;

(b) Homelessness, rough sleeping and temporary accommodation – post lockdown, current position, how the service is managing during winter months and dealing with sub-zero temperatures; and

(c) Domestic violence services- post lockdown, strategies to reduce Domestic violence, review of the new service, measures to promote sources of help and support (e.g. Members referred to a booklet that they distributed in local places), impact and support for young people affected by Domestic Abuse.

11. PARKS AND GREEN SPACES

The Head of Operations referred to the meeting of the Committee on 2nd March 2020 when it had been agreed to set up a Task and Finish Group to look at the topic of encouraging greater use of parks and green spaces to promote physical and mental health and wellbeing. A group of Members had been set up but had not yet been able to meet. He referred to how beneficial parks and green spaces had been during lockdown. He asked the Committee whether it wanted to continue to progress this work through a Task and Finish Group or whether he could prepare a report to the next meeting outlining the important role of parks and green spaces.

Members agreed that parks and open spaces were important and the value of the Scrutiny Review and agreed to progress the topic through the Task and Finish Group.

Resolved: that the Scrutiny Review of encouraging greater use of parks and green spaces continue through the Task and Finish Group set up on 2nd March 2020.

12. MINUTES OF THE HEALTHY STAFFORDSHIRE SELECT COMMITTEE -

The Committee considered the digests from Staffordshire County Council outlining the work of their Healthy Staffordshire Select Committee at the recent meeting on 10th August 2020.

Resolved: that the update be received.

13. WORK PROGRAMME

The Committee considered the current Work Programme. Councillor Gardner referred to previous meetings and consideration of Domestic Abuse services. Members had received an update in December 2019 on service provision and noted that the current service had only been in place for 12 months at that time. Members had asked for an update in 14 months. Members also discussed the impact of Domestic Abuse on young people. It was noted that Members had previously distributed booklets on Domestic Abuse support services to various outlets in their Wards and this had been seen as very useful and perhaps could be repeated.

Members discussed Mental Health as an important topic. Councillor Moffat advised that she was the Chair of North Staffs MIND and suggested a presentation on their work be made to a future meeting.

Resolved: That the Work Programme be updated with items for the December meeting of the Committee as follows:

- Update on the Scrutiny Review of Parks and Open Spaces;
- An Update on the areas requested from Cabinet raised as part of the Covid update report – safe opening of town centres, homelessness and Domestic Abuse services taking into account the issues raised above; and

- A presentation on Mental Health Services from North Staffs MIND.

14. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

There were no Members of the Public present.

15. URGENT BUSINESS

There were no items of urgent business.

16. DATE OF NEXT MEETING - 7 DECEMBER 2020

Chair

Meeting concluded at 8.10 pm

NEWCASTLE-UNDER-LYME BOROUGH COUNCIL

UPDATE FROM CABINET TO HEALTH, WELLBEING & PARTNERSHIPS SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Submitted by: Cabinet

Portfolios: All

Ward(s) affected: All

Purpose of the Report

To provide a response to the Scrutiny Committee on items previously raised by Committee Members at the last meeting on 14th September 2020.

Recommendation

That the response from Cabinet be received and noted.

1. **Homelessness, Rough Sleeping and Temporary Accommodation update**

The Committee asked for an update on how the services are managing post lockdown, the current position, managing during the winter months and in sub-zero temperatures.

Response from Cabinet:

- General homelessness updates

The Council have established internal Working Group to manage the transition of the Newcastle Housing Advice (NHA) service back in house from the incumbent provider Midland Heart and TUPE of 9 staff.

Council has recruited a Housing and Partnerships Policy Officer to pick up the work from the vacant Housing strategy post – highlighting emphasis on Partnership working to assist the Council in meeting statutory requirements for homelessness.

The Newcastle Housing Advice (NHA) service have recruited a Rough Sleepers Navigator position, to engage directly with and case manage, those rough sleeping and with complex needs to ensure that they are supported into treatment services and pathways to accommodation. This role commenced in May 2020 and works closely with the Rough Sleepers Team at Brighter Futures, who are commissioned jointly by the Council and Stoke-on-Trent City Council.

- Newcastle Housing Advice (NHA) and demand for service

NHA have experienced high levels of increased demand to the service during the period of the pandemic, in particular during quarter 2. Comparisons between this year figures and last years can be seen below

NHA Demand snapshot	Q1 20/21	Q1 19/20	Q2 20/21	Q2 - 19/20
Telephone calls to service received	3789	4551	6017	4575
Total on Housing Register / Waiting List	1372	1280	1413	1310
Emergency homeless presentations	87	61	110	63
Emergency out of hours calls	41	14	26	21
Emails received to administrator inbox	688	804	1127	791
Emails received to NHA inbox	1866	793	1908	809
All appointments attended	240	295	368	252
Navigator visits made	29	N/A*	50	N/A*
Total in TA as at end of the period	16	N/A*	15	N/A*

* not monitored during 2019/20

Of note:

- There are no face-to-face appointments currently available / operational due to COVID – appointments are undertaken by telephone.
- Increase in telephone calls (linked to above)
- Considerable increase in emergency presentations and out of hours calls.
- The emergency presentations are more complex by nature adding to the workload of the service.
- Rough Sleeping

The Rough Sleepers Team, delivered by Brighter Futures and commissioned by the Council with Stoke-on-Trent City Council, advise that they are continuing to operate 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 unclear how much this has increased specifically in Newcastle because of the transient nature of the cohort.

Annual Estimate Rough Sleeping figures

Year	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Figures	1	4	1	4	3	7	0	5	4	6	9

The annual rough sleeping figures for Newcastle-under-Lyme have always been below 10. However, in the last couple of years we have seen an increase in these figures. There are varying factors why our figures have increased in the last year. Recruiting a Rough Sleeping Co-ordinator in 2019 and a Rough Sleeping Navigator in 2020 has meant more robust and accurate data is gathered and shared. Developing good links and partnership working with varying agencies has meant more accurate information sharing and more effective service delivery to those in need. Local Charity Open Door are also delivering outreach weekly in the town.

Monthly Rough Sleeping Figures

2019

Month	Jan	Feb	March	April	May	June	July	August	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec
Figures	9	5	2	6	8	6	11	4	7	4	1	8

2020

Month	Jan	Feb	March	April	May	June	July	August	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec
Figures	3	8	2	1	1	5	7	13	4	TBC	TBC	TBC

Challenges of the COVID pandemic have been a general lack of housing options for homeless households, limited face-to-face services, many services / partners working with skeleton staff, closure of B&Bs and hotels. A reduced tolerance from some providers has meant that there are more evictions and less temporary and supported accommodation options for high risk and complex need individuals. These are also indicative of some of the factors that are believed to be contributing to the increase of rough sleepers in the Borough.

- Severe Weather Emergency Protocol

In Newcastle-under-Lyme, the SWEP has been developed with partners at Stoke-on-Trent City Council and Brighter Futures, who deliver the Council's Rough Sleeper Team (RST) service as an emergency response for people sleeping rough and to encourage engagement with support services. It is for those who would genuinely be sleeping rough were the SWEP provision not in place.

SWEP is instigated from the 1st November to 31st March when the temperature is forecast to drop to zero degrees (or below) on a single night. It can also be triggered by severe weather such as wind, rain and snow. The RST and Housing and partnerships Policy Officer at NBC will be monitoring weather forecasts to determine when SWEP will be active.

In previous years, the SWEP provision has been made available in local Bed and Breakfasts and as upright spaces in Hostels. However, due to the COVID pandemic many Bed and Breakfasts have closed and Hostels have been restricted in their capacity of emergency accommodation because of the social distancing requirements.

To ensure that an emergency provision is available over this winter period, the Council have identified a former office building that can be brought into use for this purpose at short notice on Merrial Street, as and when required. The property has no immediate neighbours and is located in a non-residential part of town. It is ideally located for the cohort to access, being in the town centre and local businesses have been consulted via the BID Board and confirmed that they are supportive.

A local charity partner Open Door, will ensure that an 'on call' team of specialist support staff and volunteers is available to respond to the instigation of SWEP at short notice, including the management and supervision of occupants at the unit. The SWEP provision comprises of up to 3 bed spaces and these will be accessible between the hours of 6pm – 10am.

This provision will only be used in an emergency and as a last resort if all other temporary accommodation options are full and have been exhausted. Obviously while the weather can't be reliably predicted for the coming months, the figures in the table below, highlight the use of the previous SWEP provision last year and give an indication of how often it may be used over the coming months;

Date - 2019	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Total
Nights active	2	3	3	8	0	16

- Temporary Accommodation

A Temporary Accommodation (TA) Policy report is being shared with the Scrutiny Committee this evening for discussion with Officers.

Temporary accommodation numbers remain fairly static with approximately 16 households in TA at any one time. The TA used in the Borough is a mixture between Bed and Breakfast and a range of temporary accommodation units.

Officers have secured funding from MHCLG, which will be used towards the costs of a supported temporary emergency accommodation 7 bed unit for complex needs cases. Further funding has been allocated to contribute to the cold weather provision (inc SWEP as outlined above) over the coming months.

Additional temporary accommodation initiatives are being explored by Officers, with partners at the County Council and with local housing providers, which will seek to attract external funding to support the initial set up and development costs in order to provide alternative housing options for our most vulnerable and complex customers.

2. **Domestic Abuse services update**

The Committee asked for an update on services post lockdown, strategies to reduce Domestic Abuse, a review of the new service, measure to promote sources of help and support and the impact and support for young people affected by Domestic Abuse.

Response from Cabinet:

Staffordshire Police advise that the expected increased demand in relation to reporting of domestic abuse has not materialised. However, partners are expecting an increase to come through over the coming months as during the lockdown, vulnerable victims have not had access to safe spaces to make the necessary referrals and reports.

The weekly Multi Agency Risk Assessment Conference (MARAC), at the time of writing had five cases heard at the meeting this week and although there had been a considerable peak the week previous, the numbers have otherwise remained fairly consistent. Whilst the number of cases have remained fairly consistent, we have seen a rise in more complex cases with greater risk. We have also seen an increase of abuse from adult children to parent and in repeat cases.

New Era, the County domestic abuse service commissioned by Staffordshire Commissioner's Office, advise that there has been an increase in demand for their 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, there has been no face-to-face support since the pandemic and staff are WFH. 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 is stable and as at the time of writing it is full. They are offering predominantly 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 CYP service, which is commissioned by the Borough Council on behalf of the Newcastle Partnership. The Glow CYP service have continued to provide face to face support to those children and young people who need it and are risk assessing and complying with COVID guidelines to ensure this service can still be offered.

Through the first lockdown they delivered letterbox packs for all the CYP they were supporting with resources to increase their coping skills whilst they were learning from home and not attending school and therefore at greater risk. The team have targeted schools and teachers to look for

hidden victims of domestic abuse following pupils return to school. They are now providing a specific mobile number for CYP and they are promoting this via 'Teen Takeover' so that CYP have a safe avenue to communicate with Glow. Due to lockdown we have seen an increase in the number of children witnessing domestic abuse at home.

Officers are working closely with colleagues at NHA to monitor the situation closely and are working with partners to cost an additional emergency bed space for families fleeing domestic abuse out of hours via the homelessness service.

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. Domestic Abuse campaign materials are being disseminated during Domestic Abuse week (w/c 23rd November). Staffordshire Commissioner's Office have launched a County wide domestic abuse communications programme, which Officers have been sharing alongside the more local campaigning.

3. **Work Undertaken to ensure Town Centre Visitors feel safe with the Reopening Post Lockdown**

The Committee asked for an update on work undertaken to ensure town centre visitors feel safe with reopening Town Centres post lockdown.

Response from Cabinet

In Newcastle and Kidsgrove town centres, the social distancing signage has been updated in line with the Government's 'Hands, Face, Space' message and social distancing street markers both around the market area and outside of key premises have been renewed.

A number of Council staff have voluntarily taken on the role of either Street Marshals or Business Marshals / Business Information Officers. The Street Marshals have been on site in Newcastle town centre monitoring social distancing and the size of groups in the town centre, politely reminding people of the 'rule of 6'.

For Business Marshals / Business Information Officers, their role is to visit premises that are open and provide guidance to businesses where there could be a potential breach of the Covid Secure law / guidelines and also to provide information and guidance on questions raised during the visit. Prior to second Lockdown, good progress had been made in visiting premises in Newcastle and Kidsgrove town centres and premises in smaller neighbourhood centres were starting to take place. During Lockdown 2 visits have been maintained to those premises that are able to continue trading.

Hand sanitising stations at key locations including the bus station have been maintained to ensure supplies of hand sanitiser are available to those that wish to use them.

The public toilets in both town centres have remained open with increased cleaning frequency. A small number of specialist markets were held on Sundays with social distancing measures in place including a one-way system around the market, hand sanitiser stations at the entry to the market and event marshals to ensure social distancing was maintained.

The Council's communication team has continued with social media messaging around Government guidelines and town centre messages as appropriate.

NEWCASTLE-UNDER-LYME BOROUGH COUNCIL

REPORT TO HEALTH, WELLBEING AND PARTNERSHIPS SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

01 December 2020

Report Title: Temporary Accommodation Policy

Submitted by: Partnerships Manager

Portfolios: Community Safety and Wellbeing

Ward(s) affected: All

Purpose of the Report

This Report seeks Members input into the development of a Policy setting out the principles of how Newcastle-under-Lyme Borough Council will seek to meet its responsibilities to people who are homeless or threatened with homelessness in Newcastle-under-Lyme.

The intended Temporary Accommodation (TA) Policy relates to the placement of homeless households into temporary accommodation under Section 188 of the Housing Act 1996 Part VII, as amended and longer term temporary accommodation placements under Section 193 *where a main housing duty for households has been accepted*.

This Report therefore highlights a Draft TA Policy for consideration, which will provide the framework for moving forward to ensure that the Borough's use of temporary accommodation is suitable, cost-effective and meets needs. It also seeks Members views on further development of temporary accommodation options for 2021/22 and beyond in the Borough.

Key Matters for the Scrutiny Committee's consideration;

- Are the principles outlined in the Draft TA Policy clear?
- How can the needs of homeless households requiring temporary accommodation best be met?
- What more can be done by the Council to assist homeless and our most vulnerable households?

Recommendations

That the Scrutiny Committee recommend to Cabinet that the Draft TA Policy is approved and that Officers continue to seek Members views on the development of a range of temporary accommodation options for the Borough. This would enable the Council to fulfil its statutory obligations and provide suitable accommodation for the most vulnerable and those eligible for interim accommodation

1. Background

- 1.1 Under housing and homelessness legislation, the Council has duties to provide interim (or temporary) accommodation to certain households who present as homeless and are considered to be in priority need. In the majority of cases, this is when a household presenting as homeless states that they do not have access to housing and therefore they are placed in temporary accommodation whilst the Council investigates their application.
- 1.2 The Homelessness Reduction Act 2017 widened the Council's duties and means that applicants under the Relief Duty may also be eligible for interim accommodation if required, subsequently to Council's use of temporary accommodation, both in terms of frequency and expenditure has increased significantly over the last couple of years.

- 1.3 In addition to households applying to the Council for accommodation under homelessness legislation, other households can require temporary accommodation. This includes people who are rough sleeping, people who require emergency accommodation due to (risk of) fire or flood etc.
- 1.4 Temporary accommodation is an umbrella term and includes supported housing (both social and private rented), hostels and bed and breakfast accommodation.
- 1.5 The use of bed and breakfast accommodation as temporary accommodation is not only expensive and subject to public sector procurement rules, but is considered unsuitable as it is not designed for residential use. In addition, it is unlawful for Councils to allow homeless families with children or pregnant women stay in bed and breakfast accommodation for more than six weeks.
- 1.6 Therefore, the Draft Temporary Accommodation Policy seeks to prevent the use of bed and breakfast accommodation except in emergencies for the minimum period possible by enabling the development and in some cases commissioning of other temporary accommodation options with local providers.
- 1.7 The Council's statutory homelessness duties are delivered under contract by Midland Heart and known as the Newcastle Housing Advice (NHA) service. The NHA service is due to be brought back in house at the Council in April 2021.
- 1.8 Options for temporary accommodation in the Borough are extremely limited because the Council has no accommodation of its own and relies on other arrangements with local providers which can be costly. The majority of single person households presenting for assistance are accommodated in short term Bed and Breakfast in the Borough, pending enquiries. There are no hostels for single people in the Borough and the hostels in neighbouring authorities prioritise placements for customers with a local connection to their area so they are rarely available for Borough use.

2. **Issues for consideration**

- 2.1 A Temporary Accommodation Review was undertaken and reported to the Council's Executive Management Team (EMT) in July 2020. The Review Report highlighted that the use of and cost to the Council for temporary accommodation has increased considerably over the last 12 -18 months, partly due to the impact of the introduction of the Homelessness Reduction Act 2017 and also because of the pressures from the COVID pandemic.
- 2.2 In order to balance the increasing demands on temporary accommodation and to seek to reduce the financial burden on the Council, a number of recommendations were made in the Review Report, which included;
- Undertake a market testing exercise to ensure that temporary accommodation with support for complex needs singles and Rough Sleepers is available / can be continued on expiry of the current arrangements until the end of 2020/21. *A subsequent exercise followed, which demonstrated that there are limited providers in this specialist field, however a suitable provider was identified and some supported temporary accommodation provision is now in place until the end of March 2021.*
 - Create a Temporary Accommodation Policy for the Borough – *Draft prepared and shared with Scrutiny Members for further discussion.*
 - Seek a steer on the range of supported accommodation in the Borough to be pursued, and identify available budget to be used to encourage a 'spend to save' approach to TA. *This is ongoing and Scrutiny Members are requested to contribute to this discussion in line with the TA Policy.*
 - Recruit to the vacant Housing and Partnership Policy Officer (HPPO) (former Housing Strategy post) to lead work the Council's work on homelessness and homelessness prevention. *Recruitment complete and new post holder started October 2020.*
 - HPPO to lead work on further development of the homelessness strategy action plan and temporary accommodation options for 2021/22, housing partnerships and seeking best practice for the Council. The role will also improve the monitoring arrangements for the usage and expenditure of temporary accommodation for the Council with NHA, particularly as the

service prepares to come back in house. *Induction of new post holder underway and work is already ongoing.*

3. **Options considered**

- 3.1 Do nothing - without creating a TA Policy and developing options for temporary accommodation in the Borough, the Council will be unable to fulfil its statutory obligations for homelessness and safeguarding vulnerable people – **this option is not recommended.**
- 3.2 Create a Draft TA Policy and seek Members views on the development of a range of temporary accommodation options for the Borough. This would enable the Council to fulfil its statutory obligations and provide suitable accommodation for the most vulnerable and those eligible for interim accommodation - **this option is recommended.**

4. **Key Matters for Scrutiny Consideration**

- 4.1 The TA Review demonstrated that supported temporary accommodation is more cost effective than B&B accommodation, which also doesn't have the added advantage of support services and is most beneficial to assist vulnerable customers access more sustainable housing options.
- 4.2 Following the recent market testing exercise, the current temporary accommodation provision is in place until 31st March 2021. It is recommended that further temporary accommodation proposals are developed and mobilised from 1st April 2021. A financial budget allocation will be required for the provision of temporary accommodation beyond the end of March 2021.
- 4.3 Key matters for the Scrutiny Committee's consideration;
- 4.3.1 Are the principles outlined in the Draft TA Policy clear?
- 4.3.2 How can the needs of homeless households requiring temporary accommodation best be met?
- 4.3.3 What more can be done by the Council to assist homeless and our most vulnerable households?

5. **Legal and Statutory Implications**

- 5.1 The Housing Act 1996, Part VII (as amended) sets out the circumstances when a local authority is required to provide temporary accommodation to homeless households. The expectations for this temporary accommodation are then set out in the Homelessness (Suitability of Accommodation) (England) Order 2012.
- 5.2 Other relevant statutory guidance includes.
- Homelessness Act 2002
 - Homelessness Code of Guidance for Local Authorities 2006
 - Homelessness (Suitability of Accommodation) Order 1996
 - Homelessness (Suitability of Accommodation) (England) Order 2003
 - Localism Act 2011 (Commencement No 2 and Transitional Provisions) (England) Order 2012
 - Supplementary Guidance on Changes in Localism Act 2011
 - Supplementary Guidance on Domestic Abuse and Homelessness 2014
 - The Homelessness Reduction Act 2017.
- 5.3 Not having a fit for purpose service will leave the Council open to a legal challenge.

6. **Equality Impact Assessment**

- 6.1 Temporary accommodation placements are made purely on merit and there are no disproportionate outcomes to any cohort.

7. **Financial and Resource Implications**

7.1 The Draft Temporary Accommodation Policy seeks to encourage the Council towards improving the options for temporary accommodation in the Borough and in reducing revenue costs to the Council's General Fund for use of emergency accommodation. It is recognised that this may take some time and some initial investment in capacity will be required to take this work forward with local providers.

8. **Major Risks**

8.1 There is a risk that this provision is insufficient to meet rising demand and additional B&B use may be required to assist the Council in fulfilling its statutory obligations.

8.2 There is a risk of reputational damage to the Council if it does not deliver its statutory duties lawfully and effectively.

9. **Sustainability and Climate Change Implications**

9.1 There are no sustainability or climate change implications.

10. **Key Decision Information**

10.1 This report can be considered key in the following ways: -

- It results in the Borough Council committing existing resources for the function to which the decision relates and;
- To be significant in terms of its effects on communities living or working in an area comprising two or more electoral wards in the Borough.

11. **Earlier Cabinet/Committee Resolutions**

11.1 N/A

12. **List of Appendices**

12.1 Appendix 1 – Draft Temporary Accommodation Policy – November 2020.

13. **Background Papers**

13.1 Temporary Accommodation Review July 2020



Temporary Accommodation Policy

November 2020

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DRAFT

1. Introduction and Background

This Policy sets out how Newcastle-under-Lyme Borough Council will meet its responsibilities to people who are homeless or threatened with homelessness in Newcastle-under-Lyme.

The Council's housing advice service and statutory homelessness duties are delivered under contract by Midland Heart and are branded as the Newcastle Housing Advice (NHA) service.

2. Legal Framework

The Council has a statutory duty to assist households presenting as homeless where they are eligible for assistance and in priority need. This Policy relates to the placement of homeless households into temporary accommodation under Section 188 of the Housing Act 1996 Part VII, as amended and longer term temporary accommodation placements under Section 193 where a main housing duty for households has been accepted. Temporary accommodation is for an interim period and households once assessed will be moved on to permanent accommodation in the social or private rented sector.

Additionally case law, specifically *Nzolameso v Westminster (2015) UKSC 22*, set out that Local Authorities must produce a policy which sets out how it will provide accommodation for households who are homeless in its district.

3. Context

When households have been accepted as homeless or are owed a homelessness duty, or in some cases when their homeless application is being investigated, the household is expected to be housed temporarily.

Temporary accommodation is an umbrella term for a wide variety of accommodation which can be accessed by homeless households and may include use of bed and breakfast accommodation (B&B), a Private Sector Leasing Scheme (PSL), shared temporary accommodation, supported accommodation etc. (this list is not exhaustive).

In all of these types of accommodation, it is only meant to be temporary, which is for a limited amount of time, until the household either locates their own housing in the private sector, or is offered a suitable offer in permanent accommodation if homeless duty has been accepted by the local authority.

In accordance with the law and homelessness legislation, including the '*Homelessness Code of Guidance for Local Authorities (2018)*' so far as reasonably practical, Newcastle-under-Lyme Borough Council will seek to accommodate homeless households within the Borough of Newcastle-under-Lyme and will always consider the suitability of accommodation taking into account the circumstances of the individual.

However, due to a range of factors including the economic down turn, changes to the private sector rented market and the impact of welfare reform, it has become increasingly difficult to acquire suitable accommodation within the Borough. Therefore, where temporary accommodation cannot be secured within the locality, out of Borough accommodation will be sourced, to enable placements to be made to fulfil the Council's housing obligations.

The Council keeps its use of temporary accommodation continually under review, and where a household is placed outside of the Borough, the Council will seek to return them to the Borough at the earliest opportunity to do so.

4. Types of Temporary Accommodation

The Council uses a variety of accommodation to temporarily house those who are homeless or threatened with homelessness. The accommodation includes but is not limited to the following:

- Bed and Breakfast – this is used in an emergency, often out of office hours, when there is no alternative temporary or permanent accommodation available. There are costs attached to B&B and other types of accommodation which can be paid through housing benefit or a contribution from the household and there maybe additional service charges that will need to be paid. Households may face eviction from temporary accommodation if charges are not paid and the Council can choose then to end its duty to house the homeless household.
- Shared temporary accommodation units – this has shared facilities and an element of support. As above there are costs attached which can be paid through housing benefit or a contribution from the household and there maybe additional service charges that will need to be paid. Households may face eviction from temporary accommodation if charges are not paid and the Council can choose then to end its duty to house the homeless household.
- Family temporary accommodation units – these are used subject to availability for families with children to avoid the use of B&B. As above there are costs attached which can be paid through housing benefit or a contribution from the household and there maybe additional service charges that will need to be paid. Households may face eviction from temporary accommodation if charges are not paid and the Council can choose then to end its duty to house the homeless household.
- Refuge accommodation – this is used as a safe house for those fleeing domestic abuse and often those who find themselves homeless. Specialist support is available at refuges to assist residents gain confidence and to rebuild their lives. As above there are costs attached to refuge accommodation, which can be paid through housing benefit or a contribution from the household and there maybe additional service charges that may need to be paid.
- Hostel Accommodation – For homeless applicants with low or no priority need an out of area hostel placement may be offered. Even though the applicant has been placed out of area the duty to relieve homelessness still remains with the Council and Newcastle Housing Advice (NHA) to support those placed out of area to continue to engage with Newcastle-under-Lyme Borough Council and to access housing within the Borough, either in the social or private rented sector.

5. Suitability and Affordability of Accommodation

Newcastle-under-Lyme Borough Council will endeavour to house households in suitable temporary accommodation. The Council sets a number of standards for different types of temporary accommodation which will be assessed periodically by the Council's Housing Strategy Team.

Use of Bed and Breakfast Accommodation (B&B) - Wherever possible, the Council will limit the use of B&B accommodation placements for 16/17 year olds, families with dependent children, pregnant women and those with ill health. Where no other suitable accommodation exists and such placements are necessary, the Council will endeavour to move such households to more suitable accommodation within six weeks. The Council's approach is to utilise B&B in an emergency and where possible to use other temporary accommodation options (currently provided by Midland Heart and Open Door) to move households on. When offering longer term temporary accommodation, the Council will consider the suitability of the offer taking account of all relevant factors including the size and location of the property and the individual circumstances of the household.

Location – Newcastle-under-Lyme Borough Council will do all it can to accommodate families and individuals within the Borough. It is unlikely that families who are homeless and have priority need will be placed outside the area into another district, unless at the request of the family, and with assistance from Newcastle Housing Advice (NHA). On occasion single people who are homeless with no priority need may be encouraged to access direct access hostels accommodation in other areas. However Newcastle-under-Lyme Borough Council retains the responsibility to that household and will work with the applicant via the personal housing plan to ensure a move back to Newcastle-under-Lyme.

Affordability – The Council will give due consideration to the affordability of any offer made, taking into account the homeless household's entire income including any welfare state benefits, the cost of additional travel to and from the applicants normal place of work, the cost of additional travel to and from children's school or educational institute and the cost of additional travel to access medical services for ongoing treatment or aftercare. Families can be referred to Citizens Advice Bureau for further guidance and advice if this is deemed appropriate. Where service charges are applied, all households will be expected to pay the fee weekly and where households are working then they will be expected to pay an affordable contribution to costs. This is to ensure that the accommodation is affordable to the household and where B & B is utilised, cost is not a deterrent to households.

General Health Factors – The Council will consider health factors, such as ability to climb stairs, care and support provided by other statutory agencies or the need to access any specialist medical services. The Council will determine whether the medical condition itself makes certain accommodation offered unsuitable. For example problems such as depression, asthma, diabetes and / or back pain may not make a property unsuitable, as the problem may persist in any type of accommodation.

6. Accommodation Offers and Refusals

6.1 Offers and refusals under Section 188

Once a household has been assessed and it has been recognised that there is a duty to accommodate temporarily in emergency accommodation, NHA acting on behalf of the Borough Council will make one suitable offer of interim accommodation. There is no obligation upon NHA or the Council to enable applicants to view the accommodation prior to acceptance. If an applicant refuses an offer of accommodation and NHA does not accept the reasons for refusal, and considers that the offer is suitable, the Council's duty will cease and the applicant may not be offered further temporary accommodation and may be required to make their own arrangements.

There is no right of review against the suitability of accommodation offered to applicants, although the applicant can apply for judicial review through the courts, if challenging the suitability of the offer.

6.2 Offers and refusals under Section 193

Where customers are accepted for a main housing duty under Section 193 of the Housing Act, longer term suitable temporary accommodation will be provided. NHA will make one offer of suitable accommodation on behalf of the Council. Where NHA have accepted a main housing duty and have made a suitable offer of accommodation, there is a right to request a review of the suitability of accommodation.

In such circumstances applicants will be encouraged to accept the offer of accommodation whilst a review of the suitability of the offer of accommodation is being considered. Where

applicants refuse to take up the offer of accommodation whilst a review is underway, the current accommodation may only remain available at the discretion of the NHA Manager.

7. Ending of Temporary Accommodation

7.1 Discharge of Section 188 [Interim] accommodation duty

Where NHA decides, on behalf of the Council, that the applicant/s housed temporarily under Section 188, are not owed a main housing duty or that they have breached the licence condition, they will be asked to leave the interim accommodation following warnings and accommodation may be ended with immediate effect, subject to individual circumstances and dependent on the reasons.

7.2 Discharge of Section 193 accommodation duty

The Council shall cease to be subject to the duty under Section 193 [6] of the Housing Act, if the applicant:

- Ceases to be eligible for assistance
- Becomes homeless intentionally from the accommodation made available for their occupation
- Accepts an offer of accommodation under Part VI (allocation of housing)
- Accepts an offer of an assured tenancy (other than an assured short hold tenancy) from a private sector landlord
- Voluntarily ceases to occupy as their principle home, the accommodation made available for occupation
- Having been informed of the possible consequences of refusal and of his right to request a review of the suitability of accommodation, refuses a final offer
- Where the Council decides that their duty has ceased as described above, the applicants housed under Section 193, will be asked to leave the accommodation usually within 28 days or earlier subject to individual circumstances. Two warnings will be issued before the Council ceases its Section 193 duty and accommodation may be ended with immediate effect, subject to individual circumstances and dependent on the reasons.

8. Policy Review

This Policy document will be subject to ongoing review to reflect any changes in legislation or operational need, but will be reviewed as a minimum annually. Minor changes can be agreed by the Director of Commercial Development and Economic Growth. Where there are significant changes, or changes to legislation which impact on the Policy, then this will require the appropriate governance.

9. Complaints and Compliments

To make a complaint regarding the use of this Policy, customers are advised to use the **Newcastle-under-Lyme Borough Council complaints procedure**. Please complete the complaints, comments and compliments online form to register your feedback. Follow the link below:

www.newcastle-staffs.gov.uk/all-services/advice/complaints-comments-and-compliments
or www.nhaoptions.co.uk

You can also register your feedback by calling 01782 717717.

**Healthy Staffordshire Select Committee – Monday 26 October 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 26 October 2020 - link to Agenda and reports pack:

<http://moderngov.staffordshire.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=871&MId=11771&Ver=4>

Agenda Item	District(s)/Borough(s)
<p>Adult Learning Disability Community Offer: Update on Learning Disability Services Directly Provided by Staffordshire County Council</p> <p>The Committee considered a report of the Cabinet Member for Health, Care and Wellbeing (Staffordshire County Council) giving details of his forthcoming recommendations to Cabinet at their meeting on 18 November 2020 to review their decisions made in 2019 in respect of (i) transition of Greenfield House, Leek and Horninglow Bungalows, Burton-upon-Trent to the independent supported living market; (ii) capital investment for the relocation of directly provided residential care services currently situated at Hawthorne House, Lichfield to the Scotch Orchard site; (iii) capital investment for the relocation of the respite services currently provided at Douglas Road, Newcastle-under-Lyme to Wilmott Drive and; (iv) commissioning of residential replacement care services in Cannock Chase District and East Staffordshire Borough from the independent sector. This was to ensure that they remained appropriate in light of the 2020 Covid-19 pandemic.</p> <p>In addition, he informed them that following the suspension of a review of Specialist Day Care Opportunities in March 2020 owing to the above-mentioned outbreak, it was his intention to recommend Cabinet that the review be restarted, to include:- (i) the current building-based provision; (ii) alternative methods of supporting people in their own homes (eg Outreach and Virtual) which had been developed following the outbreak and need to comply with social distancing guidelines; (iii) staffing and; (iv) the exploration of a business case for development of a Single Integrated Service.</p> <p>In response to a request by the Cabinet Member for their views on the above-mentioned developments/proposals the Committee scrutinised the report, asking questions and seeking clarification where necessary. They expressed support for the changes to Learning Disability Services Directly Provided by the Authority. However, they expressed concern regarding increased costs of developing the Scotch Orchard and Wilmot Drive sites and requested the Cabinet Member provide them with additional information to also include an indication of timescales and confirmation that the Care Quality Commission had given their support to their dual use for Residential Replacement Care and Specialist Day Opportunities.</p>	<p>All Districts and Boroughs</p>

Covid-19 Changes to Service Delivery

The Committee also considered a report and PowerPoint Presentation from Staffordshire Clinical Commissioning Groups' (CCGs) Accountable Officer updating them on the restoration and recovery of services following the 2020 Covid-19 Pandemic including:- (i) The Impact of the Virus; (ii) Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent Restoration and Recovery and Financial Plans; (iii) Key Risks and Challenges; (iv) Temporary Service Changes implemented following the outbreak; (v) Locally Driven Changes; (vi) Communications and Engagement; (vii) Next Steps and; (viii) Updates by specific service areas. Members then scrutinised and held the CCGs to account. In the full and wide-ranging discussion which ensued the Committee emphasised Health's statutory duty to consult on substantial variations in service provision, notwithstanding the implications of the pandemic. They were particularly concerned about the implementation of the extended Flu vaccination programme and any shortages of vaccine with might arise. However, they received assurances that current stocks of vaccine were adequate to meet the needs of Phases 1 (over 65-year olds) and 2 (over 50-year olds) in Staffordshire. However, they undertook to notify the CCGs of any difficulties which arose in this respect, in individual localities going forward. In addition, they encouraged Health to build on the lessons learned so far during the pandemic with regard to mental health services, virtual appointments and engagement with local communities and their representatives. They undertook to encourage local residents to present at GP surgeries in their divisions, as necessary and asked for benchmarking data relating to face to face and virtual appointments by practice so that areas of concern could be scrutinised further. They were re-assured that critical services such as cancer care had successfully been restored and went onto seek clarification of the status of various other local health facilities in the County which had been temporarily closed since the outbreak, highlighting the health inequalities which would have arisen as a result.

All Districts and
Boroughs

Their next meeting will be held on Monday 30 November 2020 at 10.00 am, Virtual/on-line.

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HEALTH MEETING. FRIDAY 20 NOVEMBER, 2020 - 9.30am to 10.30am

Present: Andrew Bird, Cllr Julie Cooper, Geoff Durham, Tracey Shewan CCG and Cllr Ian Wilkes

Introductions were made by delegates at the meeting, and Tracy Shewan was thanked for making the time meet with representatives of the Health & Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee, as there were a number of items they wished to discuss.

Councillor Cooper asked Tracey Shewan why patients were being moved from the Royal Stoke University Hospital to other hospitals in order to free up beds. Councillor Cooper also asked if anyone from within the Borough had been moved.

Tracy didn't have the figures but would check and forward the information to ourselves. As of yesterday, the Royal Stoke Hospital had 300 Covid positive patients which was a quarter of the hospital's capacity. In addition, ICU was over capacity with over thirty patients in at the present time. The hospital was also under pressure with high sickness levels amongst its staff.

As people's conditions improved in hospital they needed to be moved to a Covid safe area to continue with their recovery. Therefore, patients were being moved to the Heywood Hospital, Cheadle and also Stafford Hospital.

Councillor Cooper queried why Bradwell Hospital could not be used. Why was it closing when it was needed. It is vital to the area.

Tracey advised that the Surge Plan in place for Covid took pressure off the beds in ICU by looking at other hospitals which provide intensive care. To use Bradwell Hospital, they would have to be able to staff it safely. If the Coronavirus wasn't an issue, the hospital would not be needed.

Councillor Cooper stated that Bradwell Hospital had originally been set up as an infection hospital and asked, as that was the case why was it not being used now during the pandemic.

Tracey advised that capacity was opened where it was safe to do so, where there was the right oxygen equipment, fire doors etc to ensure that it was safe. Critical Care patients could not be put into a Community Hospital as a lot of equipment was needed.

For clarification, Councillor Wilkes asked if Intensive Care referred to patients being 'kept alive' and this was confirmed. The patients would be moved to wherever was necessary to achieve this. Once their condition improved they could be moved to a lower graded hospital closer to home. There was a rehabilitation centre also at the Royal Stoke Hospital.

Tracey stated that luckily, community beds weren't being used when the pandemic hit. Tracey believed that the situation would worsen. There is still a rise in infection rates and there was usually a two week lag before admission to hospital. Nurses were constantly being training to step up to Intensive Care should they be required.

Although there were fewer fatalities during this second wave, depending on the patient's age, the period that they were kept in Intensive Care was much longer. In the over sixties age group, there was more need for oxygen, non-invasive ventilation and Intensive Care.

Lessons had been learned from the first wave as to what treatment and medications helped best.

Councillor Wilkes asked Tracey for confirmation that the current hospital admissions were higher than the first wave. This was confirmed. Councillor Wilkes stated that the public did not seem to be taking the second wave as seriously as the first. Tracey agreed and stated that it was challenging and that enforcement had been stepped up with Covid Marshalls and more fines being issued. Supermarkets needed to be contacted as families were now being allowed in, together and purchasing non-essential items.

Councillor Cooper stated that she had seen nurses shopping who were still wearing their uniforms whilst the public were being advised to wash their hands etc. Tracey advised that anyone on Covid wards would be wearing scrubs and these would be removed after their shift.

Tracey confirmed that the Royal Stoke Hospital had been visited this morning to be advised on infection control. Clear instructions had been given that there should be no car sharing. People travelling in emergency vehicles should wear a mask unless they wore glasses as there was a risk of them steaming up whilst driving. Tracey asked Andrew Bird for clarity on the position of the Waste and Recycling operatives wearing masks.

Andrew stated that it was a different circumstance due to the conditions they worked in. Due to what they were handling, hands and gloves were difficult to keep clean. There was far greater risk in putting a mask on and taking it off several times a day. Masks could be worn in the cabs but it was not insisted upon and there was hand sanitiser available. The operatives were kept within their working bubble and therefore they knew each other's habits.

Councillor Cooper asked about MRSA and C'Difficile – how things were going there now that there was Covid and the flu season was approaching. Tracey stated that, because of the infection control measures that had been implemented with social distancing etc., there were fewer flu cases. This time of year would also normally see the Noravirus but the measures were reducing all infections and there would also be fewer people with colds. Australia did not have a flu season this time and it was hoped that this country would be the same.

Andrew referred to people's wellbeing and what the Council could do in terms of the parks and open spaces. Tracey mentioned the North Staffs' Healthcare campaign 'You are Not Alone' which advises people where they can get help. The County Council had sent out information on suicide awareness.

There were also issues of people being unable to pay bills. There was a need to do as much as possible to advise people how to maintain their wellbeing.

Councillor Cooper asked how the message was being put out as not everyone had access to social media etc. Tracey advised that the radio and local newspapers were being used plus leafleting. The message could also be relayed by people visiting the elderly and vulnerable and the message needed to be got out to younger people so they could pass information on to grandparents etc.

Councillor Wilkes asked if it would be worth putting pressure onto the government regarding the need for outdoor sports that could be undertaken safely. Tracey confirmed that this was happening through a debate in Parliament on 23 November. There was a need to lobby our MP's.

Councillor Cooper mentioned the imminent vaccine and Tracey said that the Prime Minister was due to make an announcement this afternoon. The NHS was ready to go on the 1 December if the vaccine got the go ahead.

Councillor Cooper asked if Tracey could provide the following:

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The number of C'Difficile cases

The number of Borough residents that had been sent to other hospitals.

The meeting was concluded and Tracey Shewan was thanked for attending the meeting.

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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	

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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

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		<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.

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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	Covid 19 Update including impact on mental health/Town centre opening/rough sleepers and domestic violence Plans for a no-deal brexit	
Suggestions for potential future items:		
1. Feedback/Monitoring reports from bodies on which the Borough Council has member representation:		

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- 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)
 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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November 2020