

Norfolk County Council

Date: Tuesday 30 January 2024

Time: 10 am

Venue: Council Chamber, County Hall, Martineau Lane,
Norwich NR1 2DH

Supplementary Agenda Two

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Tom McCabe
Chief Executive
County Hall
Martineau Lane
Norwich
NR1 2DH



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Report of the Norfolk Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee meeting held on 18th January 2024

1. Norfolk and Waveney Integrated Care Board Digital Transformation Strategy

- 1.1 Ian Riley, Executive Director for Digital and Data, Norfolk, and Waveney Integrated Care Board (N&WICB), introduced the N&WICB Digital Transformation Strategy. The full version of the Digital Transformation Strategy was available on the N&WICB website. The committee heard that the Digital Transformation Strategy was developed in line with the national Digital Strategy, with key priorities being the implementation of Electronic Patient Records (EPR) in the three acute hospitals, the sharing of identifiable and anonymous data safely and, digital literacy. Norfolk and Waveney had low benchmarking compared to the rest of the county concerning digital maturity.
- 1.2 Geoff Connell, Director of Digital Services, Norfolk County Council (NCC), added that the Digital Transformation Strategy was an example of cross-organisation collaborative working between the N&WICB and NCC.
- 1.3 The committee received the annexed report (6) from Dr Liz Chandler, Scrutiny and Research Officer, that noted information to aid the examination of Norfolk and Waveney Integrated Care Board's (N&WICB) Digital Transformation Strategy.
- 1.4 The Chair concluded the discussion, highlighting that whilst the importance of moving towards the systems was noted, there needed to be reassurance that the system was robust, had the necessary safeguards in place, and would undergo auditing processes. Patients' ability to access their records and data was important and the conversations around consent to make it more nuanced were required nationally.
- 1.5 Summary of actions:
- To recommend that the EPR and SCR make use of robust software and that suitable auditing takes place.

2. Norfolk and Suffolk NHS Foundation Trust (NSFT) Mortality Recording and Reporting Review

- 2.1 Gary O'Hare, Governance and Safety Advisor, Norfolk, and Suffolk NHS Foundation Trust, introduced the committee to the Norfolk and Suffolk NHS Foundation Trust (NSFT) Mortality Recording and Reporting Review report. This was the first joint report between NSFT and N&WICB and it was hoped that this would signify their determination to work in collaboration. Key points of the report were highlighted to the committee. They heard that work had been done to develop an electronic record system, that there was a diverse focus group with appropriate representation, and that the report would also clarify how deaths would be categorised.
- 2.2 Dr Andrew Kelso, Medical Director at NHS Suffolk and Northeast Essex ICB Board described that Suffolk and Northeast Essex ICB had supported NSFT to improve mortality recording and learning. The co-produced work carried out offered valuable insight into the unique needs of bereaved relatives.

- 2.3 Tricia D’Orsi, Executive Director of Nursing, N&WICB, highlighted that there was a commitment to ensure that the Norfolk Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee (HOSC) would be kept up to date on the collaborative work occurring between N&WICB and NSFT.
- 2.4 The committee receive the annexed report (6) from Dr Liz Chandler, Scrutiny and Research Officer, that noted information to aid the examination of the Norfolk and Suffolk NHS Foundation Trust (NSFT) Mortality Recording and Reporting Review.
- 2.5 Chair concluded the discussion, noting the importance for HOSC and residents of Norfolk and Waveney to fix the issue with mortality recording and reporting. The general feeling from the committee was that HOSC wants NSFT to succeed and that the mental health services that they provide need to work for the people who require them. The need for prompt information sharing between organisations was vital as was ensuring that the electronic record system was robust and working in line with its intentions. Data did need to be accurate and recorded appropriately and audits would be essential to ensuring that this was the case.
- 2.6 Summary of actions:
- The committee would receive a timeline for delivery of the action as soon as possible, with the opportunity to provide challenge at the earliest opportunity.
 - The Forever Gone: Losing Count of Patient Deaths report would be included in the terms of reference of the Deaths Action Plan Management Group.
 - The offer by NSFT for the authors of the Forever Gone: Losing Count of Patients Deaths report would to re-engage with the mortality work would be made to the authors.
 - NSFT will return to HOSC in May with an update on progress and vision for NSFT.

3. **Proposed Forward Work Programme 2023/24**

- 3.1 The Committee received a report from Peter Randall, Democratic Support and Scrutiny Manager, which set out the current forward work programme and briefing details. The Committee **agreed** the details for both briefings and future meetings.
- 3.2 Cllr Price suggested that the proposed closure of Blakeney Surgery, part of Holt Medical Practice, be considered. Cllr Holiday provided the committee with additional context highlighting that the service supports over 2000 residents. During the COVID-19 pandemic the practice withdrew from clinical services and there, from what could be established by the member, was no formal governance process followed. It was asked if this could be considered, that the ICB find the formal governance process that was followed, and that N&WICB pause the decision to close the practice. Tricia D’Orsi noted that it was not within her gift to decide to pause the close of Blakeney Surgery. She would take back the request for further information and would be happy to bring it back to the committee.
- 3.3 Cllr Jones suggested that malnutrition and poverty in Norfolk and Waveney be looked at following data that suggest that Norfolk and Waveney have the highest rates of malnutrition in the country. Tricia D’Orsi suggested that this could be arranged in collaboration with the Public Health team at NCC.

Cllr Fran Whymark, Chair, Norfolk Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

Report of the Corporate Select Committee meeting held on 15 January 2024

1. Climate Policy for Norfolk County Council

- 1.1 The Select Committee received and was introduced to the Climate Policy for Norfolk County Council report by Cllr Vardy, Cabinet Member for Environment and Waste. The importance of the Climate Policy in a time when the reality of climate change was already being felt by local communities was highlighted.
- 1.2 The report introduced a Climate Policy that reflects the main elements of the Climate Strategy in a more concise policy format. It also used the Climate Policy as an opportunity to restate the council's county wide commitment, seeking better alignment with the UK's 2050 net zero target and the ambitious trajectory set out in the national carbon budgets. If agreed at Full Council, the Climate Policy would go on to form part of the Policy Framework. The Select Committee was asked to review and comment on the proposed Climate Policy, including the new statement of the council's county-wide net zero commitment.
- 1.3 Cllr Price proposed that there was an annual report to a Select Committee that would note the progress of the Climate Policy. The proposal was seconded by Cllr White and following a vote, the recommendation was **CARRIED**.
- 1.4 Having considered and commented on the Climate Policy the Select Committee **agreed** to:
 1. **Endorse** the Climate Policy's progression for Cabinet's consideration.

2. Progress on Equality, Diversity and Inclusion (EDI) Plan and Objectives 2023-2026

- 2.1 The committee received and was introduced to, the Progress on Equality, Diversity, and Inclusion (EDI) Plan and Objectives 2023-2026 report by Jo Richardson, Head of Equality, Diversity, and Inclusion. The plan included a range of priorities agreed by the Cabinet in March 2023 that aimed to ensure that no community was left behind in Norfolk. The committee heard that one particular area of focus was to eliminate racism at work. NCC was more ethnically diverse than Norfolk as a whole, and

with a growing international workforce, it was important that employees felt safe and valued at work.

2.2 The Corporate Select Committee was asked to review and comment on the progress to date, to consider the benefit of briefing sessions that cover specific related topics, and to consider the role of the Select Committee in their support of Cabinet to continue to champion race equality in Norfolk.

2.3 Having reviewed and commented on the progress on the Equality, Diversity and Inclusion (EDI) Plan and Objectives 2023-2026, the Select Committee **RESOLVED** to **NOTE** the information.

3. Forward Work Plan 2024

3.1 The committee resolved to **agree** the forward work programme.

Chair, Corporate Select Committee

Report of the Infrastructure and Development Select Committee Meeting held on 17 January 2024

1. Climate Action Plans Tranche 2

- 2.1 The Committee received the report which proposed the second tranche of actions for the Committee's review, following endorsement of the second tranche of climate actions by Cabinet in October. The second tranche of actions covered initiative relating to energy, the green economy, and waste and the circular economy.
- 2.2 Having reviewed and commented on the second tranche of actions, the Select Committee **RESOLVED** to endorse the actions to progress to Cabinet.

2. Local Nature Recovery Strategy, Biodiversity Net Gain and Pollinator Action Plan

- 2.1 The Committee received the report which would help NCC achieve key outcomes for the Council's Climate Strategy and the County Council's key priorities by increasing biodiversity and helping the environment be more resilient to climate change for the benefit of wildlife, people, and the economy.
- 2.2 Having reviewed and commented on the report, and in particular Norfolk County Council's role as a Responsible Authority for Biodiversity Net Gain and their role in providing new habitats which could be counted as biodiversity net gain, the Select Committee **RESOLVED to:**
 - 1. Note the timescale to produce the Local Nature Recovery Strategy
 - 2. Note that an environment strategy will be produced in 2024 that may outline potential for biodiversity net gain uplift as a matter of policy beyond the statutory minimum
 - 3. Support the adoption of the Pollinator Action Plan by the Council

3. Forward Work Programme

- 3.1 The Select Committee received the report by the Executive Director of Community and Environmental Services which set out the Forward Work Programme for the Committee to enable the Committee to review and shape.
- 3.2 Having reviewed the report, the Select Committee **AGREED** the Forward Work Programme set out in Appendix A.

Cllr James Bensly, Chair
Infrastructure and Development Select Committee

Report of the People and Communities Select Committee meeting held on 19 January 2024

1. Listening and engaging to refresh our Adult Social Services Promoting Independence Strategy

- 1.1 The Select Committee received the report giving information on the progress of Promoting Independence to date, and setting out how feedback would be gained from residents and used to update the strategy.
- 1.2 The Select Committee **NOTED** the feedback from the public engagement activity called Conversations Matter and the supporting draft strategy. The Select Committee highlighted the importance of communication and working together with our partners.

2. Adult Social Care Digital Strategy

- 2.1 The Select Committee received the draft report setting out the Adult Social Care Digital Strategy for 2024/25.
- 2.2 The Select Committee:
- a) Considered the Adults Strategy and fed-back:
 - The importance of ensuring people understand the full implications of the copper wire switch off, via mobile network providers and NCC communications team
 - b) Reviewed the work under this programme, recognising that NCC is seen as a system leader for the innovative work being undertaken.

3. Norfolk's approach to Vaping

- 3.1 The Select Committee received the report setting out a range of system-wide and targeted activities which would be delivered in partnership with Trading Standards, Childrens' Services, members of the Norfolk Tobacco Control and Vaping Alliance, and the Children and Young People Strategic Alliance, aligned to both the FLOURISH and the Norfolk Tobacco Control Strategy.
- 3.2 The Select Committee:
- 1. Noted the contents of the report.
 - 2. Endorsed the proposals made in the report by public health.
 - 3. Recommended that Cabinet put pressure on Government to bring about the proposed legislation designed to prevent children and young people from starting vaping.

4. Forward Work Programme

- 4.1 The Committee considered the forward plan for the People and Communities Select Committee and discussed possible items for addition.

4.2 The Select Committee **AGREED** the forward plan

**Cllr Fran Whymark, Chair
People and Communities Select Committee**