

Health– Portfolio Holder Overview

Report number:	OAS/WS/21/020	
Report to and date(s):	Overview and Scrutiny Committee	11 November 2021
Cabinet member:	Councillor Sara Mildmay-White Cabinet Member for Housing and Health Tel: 01359 270580 Email: sara.mildmay-white@westsuffolk.gov.uk	
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Decisions Plan: Not applicable.

Wards impacted: All

Recommendation: It is recommended that Overview and Scrutiny:

- 1. Note the role of the Portfolio Holder for Housing in Strategic Health.**

1. Context to this report

- 1.1 At its meeting on 2 September 2021, Overview and Scrutiny Committee requested further information in relation to the role of the Portfolio Holder for Housing in relation to health. This followed the changes made to Portfolio Holder responsibility announced by the Leader in July.
- 1.2 This report sets out the role and responsibility held by the Portfolio Holder for Housing and the Portfolio Holder for Families and Communities in relation to health.

2. Overview of responsibilities

- 2.1 For a number of years, the council has been working alongside partners in the health and care sector. This work has been wide ranging but falls largely into two broad areas:
1. Prevention and early intervention – the council has an important role to play in the wider determinants of health. These are the factors that are important to individual and community wellbeing and health. In particular, the environment, housing, employment, community safety, exercise and leisure. Given the council’s responsibilities, it has a significant influence on the health and wellbeing of communities.
 2. Effective partnerships - this work focusses on greater integration between different elements of the health and care system, and the council. The shared estate is a very practical example of where we have aligned services and made the best use of assets.
- 2.2 The close co-operation between health partners and the council was accelerated during the Covid pandemic and will remain important during the recovery phase.
- 2.3 Recognising that there are number of significant projects and initiatives to support and/or deliver over the next few years, the Portfolio Holder for Housing has been asked by the leader to take a more strategic leadership perspective in relation to health. This will enable the Portfolio Holder to discuss emerging issues with officers and provide a link to Cabinet and other councillors. The Portfolio Holder for Housing is responsible for these particular areas of focus:
1. Future system programme –a project being led by West Suffolk Foundation Trust to plan for its future healthcare development, involving a new hospital and the provision of health services in the wider community, including shared buildings.

2. Health and care governance – there will be changes to the way that health and care is structured over the next few years. This includes the establishment of an Integrated Care System (ICS) and it is important to monitor how this progresses and the council’s role in the ICS and West Suffolk Alliance.

- 2.4 The Portfolio Holder for Housing’s role in health is in addition to that of the Portfolio Holder for Families and Communities. This is in response to the growing workload associated with health and the council’s role in the pandemic recovery and reducing health inequalities.
- 2.5 The Portfolio Holder for Families and Communities will retain the lead for the wider health responsibilities, including, but not limited to: Suffolk Health and Wellbeing Board; delivery of the social prescribing LifeLink service; community safety; supporting the voluntary and community sector; and building community capacity and resilience.
- 2.6 The council has a seat on Suffolk County Council’s Health Scrutiny Committee. This role is separate to that of the Portfolio Holders as the Committee is responsible for scrutinising wellbeing and health services across the county. The Portfolio Holder roles focus more on ensuring either direct delivery of services to support the health system, such as social prescribing or ensuring that we can influence or impact on the provision of services, such as sharing estates. This very much mirrors the difference between the executive and scrutiny functions at the council.