



## **People and Communities Policy Committee**

**Minutes of a meeting of the People and Communities Policy Committee of South Norfolk Council held at South Norfolk House, Long Stratton on Wednesday 14 October 2019 at 10.30am**

**Committee Members Present:** Councillors: D Bills (Chairman), S Blundell, V Clifford-Jackson, T Holden, N Legg and J Wilby

**Cabinet Member in Attendance:** Councillor: Y Bendle

**Officers in Attendance:** The Director of People and Communities (J Sutterby), the Assistant Director of Individuals and Families (M Pursehouse), the Housing & Benefits Manager (R Dunsire), the Housing Standards & Community Protection Manager (T Cooke) and the Healthy Living Manager (S Cayford)

### **7 MINUTES**

The minutes of the meeting of the People and Communities Policy Committee held on 3 July 2019 were agreed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

### **8 HEALTH AND WELLBEING PRIORITIES**

The Healthy Living Manager provided a brief summary of her report which sought to provide members with an overview and understanding of the health and wellbeing needs and proposed that these be addressed in a consistent approach across Broadland and South Norfolk Councils.

In response to a member's question regarding the retention of leisure centre customers, officers accepted that the increase in members would plateau but reassured the Committee that the offer would continue to expand, adapt and incorporate new, innovative improvements in order to retain its membership.

Members discussed their concerns around issues such as dealing with bereavement and obtaining help with emotional and practical issues after the death of a family member. The Healthy Living Manager suggested that Community Connectors might be able to provide some assistance and signposting for residents coping with such situations.

The Committee discussed residents who were at high-risk of falls following discharge from hospital. Officers advised that a system was in place where the hospital discharge co-ordinator would arrange for a District Direct Officer to draw up an action plan for any resident thought to be high-risk. In addition, officers were trained to look

for referrals and to plan ahead with aids and adaptations to prevent such occurrences, where possible.

Following a brief discussion, it was:

**RESOLVED:** To recommend to Cabinet that the two Councils agree to take a consistent approach with regard to their health and wellbeing priorities.

## **9 SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN, YOUNG PEOPLE AND ADULTS POLICY**

The Assistant Director of Individuals and Families introduced his report which sought to gain members' endorsement of a consistent approach across both Councils regarding safeguarding concerns for children and adults. Members were advised that the protocol was for a whole organisational issue and designed to ensure that the needs of all residents were considered.

Members suggested that the new Councillor training on safeguarding should take place earlier in the Council's training schedule. It was also suggested that the training should be made mandatory for all members, although it was noted that this was impracticable, and officers could only stress the importance of such sessions when requesting that members attend.

Following a brief discussion, it was:

**RESOLVED:** To note and endorse the joint Safeguarding Policy across the two Councils and the proposed timescales for implementation from January 2020.

## **10 SYRIAN REFUGEE – ACCESS TO SOUTH NORFOLK ACCOMODATION**

The Housing Standards & Community Protection Manager and the Housing & Benefits Manager presented their report which sought to gain the views of members regarding the proposal to allow two Syrian refugee families access to the Council's housing register and to secure a sustainable, affordable tenancy.

The Committee was provided with details of the background of the Norfolk Leaders' agreement in 2015/16 to support the Government's Vulnerable Person's Resettlement Scheme, as detailed within the report. Officers explained that the proposal to allow two settled and established families access to South Norfolk Council's housing register, would allow further refugee families in need to partake in the scheme by 'freeing-up' properties in the Norwich area. Members were reassured that officers would work with Norfolk County Council to ensure that care was taken to ensure that any such families were ready to move away from the current level of support offered through the Government's Vulnerable Person's Resettlement Scheme as although support would continue to be available, the rural nature of the District would make access more difficult.

It was noted that officers, through the discretionary power provided through the allocations policy, were enabled to permit access to the South Norfolk housing register.

Following a brief discussion during which members fully supported the proposals, it was:

**RESOLVED:** To note that officers would work alongside Norfolk County Council to find two families who could benefit from move-on accommodation, paying suitable attention to whether they were ready to move away from the current support provision provided through the Government's Vulnerable Person's Resettlement Scheme.

The Committee noted that the date for the next meeting would be communicated to members in due course.

(The meeting concluded at 11.28am)

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Chairman