

Herts. County Council Adult Care Services Report for Health in Dacorum Meeting of Wednesday 8th December 2021

At its' meeting on 13th October 2021, Herts. County Council's (HCC's) Adult Care, Health and Wellbeing Panel looked at proposed changes to the allocation policy for Gypsy and Traveller pitches ie replacement of the current waiting list with a Pitch Licence Application List. This would cover the 206 pitches on HCC's 10 permanent Gypsy and Traveller sites (not the transit site or private sites.)

The policy now included a more comprehensive needs assessment using factors similar to those used by borough/district councils for Council tenancy allocation.

An update was given on Covid-19 vaccination roll-out during 2021 to Hertfordshire's social care staff, care home residents, unpaid carers and people with learning disabilities. Great efforts were made by communications and face-to-face work to encourage vaccine uptake. Myth busting was undertaken by Public Health to counter vaccine hesitancy. However consideration was necessary as to how to counter disinformation on social media. From 11.11.21, it would be mandatory for care home staff to be double vaccinated. (Subsequently 297 unvaccinated care workers across the county have left.)

More venues including community pharmacies were coming on stream to provide Covid-19 booster and flu vaccinations.

At its' meeting on 12th November 2021, the Panel considered the proposed plan for Adult Care Services 2021/22-24/25, which fits in with the 15 Year Direction of Travel for Adult Social Care, agreed on 06.03.18. The Plan is divided into 2 parts:

Year 1 Summer 2021-March 2022 focuses on recovery from Covid-19's impact, learning from the response to the virus and how people's needs have changed. Years 2-4, April 2022-March 2025 builds on this learning and delivers strategies and action plans developed in the first year.

Priorities within the Plan include communication and relationships, maintaining wellbeing, providing care and support, supporting unpaid carers and organisations working together to support people. The Plan refers to promoting independence.

The Panel received the Annual Report for 2020-21 from Herts at Home Ltd, HCC's company set up to respond to care provider failure. The company, which is restricted to trading in Herts, currently provides services for older people.

The Panel has a meeting on the morning of 8th December 2021

C/Cllr Fiona Guest