

## Norfolk County Council Parish and Town Council Update December 2021

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### **Accommodation and support strategy to help victims and survivors of domestic abuse**

A new strategy to help victim-survivors of domestic abuse was adopted by the County Council's cabinet on 6 December.

This new strategy outlines how Norfolk County Council will work with the victim-survivors, District Councils and other key stakeholders, to provide support in safe accommodation for adults and children. We will all work together to ensure that victim-survivors living in Norfolk are supported to remain safe at home or access alternative safe accommodation if they wish.

Strong multi-agency partnership working is key to achieving this approach, to ensure that we are able to meet the needs of those that are victim-survivors.

Norfolk has a duty to help victim-survivors and this strategy sets out five key aims:

- Increase the amount and flexibility of safe accommodation
- Improve engagement with victim-survivors of domestic abuse
- Improve the quality of support and safe accommodation
- Support children in safe accommodation
- Improve intelligence of domestic abuse especially for men, children and people 75+

### **Plan to tackle adult social care's winter pressures**

Norfolk Adult Social Services face a level of unprecedented challenge in 2021/22 as a result of the pandemic, with national and local workforce shortages, rising demand in hospitals and the community and the continued infection risk posed by COVID-19 as well as other recurring respiratory viruses such as flu."

Adult Social Services received 20,279 calls for support between April and October this year – an increase of 9,400 over four years.

Action being taken by the Council includes:

- Expanding action to support people at home or, where appropriate, in short term residential settings
- Stepping up the council's care recruitment campaign, to tackle staff shortages
- Providing wrap-around support for care settings
- Providing assistive technology, with 100 video phones sent out to homes
- Improving capacity in the Norfolk First Response service
- Supporting mental health services, with three new step down services

### **Ambitious blueprint for county approved**

An ambitious blueprint to make our great county even better has been unveiled by the County Council.

Better Together for Norfolk charts the county council's priorities over the next five years, to guide how it will work with partners to boost the economy, protect the environment, help people live healthy and fulfilling lives and support communities.

We have a once-in-a-generation opportunity to seize the prospects for long-term change now, so that we can grow our economy to build a stronger, greener, fairer, more inclusive and more sustainable future for Norfolk.

The strategy will support the council's efforts to engage with the Government's levelling up agenda, by attracting more powers and funding to the county.

The priorities are:

- A vibrant and sustainable economy
- Better opportunities for children and young people
- Healthy, fulfilling and independent lives
- Strong, engaged and inclusive communities
- A greener, more resilient future

Now that the strategy has been agreed by County Councillors, a delivery plan will be developed, with detailed schemes to put the strategy into action.

A copy of the strategy is available at [www.norfolk.gov.uk/togetherfornorfolk](http://www.norfolk.gov.uk/togetherfornorfolk)