Updated Core Services and Decision-making Hierarchy

1. The Core Services
1.1 Children First Northamptonshire

Our core services:

1.1.1 Co-ordinate a school admission and appeals process;
1.1.2 Take steps, along with our key partners, to safeguard all children and young people, including the most vulnerable;
1.1.3 Manage referrals and undertake statutory assessments of children with SEND and commission suitable placements and other services relevant to Education, Health and Care Plan provision;
1.1.4 Monitor performance of all schools and early education providers and identify support for maintained schools and early education providers at risk of being judged to have serious weaknesses or being placed in special measures by OFSTED;
1.1.5 Provide care and support for children and young people where there is evidence that they have suffered significant harm or are at immediate risk of significant harm and provide an alternative home for children who are unable to live with their parents or in their extended family;
1.1.6 Contribute with our partners towards early intervention where this will prevent, delay or reduce need and where not to do so would lead to a direct increase in cost;
1.1.7 Provide a Children's Centre programme in line with local need and available resources.

1.2 Older people and working age adults

Our core services:

1.2.1 Assess and meet critical and substantial need and commission and deliver services that meet that need directly or through the independent and voluntary sectors;
1.2.2 Engage with the market to ensure that it is aware of and can meet current and future need;
1.2.3 Ensure a robust safeguarding system to protect vulnerable adults;
1.2.4 Contribute with our partners towards early intervention where this will prevent, delay or reduce need and where not to do so would lead to a direct increase in cost.

1.3 Place

Our core services:

1.3.1 Provide sufficient maintenance to keep our highways, footpaths, verges, street lighting and traffic signals safe to use;
1.3.2 Provide minimum statutory obligations for archives and records services;
1.3.3 Provide a statutory trading standards service (e.g. inspections and sampling for high risk food, animal disease control and prosecutions and enforcement actions);
1.3.4 Provide a statutory Road Safety and street lighting service;
1.3.5 Manage the National Concessionary Fares Scheme;
1.3.6 Operate Civil Parking Enforcement where it has been implemented;
1.3.7 Dispose of household waste collected by the borough and district councils (Integrated Waste Management Services Contract);
1.3.8 Provide a limited number of household waste disposal centres.

1.3.9 Statutory Planning Service and Development Control service;

1.3.10 Statutory Flood Risk Management;

1.3.11 Statutory Strategic Transport Planning (including delivery of the Local Transport Plan);

1.3.12 Commission and purchase Home to School Transport where there is a statutory duty to do so;

1.3.13 Plan for the right number of school places in the right locations in the county.

1.4 Public Health and Wellbeing

Our core services:

1.4.1 Administer the Public Health Grant;

1.4.2 Provide a core Public Health offer to CCGs;

1.4.3 Provide statutory functions: Sexual Health Service, Drugs and Alcohol Treatment Service, NHS Health Checks, and National Child Weight Management Programme;

1.4.4 Provide a core Emergency Planning function;

1.4.5 Provide a statutory Health Protection function;

1.4.6 Provide a Coroner's Service;

1.4.7 Provide a Registration Service;

1.4.8 Provide a comprehensive and efficient Library and Information Service.

1.5 Ways of Working

Our core services

1.5.1 Members will be supported to fulfil their role as the democratic voice of local people;

1.5.2 The Council will be open and transparent about what we do and the decisions we have made and provide information about how we run things;

1.5.3 The Council will consult with local people and stakeholders, where required to by legislation, and respond to their feedback;

1.5.4 The Council will give a reasonable level of customer service, within our means;

1.5.5 The Council will continue to strive to deliver the core services, within the resources available. We also need to encourage and support behaviour change in our communities which will help to deliver positive outcomes for the county and create resilience in places where the Council can no longer step in;

1.5.6 The Council will support the Voluntary Sector in their efforts in areas where we are no longer able to provide services;

1.5.7 The Council will contribute to the national debate about the benefits of Community Funding.

2. Indicative Hierarchy of Priorities

Against the background of the current financial position, the likely future demand and the core services set out in paragraph 4 of this report, Officers have compiled the following suggested priority outcomes decision hierarchy for Council to add to, arrange in order of priority and recommended to Cabinet for agreement.

2.1 Keeping vulnerable people safe;

2.2 Keeping people who are not classified as vulnerable, safe;

2.3 Complying with statutory duties where there is not a risk of harm;

2.4 Providing services that have a clear cost avoidance impact;

2.5 Supporting the democratic process and engaging with local communities beyond statutory requirements.

The priority outcome that the Council makes the "best use of resources" is a test that is applied to all activities.

Those services across all departments which make the most significant contribution to achieving outcomes under each priority area will be prioritised for funding. Where possible they will be given relative protection from the requirement to make reductions.

Northamptonshire County Council

9th August 2018

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