

COUNTY COUNCIL MEETING – 27TH SEPTEMBER 2023
POSITION STATEMENT FROM THE CABINET LEAD MEMBER FOR
HEALTH

Homelessness

Members will be aware that the Council has recently completed a consultation on a proposed new model of support to help improve the health of those who are homeless or at risk of homelessness. The consultation responses are currently being analysed prior to consideration by the Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee (HOSC) on 1st November before Cabinet consider a final proposal for approval at the November Cabinet meeting.

Members will also be aware that there has been a large amount of publicity and lobbying by the current provider of that existing model. I do not wish to be drawn into an unseemly exchange of words with the current provider on their funding or Charnwood Borough Council's benefit rules but would remind members that this is about how we support improved health in a part of the population that experiences poorer health. I would urge members to view the scrutiny coverage of the homelessness item at HOSC on 13th September and consider it themselves.

COVID

Members will be aware that we're approaching that time of year where the nights draw in and colds and flu circulate once more. COVID might no longer be the threat it was but now sits alongside the other respiratory nasties we have to contend with. Although it remains unclear as to whether this new B.2.86 variant leads to more serious illness than recent variants, the NHS has wisely brought forward the COVID campaign to combat any threat. I would urge members to encourage those that are eligible for flu and covid jabs (the over 65s, and certain vulnerable groups) to get their flu and COVID jabs.

The NHS

Members will have seen the recent CQC report on maternity services at University Hospitals of Leicester (UHL) which have been rated as 'requires improvement' with concerns expressed about staffing levels. Whilst recognising the pressure the NHS is under we look forward to seeing the benefits that should arise from the Integrated Care Board now that it has been in operation for over a year. However, I have regularly read articles in the trade press alluding to possible further changes in NHS structures. I would urge NHS colleagues not to be distracted by such coverage and to work together locally in the interests of our patients.

Smoking

Finally, members will be encouraged to hear that the adult smoking rate in Leicestershire has fallen into single figures for the first time ever, lower than all other East Midland authorities bar Rutland and bucking a trend in other areas of slow

decreases or even increases. We've said for a long time that we have a top notch smoking cessation team and it is pleasing to see the outcomes flowing from their impressive work

**Mrs. L. Richardson CC
Cabinet Lead Member for Health**