

## PORTFOLIO HOLDER DECISION RECORD

<p><b>Portfolio Holders:</b> Councillor Chris Boden, Leader &amp; Portfolio Holder for Finance, Councillor Susan Wallwork, Portfolio Holder for Community, Health, Environmental Health, CCTV, Community Safety &amp; Military Covenant</p>	<p><b>Service:</b> Housing &amp; Community Support</p>
<p><b>CMT Officers:</b> Anna Goodall, Assistant Director, Housing &amp; Community Dan Horn, Assistant Director, Transformation</p>	<p><b>Delegated Power Being Exercised:</b> Part 3 - Responsibilities for Functions; Tables 4 and 5, paragraph 10: To authorise the allocation of external funding awarded to the Council, the approval of the Council's acquisitions of goods, services and works (whether following a procurement exercise or otherwise) and entry into the associated financial and legal agreements up to the following limits. Between – £100,001 and £500,000 delegated to the Cabinet Member and Leader of the Council</p>
<p><b>Subject of Decision:</b> Early Help Hub across the public sector System and Voluntary &amp; Community Sector (VCS)</p> <p>To approve: Receive income from the Workwell funding partnership via the Cambridgeshire &amp; Peterborough Integrated Care System (C&amp;PICS) to provide the triage administrative function for an Early Help Hub across the public sector system and Voluntary &amp; Community Sector (VCS) .</p>	

<p><b>Decision Taken:</b> The North Place partnership board has been created to help deliver the expectations from the new Integrated Care System (ICS) legislation. The Council is represented on the board by the Chief Executive. Historically Fenland District Council has found it difficult to get into the space of the health service system to make them aware of the wide range of services that we have responsibility for that can both help reduce demand for NHS services and deliver better outcomes for residents (wider determinants of health). As well as this NHS services can become aware of emerging issues that FDC need to hear about and as NHS front line teams are not always aware of our services and those of partners, the Council often only gets involved when it has escalated and requires a higher cost intervention from ourselves. Key examples would be Homeless, House condition and Environmental health duties and responsibilities. What is of great concern to all Council's is the need to manage increasing demand for services within a reducing budget determination from Government. System integration to resolving household issues can help with this. Evidence from South Norfolk has shown that having a triage process that has the "offer" of the wide public sector &amp; available VCS system rather than siloed individual organisations struggling to get a collaborative response, helps deliver better outcomes for residents / households earlier. Once triaged the resident gets referred to services in a much more efficient and collaborative way to deliver better outcomes and at lower cost, often through the VCS sector. The VCS often feel frustrated at being the "poor relation" to the public sector, so having the sector as part of the same</p>
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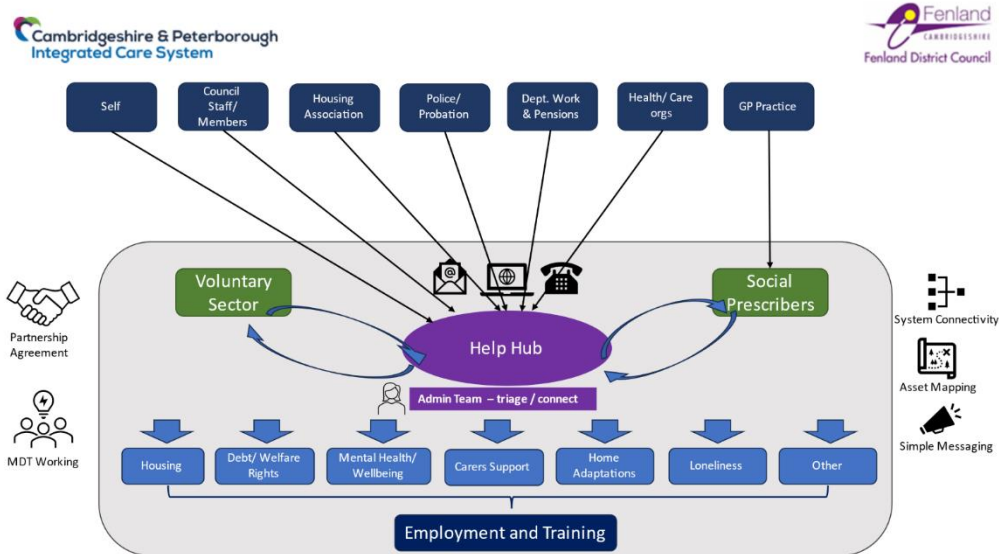
triage process supports increasing their impact in the community to assist their bids for funding. The Council received 197k from The North Place Partnership board to commence an Early Help hub in June 2024 (**KEY/22MAR24/01 refers**). The funding had a remit on employment and skills so a focus on encouraging residents receiving Universal Credit with health issues to get closer to and back into work. The other focus is residents who are in work, but sick and what support can be offered to the fit note process within a GP practice. Since commencing in June 24 the initial work has been successful as set out in the Portfolio Holder Update report to Council on the 30<sup>th</sup> September [Joint PHB Report - Sep 2024.pdf \(fenland.gov.uk\)](#) (page 10 and 11 refers). Due to this success the Council submitted an expression of interest to become the hub for the Workwell project which the C&PICS have successfully secured funding from central government for. The remit is very similar to the pilot that commenced in June 24.

### Facts and Issues

Health partners have recognised their structure for managing a Fenland district wide project is fragmented with 3 integrated neighbourhoods (IN), Wisbech, South Fenland and Whittlesey being part of the Peterborough IN.

The public sector structure that best fits the geography of such a virtual hub is FDC.

The proposed system to be developed is set out on the diagram below.



FDC have costed undertaking the triage work on behalf of the wider system...ensuring that there is no further pressure placed on the general fund from undertaking the work.

The work of the hub will assist in demand management for our statutory services, homelessness, environmental health, benefits and house condition prevention, intervention and management. As well as this non statutory services like Economic development growth plan and the Golden Age programme can be utilised to improve impact of work that falls out of the one team collaboration across the public sector and VCS.

The work will also raise awareness in the health sector of what a District Council does as well as other partners to enable officers to develop other initiatives that helps support both the Council's business plan and the health service.

Elected Members in South Norfolk have enjoyed the collaboration as they no longer have to worry about which part of the system a resident's issue need to be referred to ...they can drop the request into the triage and allow the hub to triage and develop a pathway to help resolve.

The approach was highlighted by John Rooke Managing Director, North Cambridgeshire & Peterborough Care Partnership to members of Overview & Scrutiny at its March 24 meeting with positive feedback received.

The Workwell in tandem with the initial pilot will be delivered until March 2026. It was stated at the original pilot decision that if we could help make the pilot a success, we can then evidence to health partners that continuation funding to the Council to support this will be beneficial to ICS outcomes to secure further funding. This funding receipt is early evidence of this.

**Decision Taken**

Cllr Sue Wallwork (Portfolio Holder) and Cllr Chris Boden (Leader) approve:

- receiving funding from C&PICS to deliver Workwell project in Fenland.
- to delegate to officers agreement of a contract (if needed) to receive the money in consultation with the portfolio holder and the leader.

**Reasons for the Decision:**

- A coordinated and joined up response across the public sector and VCS to address household issues earlier and at lower cost. An outcomes framework is in place for the initial pilot and one will be in place for Workwell.
- An initiative that looks to enable FDC to be aware of issues that we have a statutory responsibility for earlier to address at lower cost. For example a young person, not in work, sofa surfing but not on the housing register (HomeLink) nor engaged with our Housing Options Team.
- The funding ensures it is cost neutral to the Council's general fund.

**Legal and Procurement Implications**

A contract is to be received and will be checked by officers to agree in consultation with the Portfolio and Leader.

There are no procurement considerations as FDC is delivering the triage and administration service.

**Financial Implications**

To receive circa £181k – 217k to deliver the triage and administration function for the Workwell project until March 2026 with no additional cost to the Council's General Fund.

**Alternative Options Considered (if appropriate):**

Not applicable.

**Background/Reports/Information considered and attached:**

Not applicable

Portfolio Holders Signatures:

Cllr Chris Boden, Leader and Portfolio Holder for Finance  
Cllr Susan Wallwork, Portfolio Holder for Community, Health, Environmental Health, CCTV, Community Safety & Military Covenant

Date:

4 November 2024

**Please forward to Democratic Services upon completion**

**For Office Use Only**

**Date copy passed to Democratic Services: 04/11/24**

**Implementation Date: 11 November 2024 (if not called-in) (Allow 5 clear working days after publication of decision)**

Circulation: Democratic Services, Portfolio Holder, Officer and Accountancy.