

## **County Council report. Lina Nieto**

**10/9/19**

Adult Social Care

### **Budget Position**

Adults Committee is facing an in year financial pressure, due to increasing costs of care home beds and rising demography. The underlying pressure is £5.6m (against a service budget of c.£150m), which has been offset by the application of grant funding from central Government, leaving a residual pressure of £1.1m.

We welcome the strong messages coming from central Government about the importance of adult social care funding and dealing with the structural problems of the current system. It should be noted that CCC is very reliant on funding from central Government that is temporary or has an uncertain future - £34.8m is, as it stands, due to end in March 2020. This is the case generally for County Councils which are more reliant than other upper tier authorities on temporary funding, and a report analysing this has been published by the County Councils Network ahead of the Comprehensive Spending Review (<https://www.countycouncilsnetwork.org.uk/watch-coverage-of-ccns-social-care-analysis-across-national-and-regional-news/>). This is due, in large part to the fact that County Councils are unfairly funded per head of population compared with other upper tier authorities.

CCC has the lowest spend per head of population on adult social care of all our statistical neighbours, whilst still delivering good outcomes. This is against a backdrop of some of the highest cost care home beds, which basically means that the adult social care back office in Cambridgeshire is running incredibly efficiently.

This further strengthens the case for our ongoing fight for fairer funding – it is worth remembering that if CCC had the same per head of population funding as the average London Borough, we would have £65m extra (against a net service budget of around £300m).

### **Education**

#### **Schools Funding**

On the 30<sup>th</sup> August, the Prime Minister announced a multi-year funding agreement for Education which will equate to a £14 billion in primary and secondary education between now and 2022/23 taking the schools budget to £52.2bn in 22/23. This delivers on the Prime Minister's pledge when entering Downing Street to increase school funding by £4.6bn above inflation, levelling up education funding and giving all young people the same opportunities to succeed – regardless of where they grow up or go to school.

Key features of this settlement were -

- every secondary school will receive a minimum of £5,000 per pupil next year, with every primary school getting a minimum of £4,000 from 2021/22.
- £700 million extra for children with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) in 2020/21, so every pupil can access the education that is right for them, and none are held back from reaching their potential.

- The multi-year settlement will be the first agreement in Education for nearly 10 years.
- Ensure that per-pupil funding for all schools can rise at least in line with inflation
- Progress the implementation of our National Funding Formula, delivering promised gains in full for areas which have been historically under-funded.
- £1.5 billion will be made available each year to continue to fund additional pension costs for teachers.

Of significance to Cambridgeshire, was a statement that ‘those historically underfunded receiving the greatest increase’.

Within the headlines of a positive statement, there were concerns however with some of the cost pressures. It is not an additional £14bn per year for schools – it totals £7.1bn per year by 2022-23. The Department for Education said this uplift had to cover the following -

- A growth in pupil numbers (around £1bn)
- A real-terms protection of per-pupil funding (around £3bn)
- Additional funding for pupils with high needs (£700m in 2020-21 only, with further years to be decided)
- The cost of increases to teachers pay, including raising starting salaries for all new teachers to £30,000

The funding for high needs is welcomed but after allowing for inflation on the £700m, meaning that it would be worth around £580m in real terms by the end of 2022-23, this is around £600m short of what the education select committee says is needed to plug the deficit in high needs. Normally Cambridgeshire receives around 1% of any national funding settlement so this is likely to be around £7m – which roughly aligns to the financial pressures we are facing on an annual basis. No confirmation has been received on how this funding will be distributed.

## **Results**

On the 22<sup>nd</sup> August, GCSE results were published at a school level. Over the past two years, the Department for Education has been rolling out the new GCSE syllabus. Exams are now graded from 9 (top) to 1 (bottom) with a grade 4 accepted as a standard pass (equivalent to the middle of a former grade C) and a grade 5 a good pass.

Headlines from the Cambridgeshire results are –

- In maths 74.6% of students achieved a grade from 4-9 (at least a standard pass) an increase of 0.6% on 2018 and 55% achieved at least a grade 5 (up 1%).
- 79% achieved at least a grade 4 in English, the same level as last year, with 64.3% achieving a strong pass (at least a grade 5) an improvement of 0.3%.

- The proportion of students achieving a grade 4 or above in both English and mathematics in Cambridgeshire was 69%, 1% higher than last year, with 48.4% achieving a grade 5 or better (up 0.8%).

National outcomes are not yet available as a comparison. Results are currently provisional as they don't take account of remarking or changes for pupils who are new to the country.

The results continue the trend for improvement in our secondary school results over an extended period. Four years ago, less than 50% of our schools were graded as good or better by Ofsted. This figure today sits at 93.5% of schools, 16<sup>th</sup> out of 150 local authorities nationally.

### **Children in care numbers and cost**

The summer period is often a challenging time for managing children in care services. Many fostering families go away during the school holidays, meaning that foster placement availability is even tighter than normal since carers with a vacancy often do not want to add an unknown child into the family just prior to a holiday. Many agency foster carers have respite in the summer, which is provided by other carers, in turn meaning that spaces that would otherwise be available are blocked.

At the same time, this is often the period when spontaneous arrivals of unaccompanied asylum seeking young people peak, and while fewer than last year, we have needed to find placements for around 16 of these young people over the last three months.

What is also different from the position in summer 2018, however, is that we now have our structure of specialist teams in children's social care in place. This means that we are more able to take positive action to help manage areas of demand and have, for example, been reviewing all care packages for older young people in higher cost placements as well as support plans for adult asylum seeking former looked after children, who await decisions about their immigration status.

### **Please share and considering fostering:**

<https://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/residents/children-and-families/fostering-and-adoption/>

We are always looking for new homes! And you can transform a child's life.

### **Investment**

Cambridgeshire County Council has continued to develop a property investment portfolio with two further acquisitions. Over the summer, we completed purchases on a £51m investment in Cambridge, the Tesco's site on Newmarket Road, as well as an £11m investment in 10 acres of industrial land and units in Peterborough. This now means that the County has invested in four strong investments over the past 12 months, which will generate in excess of £5m per year. This money will be used to pay for the increasing demand in services and finance projects that support every resident of Cambridgeshire.

The total income generated could pay for in excess of 100 social workers a year, support over 150 people with dementia or pay for educational placements for more than 30 children with autism spectrum disorders. It also represents 1% of the Council's entire budget and, along with the other commercial work streams, we now generate just short of 3% of our total annual budget through commercial activity.

<https://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/news/every-little-helps-as-council-diversifies-its-commercial-portfolio-to-support-frontline-services/>

## **Health**

### **County Council funds an additional falls prevention programme.**

The county council supplies more funding for further development of the falls prevention programme. This will enable the council to help protect even more of our elderly residents to enable them to stay independent and in their own homes. The Falls Prevention Team offers 1:1 appointments for people who are over 65 and who have a fear of falling, or who have previously had a fall. They can help with advice to prevent falls and increase confidence, provide group activity sessions to help improve strength and balance and offer guidance and support for a healthier lifestyle.

### **County Council funded Health Checks**

Free NHS health checks are being offered to residents aged 40-74 years to help detect early health issues before they do real damage. The 20-30 minutes checks, funded through the County Councils Public Health budget, will include monitoring blood pressure, weight, cholesterol and lifestyle factors that influence health. By booking a check our residents can find out how likely they are to get heart or kidney disease, diabetes or have a stroke in the future, and if the likelihood is high, advice on how to reduce this. Those aged over 65 are also told about the signs and symptoms of dementia. Between April 2017 and March 2018, over 20,500 Health Checks were completed across Cambridgeshire and Peterborough, an increase of 14 per cent from the previous year.

This is a great opportunity to find out early if you are at risk of a stroke, diabetes, a heart attack, or many other life threatening conditions. By finding out early, before serious damage is done, you could potentially make lifestyle changes that would massively reduce, or in some cases, eliminate your risk of dying early as a result of these conditions. If you're aged between 40-74 years and do not currently have a long-term health condition it is recommended that you should have a Health Check.

every five years. Call or visit the GP now to get a Free Health Check. More information can be found here: <https://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/be-well/resources-and-campaigns/nhs-health-checks-programme/>

## **Environment**

I have been attending officer meetings for the Environment and Climate Change strategy. The work is underway and we hope to have recommendations in the next couple of months. There will be short term- medium and long term objectives as you can imagine the complexity of the subject.

Officers are doing an internal audit but they also hope to achieve a wider county/external proposal/vision. There will be lots of partnership building!

I also sit in the planning and environment policy working group and it was really exciting to see that the Fens and even covering a bit of Grantchester and Coton, will be proposed to become a UNESCO biosphere site. I believe Cam Acre will be getting in touch with parishes and stakeholders in the coming months.

As many of you know I have been raising with officers and elected members my concerns around GCP proposals. It is completely unacceptable their project proposal ignoring completely environment and nature with little or non-mitigation alternative. I will continue to voice residents and parishes concerns and although it might seem slow and that some of them are not listening, I can assure they are and they will.

**All Parish Councils please pencil down Annual Town & Parish conference – November 8th at Huntingdon Marriot**