

A message from NIC outgoing Chairman

Dear colleagues,

I am delighted to inform you that John Bacon was unanimously elected as Chair of Norfolk Independent Care at last week's AGM. John qualified as a Chartered Accountant with Ernst & Young 20 years ago and has also worked as a business consultant and executive coach before helping to set up Keys Hill Park at Wroxham in 2008. John has significant experience in the financing and operation of care homes and home care businesses. He has been an important steering group member for more than 5 years, sitting on no less than seven working groups - a NIC record! I will be staying on as a NIC committee member for 12 months and sincerely hope that you will all welcome and support John in his new role. These are particularly challenging times and we need a wise head to lead us in our negotiations/engagement with Norfolk County Council and Health. I am sure that John will do an excellent job.

Dennis Bacon

Please see below Chairman's Report 2016/17 as presented at NIC AGM – 23rd March

Another tough year for providers as sustained under-funding continues to degrade the supply of community-based support services, at a time when demand is increasing and hospitals are failing. Care homes and nursing homes are struggling alongside providers of home care, day care and supported living. Local authority austerity is now being mirrored by NHS austerity – no longer can providers expect more realistic contract terms from Health. It would seem as though Health commissioners are seeking to peg the amount they're prepared to pay for social care to Local Authority rates, which everyone accepts as being too low. As STP system leaders talk openly about the need to shift activity and resource from acute to community to protect vital services, their actions continue to perpetuate the problem. The social care 'squeeze' continues unabated, affecting all service user groups, and as it does the state of health and social care services suffer. The most damning example of where actions fail to mirror words is 'exemplified' by the crisis in home care because 'keeping me at home' - the cornerstone of NHS England's 5 Year Forward view – can only be realised if support at home is available. In all parts of Norfolk we need to build capacity in home care. Instead, we are seeing providers either unable or unwilling to accept uneconomic contract terms. In certain instances, contracts are being handed back to the local authority by providers unable to meet their contractual obligations. Year upon year of underfunding has contributed to relegating a career in care to the lower leagues of ambition and reward. It should therefore come as no surprise that in some areas of the county we are no longer able to recruit the people we need to do the work. The system is broken and providers are suffering but it is the most vulnerable who are most at risk. It really is a shameful state of affairs.

Since the winding down of Norfolk Care Link (NCL) we have seen some of the activities undertaken as part of this work transferred to new contracts, which are being funded under transitional arrangements by a market development fund. NIC's admin costs in 2016/17 have been covered via a direct grant from Norfolk County Council of £23,800. A summary of how this money has been spent is appended to this report and I am pleased to confirm that NCC has recently agreed to continue to fund basic administration costs for 2017/18.

Since last year's AGM, we have seen the creation of a new group that has been formed to better represent care homes for older people. The acronym is NOPCHA – Norfolk Older Persons Care Homes Association. It's chair is Tim Armitage and the main body (committee) of the group has been formed from last year's FPCFPC ('Fair Price for Care, Fair Pay for Carers') campaign team. It is important to clarify that NOPCHA is not presently affiliated to NIC although the county's care home providers remain members and will receive the information, advice and support that has always been available.

Norsecare's rather generous contract terms continue to fan the flames of dissent and disillusionment of providers. I have described the position of NCC paying its wholly owned provider organisation more generously than our members, for doing the same job, as indefensible. Sooner or later the principle of parity and equality will be realised but until such time as this occurs the relationship that exists between our provider members and NCC will be strained. Nonetheless, we must not forget the importance of engaging positively with NCC on a wide range of important issues.

In closing, I should like to thank all members of NIC's steering group for their efforts in support of our members. As I stand down after 19 years of chairing this group, I feel that it is important for me to remind everyone that NIC's officers receive no remuneration or reward for the time and effort invested in seeking to better represent providers of social care. It can be a lonely and thankless task so please do what you can to help them – it has never been more important to build cohesiveness and understand that we are stronger and better working together, in partnership.

Dennis Bacon
CHAIR
NIC – Norfolk Independent Care

Social Care Recruitment Campaign

The Social Care Recruitment Campaign is well underway with some great feedback received. If you have any care vacancies across Norfolk, please upload these to the careers site www.norfolkcarecareers.co.uk

Also if you have any stories about working in social care you'd like to share to promote working in the sector, please email these to norfolkcarejobs@norfolk.gov.uk

Follow us on Twitter @CareSectorNfk and on Facebook @norfolkcarejobs

[NorfolkCareCareers](#)

Cost of Care Exercise 2015/16 and fee uplift for 2016/17 Residential and Nursing Care for working age adults

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NCC Cost of Care Committee approved an interim inflationary uplift of 2.29% for working age adult contracts for the 2016/17 financial year. This will be applied to activity in 2016/17 and backdated to 11 April 2016. The work to implement the interim inflationary uplift of

2.29% will commence immediately, and NCC anticipate that you should receive payment no later than the end of March 2017.

Please check that you are in receipt of this payment.

Norfolk Safeguarding Adults Board

New News items (on the theme of mental capacity) have been posted on the Norfolk Safeguarding Adults Board's (NSAB) website:

- *Norfolk Briefings by Tim Spencer-Lane from the Law Commission on the key points from the final report & draft legislation made to ministers on the abolishment of the DoLS, and amendments to the Mental Capacity Act*
- *Can you help a Vulnerable Adults legal project?*
- *National Mental Capacity Act Competency Framework*

*** Don't forget you can follow NSAB on Twitter, follow the board @NorfolkSAB ***

I have posted a new blog on the website see:

- [Safeguarding Board Manager's blog](#)

Also **New News** items have been posted on the Norfolk Safeguarding Adults Board's (NSAB) website:

- *Improving the quality and use of Safeguarding Adults Reviews*
- *Operation Gravity - 10 Things You Need to Know*
- *Latest Scam Alerts & news from Norfolk Trading Standards*
- *Human trafficking referrals surge by almost 80%*
- *West Norfolk Domestic Abuse Change Champions Network Event - Tuesday 18th April*

Go to:

[Norfolk Safeguarding Adults Board \(NSAB\) News](#)

Changes to when an inquest is required for people who die whilst subject to DoLS authorisation

From 3 April 2017, coroners will no longer have a duty to undertake an inquest into the death of every person who was subject to a Deprivation of Liberty Safeguards (DoLS) authorisation.

In these cases an inquest will still be required if the person died before Monday 3 April 2017. However, from this date the death of a person subject to a DoLS authorisation does not need to be reported to the coroner unless the cause of death is unknown or where there are concerns that the cause of death was unnatural or violent (this includes where there is any concern about the care given having contributed to the persons death).

For more information on coroner services please see the [Coroner Services Guides](#) or contact Coroners@justice.gsi.gov.uk

Law Commission report: Mental capacity and deprivation of liberty

The Law Commission published its report and draft Bill on 13 March 2017 following a three year review of the Deprivation of Liberty Safeguards (DoLS) regime.

The review was requested by Government as local councils were seen struggling to cope with the administrative burden caused by the significant increase in deprivation of liberty cases following the Supreme Court's landmark 'Cheshire West' ruling in March 2014.

The Law Commission proposals include draft legislation and a new system to authorise deprivation of liberty in a care placements for people who lack capacity and are of unsound mind.

The final report and draft Bill recommends that the DoLS be repealed with pressing urgency.

[Click here to read the full article](#), where we summarise the key points from the report and advice for those working in mental health care.

Sent on behalf of:-

West Norfolk Health & Wellbeing Innovation Fund

Dear Colleague

Are you a member of a community organisation or group that helps local people to stay healthy and well? Do you have an idea for a new service or activity but don't have the resources to set it up? If yes, then please read on.

For a second year, West Norfolk CCG is launching the Health & Wellbeing Innovation Fund to encourage and support new and different ways of helping local people, of any age, to remain independent within the community.

This grant money is allocated on a year by year basis, with a different theme for each year. **This year, the focus will be on Prevention and Promoting Independence**, and we are looking for new and different ideas for helping the people in West Norfolk to remain healthy and happy for as long as possible.

Applications that demonstrate interventions that will prevent people from becoming unwell, socially isolated or dependent on others so that they have less need for statutory health and social care services (such as the Queen Elizabeth Hospital and care homes) are particularly encouraged. The fund is open to organisations working with people with a range of different needs, with no age restrictions.

Areas to consider could include

- health and wellbeing (including exercise, diet, nutrition, lifestyle)
- keeping people safe
- the use of technology to enable people to connect with one another
- improving access to community groups
- reducing social isolation
- befriending

Grants for each application may be issued for any amount to a maximum of **£3,000**. We are open to a wide range of ideas about how best to support individuals but we are looking for applications that:

- demonstrate that the proposed project is new or different from services already provided in this area
- explain how will this project reduce demand on statutory health and social care services

For an application form, and further details on how to apply, visit

<http://www.norfolkfoundation.com/funds/west-norfolk-clinical-commissioning-group-health-and-wellbeing-innovation-fund/>

Closing date for applications is Friday 28th April 2017 at 5.00 pm.