

**Cabinet**  
**5 October 2020**  
**Public & Local Member Questions**

| <b>Agenda item 6</b> | <b>Public Question Time</b>  |
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| 6.1                  | <p><b>Question from Claire Kidman</b><br/> Sex-working is a serious problem in my community and other parts of Norwich. Criminalising these women is not a deterrent and puts them at great disadvantage. What street level outreach sexual health, and drug and alcohol services are available to sex-working women, and how much funding does Norfolk County Council provide to tackle this public health problem?</p> <p><b>Response:</b><br/> Thank you for your question. The Public Health commissioned drug and alcohol treatment service provided by Change Grow Live (CGL) is commissioned to support sex workers, including through outreach. This provision includes additional out of hours provision, of 'Pathways Workers', aligned to the Magdalene Group.</p> <p>Public health commissioned integrated Contraception and Sexual Health services (iCaSH) have been working with the Phoenix project for a number of years now, adopting a system whereby sex workers contacting an iCaSH clinic use a code word, which sees them prioritised for an immediate appointment with a clinician without further triage. Access to medicines and contraception can be met through a postal service; removing barriers to support.</p> <p>The elements of service providing support to individuals are integrated within the core contracts and associated funding of these two services, which stands at £6.5m for the drug and alcohol treatment service and £5.38m for iCaSH in 2020/21..</p> |
| 6.1.1                | <p><b>Supplementary question from Claire Kidman</b><br/> Will the cabinet member commit to providing more funding for outreach services to meet the needs of these women, and how will he use his influence with the Police and Crime Commissioner and Chief Constable to ensure that the police use existing laws to deal with the kerb-crawling men who make my community unsafe.</p> <p><b>Response:</b><br/> As you identify in your question the issue of sex workers is not in itself a responsibility of the Council. Public Health does have a role to play in supporting those with health and behavioural needs. Funding for the County's drug and alcohol treatment service has been consistent since the current provider was commissioned in 2018 and we will have invested an additional £430,000 in our iCaSH services across 2019/20 and 2020/21. I have asked the public health commissioners to work with providers to ensure that the service is best placed to meet the needs of this very vulnerable group. Through the multi-agency Community Safety Partnership, agencies across Norfolk including the Police, already seek to tackle the issues of vulnerable people and support associated activities affecting the individuals you highlight.</p>  |
| 6.2                  | <p><b>Question from Nigel Lubbock</b><br/> Poor air quality has a damaging effect on children's health especially when travelling to school. Will the Cabinet Member support and find resources to implement monitoring air quality outside urban schools and making them 'no car zones' if necessary, to keep children safe, as has been done in Hackney, London. This is particularly pertinent now as there is compelling evidence linking poor air quality with increasing coronavirus infections.</p>   |

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|     | <p><b>Response:</b></p> <p>District councils have a legal duty to review and monitor local air quality under the Environment Act 1995. This includes determining where exceedances of government set limits are likely to occur or are already occurring. This Council plays its part by working with our District, Borough and City Council colleagues to devise and implement Air Quality Action Plans (AQAP) where exceedances are occurring.</p> <p>In Norwich, we have implemented a number of transport schemes that have contributed to reducing the problems of poor local air quality. In the past the Borough Council of King's Lynn and West Norfolk has monitored local air quality outside urban schools but did not find any exceedances of the government emission standards. Officers will continue to liaise with District, Borough and City Council colleagues to discuss the possibility of them carrying out new monitoring.</p> |
| 6.3 | <p><b>Question 1 from Jessica Barnard on behalf of Norwich Youth Advisory Board.</b></p> <p>We were recently made aware that there will be service reviews and budget cuts to Norfolk County Council services, with the public having the chance to take part in an online consultation for this. However, these consultations are often inaccessible to young people. Will you consider holding a consultation meeting with the Norfolk Youth Advisory Boards so that the young people of Norfolk may participate, contribute to these proposals and have their voices heard?</p> <p><b>Response:</b></p> <p>Youth Advisory Boards play a key role in enabling young people to inform and shape services with their community. As such, we would expect to work with them to enable young people to contribute to any public consultation.</p>  |
| 6.4 | <p><b>Supplementary Question from Norwich Youth Advisory Board</b></p> <p>If not, how will you support us to have our voices heard on the future of Norfolk's services including children's services and public services?</p> <p><b>Response:</b></p> <p>Youth Advisory Boards have previously engaged in a range of consultations through organising opportunities for groups of young people to come together to discuss the issues being consulted on and enabling them to express their views either as individuals or collectively, facilitated by our staff as well as the youth and community workers supporting YABs. In the current context these opportunities will be through digital platforms such as Zoom which are arrangements that young people find easy to use and have been a feature for how YABs are operating during the pandemic.</p>  |
| 6.5 | <p><b>Question 1 from Marley Pullinger</b></p> <p>Urban tree cover reduces the urban heat effect, filters fine particulates, regulates water flow to reduce the likelihood of flood in extreme weather, provides a connection to nature, and absorbs CO2 to improve air quality - all important considerations when more people than ever are staying at home and also contending with climate change; which leads me to my question – in the absence of a county council budget for their care, how will the city's street trees be maintained and as necessary replanted, so that our urban residents continue to benefit from trees near their homes, where the impact is greatest?</p>   |

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|     | <p><b>Response</b></p> <p>Trees are an important part of our highway asset and the streetscene environment, and as such, we are investing in their care. The highways team has a budget this year of £238,000 for the maintenance and replacement of trees within the city and we adhere to the principle of selecting the right tree for the right location, in line with the Council's Tree Planting and Resilience Strategy.</p>   |
| 6.6 | <p><b>Supplementary Question from Marley Pullinger</b></p> <p>What facility is there for the replacement of trees outside of conservation areas going forward?</p> <p><b>Response</b></p> <p>The Council adheres to the principle of selecting the right tree for the right location, in line with its Tree Planting and Resilience Strategy. This ensures their long-term health. Trees outside of conservation areas will be replaced with suitable species where they have been felled, subject to suitable locations and sufficient budget being available. In some cases, tree replacement is best co-ordinated with other work such as footway reconstruction, and this can affect timescales.</p>  |
| 6.7 | <p><b>Question from Jamie Osborn</b></p> <p>Recent months have seen a large number of traffic changes and roadworks all overlapping in Norwich. The routes selected as diversions have meant that some residents, including those in sheltered housing, have been exposed to increased air pollution due to greater traffic coming directly past their front doors and windows. It seems that no assessment of the predicted impact of traffic changes on air pollution was carried out, and there has been no monitoring since. How will the county council assess the positive or negative impact of traffic changes if there is no set objective and no monitoring for air pollution?</p> <p><b>Response</b></p> <p>The recently implemented traffic schemes are part of the wider transport strategy for Norwich which aims to improve safety, reduce congestion and encourage sustainable modes of transport, which will in turn lead to improvements in local air quality. However, in the very short term we acknowledge that during their construction there may be some traffic management and diversions that cause localised temporary increases in traffic and congestion. Air quality improvements are a key element within the wider context of strategic transport planning, however our ability to fully investigate the impacts of recent schemes implemented through the Government's Emergency Active Travel Fund (EATF) was limited due to the short timescales for consideration and implementation under the government bid criteria.</p> <p>General monitoring of local air quality is the responsibility of district councils under the Environment Act 1995, and there is guidance on which areas should be targeted for monitoring based on factors like traffic levels and the nature of the surrounding area, including building height. The Council plays its part by working with our District, Borough and City Council colleagues to devise and implement Air Quality Action Plans where exceedances are occurring.</p> |

| Agenda<br>item 7 | Local Member Issues/Questions  |
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| 7.1              | <p><b>Question from Cllr Steff Aquarone.</b><br/>Keeping children at school surely depends on early and prompt testing. We have seen the huge impact that a single positive test can have on hundreds of children's schooling. Does the Cabinet member believe that children should be given higher priority in testing to minimise impact on education?</p> <p><b>Response:</b><br/>It is acknowledged there is a difficult balance and thus decision to be taken between impacting on children's education and protecting the more vulnerable members of society.</p> <p>The national Test and Trace service is responsible for providing Covid-19 tests for those with symptoms including children. There has been an increase in demand for tests both nationally and locally which has impacted on the accessibility and processing of tests. The education of children is a priority both in terms of learning and wellbeing and to that end Children's Services is working directly with education colleagues to provide prompt advice, guidance and support should they have children experiencing or at risk of having Covid-19. The Department for Education now supports schools should there be cases of Covid-19 and schools can request testing kits from the DfE. Given the importance of education Norfolk County Council will now take the lead for risk assessing single cases in schools which we hope will see fewer children affected in the event of a single case in their school bubble. The Public Health recommendation is that those with Covid-19 symptoms access testing and would be to prioritise the vulnerable such as the clinically unwell, admissions to hospitals, frail elderly and key workers.</p> |
| 7.2              | <p><b>Question 1 from Cllr Dan Roper</b><br/>With half of the deaths from Covid 19 being in care homes, residents having to be socially isolated for months and even now only being allowed to see one constant visitor what do you think should be done to improve the quality of life for care home residents?</p> <p><b>Response:</b><br/>Thank you for your question. If we had not had nationally imposed restrictions on care home visiting I believe mortality figures in care homes would have been more pronounced than they are.</p> <p>There is reliable evidence that restricting the movement of people into and between care settings reduces the spread of infection. National restrictions on visiting in care homes were relaxed in July, but with a slow increase in COVID-19 prevalence there is a possibility that – either by national guidance from DHSC, or local imposition by the Director of Public Health – restrictions may be re-introduced. Care providers have been preserving important contact between residents, relatives and other social contacts, by encouraging safely distanced visiting in person, virtual communication by phone or video calls. More inventive activity has included drive-by visits and other contacts in the open air, although the opportunities for these will diminish with the change of season. There is a continuing expectation that a range of activities will be offered to residents during pandemic as is the case in 'peacetime'. The regulatory requirement for this has not been relaxed by the Care</p>  |

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|     | <p>Quality Commission. The majority of care homes are striving hard to maintain social engagement within the constraints imposed by government guidance. It should be emphasised that care home providers are given latitude within the guidance to risk assess access to visitors, and where they can satisfy themselves that it is safe to do so, they can adopt less stringent criteria. Where care homes have COVID-19 situations or outbreaks however, it is expected that guidance will be implemented fully to contain and prevent onward transmission.</p> <p>We are of course working with homes to try and make sure that, within the guidance, they take steps to maximise the quality of life through innovative ways of contacting people, through the provision of essential health and support services, through staff interaction, and through permitted social activity.</p>   |
| 7.3 | <p><b>Question 2 from Cllr Dan Roper</b></p> <p>There is concern that some of the private care homes are not regularly testing their care workers for Covid. What is the council doing to ensure that the care homes are following government guidance?</p> <p><b>Response:</b></p> <p>You will be aware of the national guidance making provision for all care homes to regularly test staff (weekly) and residents (monthly). This has been the case since July 2020.</p> <p>A national system was deployed for care home providers to register to obtain tests and corresponding test results. Because the test results are patient records (a clinical diagnosis) these are not shared with parties other than the care home requesting them on behalf of their residents and staff. When positive COVID-19 test results are notified to Public Health England they in turn report these findings to the Council as part of its outbreak management function. The Council must rely upon the self-report and assurances of care providers in this regard. Positive relationships formed between the care market and our Integrated Quality Service in particular, provide some reassurance that testing is conducted and care homes with known COVID-19 situations or outbreaks are monitored closely to ensure relevant testing is conducted by local system NHS teams</p> |
| 7.4 | <p><b>Question from Cllr Tim East</b></p> <p>The Trussell Trust predicts that nationally at least 670,000 extra people will become destitute in the last three months of the year – a level of poverty that leaves them unable to meet basic food, shelter or clothing needs – if the government withdraws Covid support for low-income households. What will the impact be on Council services and what actions should be taken to mitigate?</p> <p><b>Response:</b></p> <p>Even before the crisis, 30% of people on low incomes had said they would struggle within one month if they lost their incomes. We do not know yet what the impact of Covid-19 will be on unemployment, however, current models suggest that there could be around 41,000 more unemployed people in Norfolk than currently by the end of 2020. This could be worse for young people and we know already that over the past months, nationally, 60% of employers stopped recruiting apprentices altogether. Many existing apprentices have been unable to complete their training programmes.</p> <p>Financial insecurity leads to many issues such as poor physical and mental health</p>   |

in people, as well as an increase in inter-family problems such as domestic violence and drugs and alcohol abuse. For example, during lockdown, we know that domestic violence incidents rose by 25% and safeguarding referrals dropped by a similar %age. We also know that children who are exposed to these adverse experiences may have worse outcomes, so we are preparing for an escalation of children and young people's needs.

Our council is working with a range of partners including the police, district councils and the third sector to strengthen our provision in a range of areas.

- We are running the Norfolk Assistance Scheme in Exchequer Services, where anyone can self-refer or can be referred in by other professionals, we offer financial support and food.
- We are working with partners to ensure that government funding is used to support the most vulnerable and in need
- We proactively are working with our colleagues in the districts to support the "no homelessness in Norfolk" programme of interventions
- We have and continue to invest in and strengthen our early help offering in children's services, working in a targeted way in the community, with families in crisis who need support – also in children's services as a whole to ensure vulnerable children are protected
- We are developing a fully integrated system with health partners to deliver a single model for mental health services to children and young people in Norfolk
- We continue to press government for a sustainable model for funding critical council services, to ensure we are able to continue to support the people of Norfolk
- We are also working with the New Anglia LEP and districts to support our local economy and, through our Norfolk Delivery Plan, help as many businesses as possible to survive, and as many people as possible to stay in work or secure alternative work or training, with a strong focus on social inclusion.

As the answer above outlines, we are proactively working with the people and organisations of Norfolk to try and prevent the further challenges that Covid continues to have upon the County. The question asked was broad and on a tight timeline. If the Councillor wishes to have more detail, then we would be happy to pursue that further for them.

### **Supporting Statistics on unemployment**

Using the 12% additional unemployment scenario modelled by the Office of Budget Responsibility<sup>1</sup> for Norfolk;

- Analysis shows that Norwich is within the top four areas in the country that had the largest increase in the number of unemployment claimants in the past month.
- There are likely to be around 41,00 more economically active people unemployed in Norfolk than currently by the end of 2020.
- Using this model, Norwich, King's Lynn & West Norfolk and South Norfolk are the districts likely to be hit the hardest.

<sup>1</sup> <https://obr.uk/coronavirus-analysis/>

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|     | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The sectors in Norfolk likely to be hit with highest unemployment levels are: Wholesale, retail and motor trade; Human health and social activities; Education; Manufacturing; Accommodation and food services; and Administrative and support activities.</li> <li>• Wholesale, retail and motor trade is likely to be heavily hit across all districts, and the hardest hit sector across five districts; with Human health and social activities being the hardest hit sector across two districts.</li> <li>• Using regional CJRS data as a proxy, the top three sectors at risk of higher levels of redundancies following discontinuance of the CJRS scheme are: Accommodation &amp; food services; Arts, entertainment, recreation and other services; and Construction.</li> </ul>  |
| 7.5 | <p><b>Question from Cllr Eric Seward</b><br/>What benefits have been identified from the Norwich Western Link in terms of improving connectivity to North Norfolk and what are the anticipated economic benefits to North Norfolk from this highways infrastructure project?</p> <p><b>Response:</b><br/>The Norwich Western Link will provide the missing link in the major road network to the west of Norwich and connect with the national strategic road network. This will enable quicker and more reliable journeys from North Norfolk to the south and west of Norwich giving better access to employment, education, and other facilities and improving response times for emergency services. Important sectors such as agriculture, leisure and tourism as well as other business will also benefit from the travel improvements.</p> <p>Better access to key areas in Norwich such as the Food Enterprise Zone, NNUH, UEA and research areas would also be realised along with improved links to the trunk road network, including the A11 to the south of Norwich and the A47 towards the midlands and the east coast ports such as Great Yarmouth. The improved accessibility to North Norfolk will provide economic benefits, however it is difficult to determine these directly for North Norfolk, as the analysis considers benefits deriving from the transport network as a whole.</p> |
| 7.6 | <p><b>Question from Cllr Brian Watkins</b><br/>If the temporary closures put in places such as St Benedicts, Norwich prove to be successful with lower pollution and safer and better access for pedestrians and cyclists, will the Cabinet member make them permanent and what would he do to overcome any local business concerns?</p> <p><b>Response:</b><br/>These temporary closures were put in place using government funding from the Emergency Active Travel Fund (EATF) Tranche 1. We have made a submission for funding from Tranche 2 of the EATF, which includes the proposal to make these highway changes permanent, subject to there being local support and the funding being awarded. We hope to hear shortly from the Department for Transport about the outcome of our funding application. Since initial implementation, changes have been made to the initial layout and restrictions following feedback from businesses, residents and other stakeholders. We will continue to listen to local feedback and monitor how the scheme is performing.</p>   |

7.7

**Question from Cllr Tim Adams**

In the autumn of 2018, there was a peer review into the Adult Social Care Department's handling of services relating to older people across Norfolk. Can the Cabinet member give examples of tangible improvements in performance which have taken place since that time?

**Response:**

Thank you for your question. As you will already know the outcome of the peer review was reported to the Adult Social Care Committee on 14 January 2019.

The peer review made a number of recommendations, including the implementation of strengths-based social work practice (Living Well), improved the use of technology, further 'market shaping' work with social care providers, improvements to pathways to support older people with mental health needs (including dementia), and improving the availability of alternative options for long term residential care.

You will have already seen in our usual performance data, and in areas covered by the review, the following:

- Continued reductions in the rate of permanent admissions of people aged 65 and over to residential care. In 2018/19 Norfolk's result (569 admissions per 100,000 population aged 65+) fell below the average for our 'family group' of similar councils, and the latest 2019/20 result (559 admissions per 100,000 population aged 65+) continued this reduction (benchmarking data is not yet available for 19/20). This reduction take place within the context of growing demographic pressures, and also the expansion of services – such as community-based and accommodation-based reablement – that can provide better outcomes than long-term residential care.
- Continued high levels of performance for reablement services. In 2019/20, 85.9% of people aged 65+ who left hospital with a reablement package were still living at home 91 days after discharge – a rate that is better than the average for Norfolk's statistical 'family group' of similar councils (family group average is 84.4% in 2018/19), and that represents a small improvement on Norfolk's result in 2018/19 (85.1%). Importantly, this rate of reablement was achieved whilst reablement services responded to an increase in referrals – with 8,064 referrals in 2018/19 rising to 8,970 in 2019/20.
- Increased numbers of people being supported with Assistive Technology. A new system for recording AT cases was introduced in 2017, with all new cases recorded on this. Investment in this area has seen the number of people receiving AT on the new system rising from around 500 in October 2018 to around 3,000 in August 2020.
- That people receiving adult social care services are more satisfied with their experience. We undertake an annual statutory survey of social care service users. Whilst the detailed results of this remain embargoed by NHS Digital (in line with usual data release practice), Norfolk's results show an improvement in people's overall satisfaction with their care and support, along with increases in the proportion of people who report that they have as much social contact as they would like, and who report that they have control over their daily life.

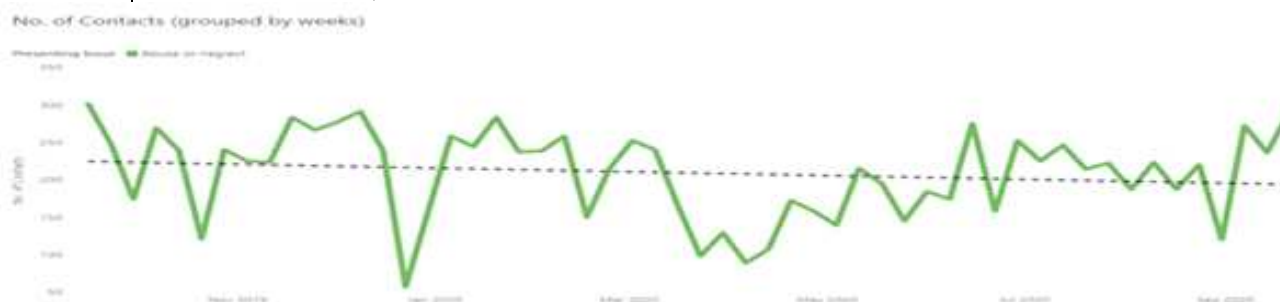
There are other tangible improvements that relate to the review's recommendations, but that aren't explained within our usual performance and activity data. These include:



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|     | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The implementation of the Living Well social work model</li> <li>• Significant joint working with health services, including Primary Care Networks, to produce data profiles to support planning and risk management across health and social care</li> <li>• The establishment of a programme to develop extra care housing as an alternative to residential care – so that people can continue to receive support whilst living independently within the community. One scheme is about to be opened (Fakenham) with another about to start ‘on site’ and with others in the pipeline.</li> </ul>   |
| 7.8 | <p><b>Question from Cllr Ed Maxfield</b></p> <p>We are all aware of the A Level grading fiasco in the summer but the results published by the Joint Council for Qualifications continue to show underperformance of boys at A Level compared to girls, especially in key subjects like English. Would Councillor Fisher ensure a breakdown of the A Level results for Norfolk are provided to the People and Communities Committee and set out the County Council’s strategy for increasing participation in Higher Education by young people from Norfolk?</p> <p><b>Response:</b></p> <p>It is not appropriate to analyse this years data to draw any reliable conclusions, or amend our current approaches and so it is not our intention to bring further detail on A level result to the committee.</p> <p>The department for education (DfE) have stated that due to the impact of coronavirus (COVID-19) and the subsequent changes made to the awarding process for examined subjects at Key Stage 4 and Key Stage 5 this year, only a limited amount of educational data will be released on a national basis. The results published by JCQ do indicate similar gender gaps to previous years, but we must be very cautious in interpreting any trends compared to previous results.</p> <p>The DfE have said that they will not hold schools and colleges to account on the basis of exams and assessment data from summer 2020 and that data will not be used by others, such as Ofsted and local authorities, to hold schools and colleges to account. All those working with schools and colleges, such as Ofsted, Department for Education regional teams and local authorities, should use data from previous years when assessing school and college performance (Guidance Coronavirus (COVID-19): school and college accountability). The 2019 results therefore will remain the most accurate reflection of performance available at A Level in Norfolk in 2020.</p> <p>The Education Participation and Infrastructure Service, within Childrens Services have been mounting a number of initiatives this summer to ensure that young people have the advice and guidance that they need to progress positively, such as the You do You campaign and the Higher Attainment Scheme, which over the last 3 years has been working with schools and colleges to increase the number of Norfolk young people progressing to Higher Education</p> |

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| 7.9 | <p><b>Question from Cllr Terry Jermy</b></p> <p>In February this year I was pleased to table a budget amendment calling for the more than 30,000 inefficient Norfolk street-lights to be upgraded to LED. Sadly, the budget amendment was not adopted by the Conservative group at the time but I note the recent Cabinet meeting approved £8.5million to upgrade 15,000 street-lights saving £900,000 a year. What plans are in place to quantify the benefits of upgrading the remaining street-lights to LED?</p> <p><b>Response</b></p> <p>As highlighted, our next phase of LED streetlighting upgrades are due to start later this year. This will convert approximately 15,000 of the highest energy using lights, on main roads to LED. Once completed, the Council will have approximately 70% of its total streetlights as LED.</p> <p>While the remaining lights are not LED, they are of a modern specification as they were upgraded under previous phases of the PFI contract or adopted in the years since. They are typically less than ten years old and have many years of useful life left. These are predominantly low power lanterns installed in residential areas. Our aim remains to have 100% of the inventory converted to LED, however, this can only be done at such time that both an environmental and financial business case can be made.</p> |
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| 7.10 | <p><b>Question 1 from Cllr Mike Smith-Clare</b></p> <p>The Serious Case Reviews published on 29th September 2020 have caused deep concern among residents in my division. What has the Cabinet Member for Children's Services done to identify the number of safeguarding referrals made relating to malnutrition since the start of the academic year and if any have been identified, what is he doing to resolve any concerns?</p> <p><b>Response</b></p> <p>We closely monitor both volume and type of safeguarding referrals made to Children's Social Care via our front door Children's Advice and Duty Service. Whilst we do not categorise cases on the basis of 'malnutrition' specifically, we would respond accordingly on the basis of a child being at risk of 'neglect' (of which malnutrition may be a feature) and act protectively using statutory powers of intervention.</p> <p>As a broader proxy measure, whilst contacts to CADS concerning neglect have risen since the school return in September, these remain below those of pre-lockdown levels;</p> |
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|  | <p>As another broad potentially linked measure, referrals in respect of 'financial/benefits' issues remains very low as it was pre-lockdown.</p> |
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| 7.11 | <p><b>Question 2 from Cllr Mike Smith-Clare</b><br/>Can the Cabinet Member for Children's Services confirm how many parents and carers have received attendance concern letters since the start of term?</p> <p><b>Response:</b><br/>Children's Services does not issue letters of concern directly to parents about attendance concerns. Schools engage with parents if there is a concern about attendance and this is a staged approach, offering support, contacting by telephone, text, email, or letter , and will be determined by their own policies and procedures as to how they go about this. We do not collect or hold this school information. Our attendance team, although normally a traded service for support, is currently following up with schools where attendance overall is looking lower than the average for the county. In Norfolk schools attendance is high at 92%, compared with 85% nationally. Children's Services intervenes, using legal powers of intervention, where required and as referred by schools. The Local Authority powers to enforce school attendance were temporarily suspended by the DfE during lockdown but have now been reinstated. Since the beginning of term, we have not instigated any new legal action in the Magistrates' Court nor issued any fixed penalty notice fines for non-attendance to date.</p> |
| 7.12 | <p><b>Question from Cllr Danny Douglas</b><br/>When will Repton Homes start constructing homes for social rent, as opposed to affordable housing, so we can have more cheap rentals for Norfolk's residents?</p> <p><b>Response:</b><br/>Building mixed communities is key to Norfolk's growth and Repton has reflected this in its developments.</p> <p>In our first scheme at Acle There will be a total of 137 homes at the development. 69 homes will be available to purchase on the open market, with 68 being affordable homes. Planning policy would mean the provision of 27 socially rented units, however Repton is delivering additional affordable and shared ownership products . This will bring the totals to 42 for affordable rent and 26 for shared ownership.</p> <p>We are currently in the process of identifying a registered Housing provider for the site and will be announcing the conclusion of that procurement shortly. Initial works to prepare the site for development are underway at Acle</p>  |
| 7.13 | <p><b>Question from Cllr Emma Corlett</b><br/>Angry Town Close residents have contacted me about the economic and environmental recklessness of pursuing the Western Link. At Scrutiny Committee Cllr Margaret Dewsbury justified a roundabout on the A140 stating "there has been less traffic recently because things have changed. People are working from home... many seem to want to continue this way of working. Many staff have been made redundant... many have been furloughed and think they will also be made redundant which will mean even less traffic". Does Cabinet agree these factors and the likely long term shift in work and travel patterns justify pausing the Western Link planning to enable proper demand, economic and environmental analysis?</p> <p><b>Response:</b></p>  |

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|      | <p>As the government has set out, investing in infrastructure improvements will be a vital part of supporting the economy to recover from the effects of the coronavirus pandemic. We want to help our businesses and organisations that rely on good road links to transport goods efficiently, expand their markets and support the visitor economy. In a large rural county like Norfolk, a good and resilient road network is also vital for health and care services, helping emergency services and community health and care workers to get to vulnerable people quickly and reliably.</p> <p>The substantial work undertaken to date on the Norwich Western Link has demonstrated the sound economic benefits determined in accordance with government criteria and great care continues to be taken to ensure that the scheme can be delivered in an environmentally responsible way. In response to the COVID-19 situation, the continuing development of the scheme is following the latest government criteria and requirements that include consideration of changes in traffic patterns and forecasting. This work will inform future economic and environmental studies and the transport assessment in support of the planning application.</p>   |
| 7.14 | <p><b>Question from Cllr Chrissie Rumsby</b></p> <p>At the Norfolk Police and Crime Panel meeting on 30th September 2020 Chief Constable Simon Bailey raised, among his many concerns, the significant increases in online child abuse and domestic abuse during lockdown and his fears of a further exponential increase during a second wave of Covid-19. Does the Cabinet believe that Norfolk County Council has the appropriate resources to tackle these issues and what plans are in place to address any increasing demand on services as a result of a second wave?</p> <p><b>Response:</b></p> <p>The impact of COVID-19 on Domestic Abuse is being monitored by the multi-agency Domestic Abuse &amp; Sexual Violence Group (DASVG), which currently meets monthly as part of its COVID-19 emergency response arrangements and ensures a coordinated response across strategic partners.</p> <p>NCC has increased the number of beds available in Refuge accommodation with the commissioned Anchor+ project provides emergency accommodation for those with complex needs in crisis from DA. Further, Operation Encompass enables reporting of police DA incidents through to schools to ensure staff are aware and able to provide proactive support, and partners have increased their monitoring of potential child abuse incidents. including cases of non-accidental injury.</p> <p>Since start of the Autumn school term, police notifications in respect of domestic abuse have not risen significantly and referrals to Children's Advice and Duty Service requiring a social work safeguarding service, which may include children subject to Domestic Violence and online abuse, whilst increasing, are slightly below those seen 12 months ago, and markedly less than those predicted in a worst case scenario surge or where the deployment of additional staff would be required. Nonetheless, a rise is expected over time , and capacity planning has identified a sufficient range of practitioners who can support the frontline teams as and when required</p> |

