

Please find below a quick monthly update which highlights some of the work I'm involved in. I have included updates for the whole division, as many of you will be interested in work happening outside your area too. Some local updates, some on wider priorities for Cumbria County Council and Cumbria as a whole. At the end of the report you will also find a list of the committees I am appointed to.

- **Front Street, Alston**

Councillors will hopefully now have had chance to see the newly erected information board on the side of the coop building, which we will be able to update as work progresses. Many will also have seen the recent hand-laying of tarmac on certain sections of the remaining setts, which is a necessary measure whilst we await the delivery of Phase one of the new setts. Council officers inspect the street on a twice monthly basis to ensure the road remains safe, and it may be necessary to remove further setts before we see them replaced next year. Further updates will continue to be agreed with the steering group, and circulated through the established channels to make sure everyone is kept up to speed.

For any councillor who may not have read the latest updates on Front St, head over to the dedicated webpage: www.cumbria.gov.uk/alstonfrontstreet

- **Roadworks**

Councillors will be aware of recent (and seemingly endless sometimes!) temporary closures of the A686 on Hartside and Clarghyll, and temporary closures elsewhere in the division, most notably the sometimes less than perfect communications around them. I continue to work closely with officers to improve both the functionality of the council's roadworks map, and also increase the requirement for external contractors to provide real-time updates on roadworks especially where road closures are necessary.

We know that no system is perfect, but there is a real commitment from council officers to continue to improve this area of work, and I hope that councillors can be assured that I am very much focussed on this as an ongoing priority. I sincerely believe that this is an area in which the Council must continue to improve, and it is nowhere near where it needs to be to enable people to effectively plan their routes when closures do happen. I am absolutely committed to doing all we can to ensure the council really understands and feels the same pain that we feel when this goes wrong, and the impact of what might seem a small closure on a map, but which makes life that much more difficult for an already isolated community to just get on with business as normal.

- **Cumbria Health Scrutiny**

Earlier this month the Joint Cumbria Health & Social Care Advisory Group met to consider the emerging Integrated Care System plans for North and South Cumbria. As councillors may recall from precious conversations, the recently published NHS 10 year plan clearly lays out the expectation that health (the NHS) will become far more integrated with social care (County Council) and the third sector (charities and other providers such as Hospice at Home, Macmillan Nurses etc). Members heard that from the point of view of both North Cumbria University Hospitals Trust (NCUHT) and University Hospitals Morcambe Bay Trust (UHMBT) this was a welcome document, in that the work that has been taking place in Cumbria for some time is very much in line with this approach.

The King's Fund London have produced an excellent 'explainer' on the 10 year plan, which is a great place to start for anyone keen to understand more:

<https://www.kingsfund.org.uk/publications/nhs-10-year-plan>

We discussed at length the challenges to full integration which remain, not least a legislative structure which doesn't allow for combining budgets, and the ever present difficulties of sharing data and information throughout a very complex system, many parts of which use entirely different IT systems. That said, members were very encouraged by how mature our health and care system is in its approach, and heard some exiting examples of how closely teams are working together to deliver health and care to our residents.

North Cumbria is now beginning to align much more closely with the North East, with the current work on Mental Health being supported by Northumberland Tyne & Wear NHS Foundation Trust (NTW) as an example of how things are developing. In the South of the county, work is closely aligning with Lancashire Care NHS Foundation Trust (LCFT), with future provision for Mental Health Services moving under their control from October. Members are watching developments closely particularly in the South of the County as LCFT received a CQC rating of Requires Improvement at the last inspection in 2018. Future provision of Mental Health Services across the county is on the agenda for this month's meeting of the Main Health Scrutiny meeting, and I recently attended a member briefing on the Urgent Improvement Plans for Lancashire Care in Preston.

I also continue to work to establish the joint scrutiny work between Cumbria County Council and Lancashire County Council, which is essential to ensure we keep abreast of developments as they progress.

The Familiar Faces project which I included in last month's report has received a regional award, which we very much hope will encourage the recommissioning of the service across the whole of the county.

Councillors wishing to read previous agendas and minutes of the committee can do so at the following link:

<http://moderngov.ccc/mgCommitteeDetails.aspx?ID=152>

- **Cumbria Director of Public Health, Annual Report**

At last week's meeting of the full council, members received a presentation from Colin Cox, the Director of Public Health for Cumbria, on his Annual Report. The start of the report outlines in detail the roles and responsibilities of the Director and what the Annual Report seeks to achieve:

ADVICE OF DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC HEALTH

1.0 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

1.1 This is the fifth Annual Report to be presented to council from the County Council's Director of Public Health (DPH) following the transition of Public Health responsibilities to the Council from NHS Cumbria.

1.2 The most fundamental duties of a DPH have long been set out in law and are clarified in the Health and Social Care Act 2012. How those statutory functions translate into everyday practice depends on a

range factors that will be shaped by local needs and priorities from area to area and over time.

1.3 The statutory responsibilities of the DPH are designed to match exactly the corporate public health duties of their local authority. The exception is the annual report on the health of the local population where the DPH has a duty to write a report, whereas the authority's duty is to publish it.

1.4 The Director of Public Health's Annual Report is therefore intended to give an independent, expert view of the key issues affecting Public Health in the area with recommendations as to how these may be tackled.

1.5 Its recommendations therefore are not confined to Cumbria County Council but aim to influence wider groups of partners and stakeholders connected to improving health and wellbeing.

2.0 STRATEGIC PLANNING AND EQUALITY IMPLICATIONS

2.1 The Annual Report by its very nature is independent of County Council Services, however it may include recommendations that bear upon aspects of the Council Plan.

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2.2 This year the report covers the issue of Adverse Childhood Experiences. The recommendations made are consistent with the Council Plan.)

As you can see, this year's report focusses on Adverse Childhood Experiences, and how they can affect individuals, their families and communities for an entire lifetime. Since Colin started working on this last year, there has been increased awareness of how becoming aware of ACES, how they affect individuals, how to discuss them and importantly, how to help individuals access support can improve lives. This can be a difficult topic for people to discuss, both for those affected and the people working with them to offer support, which is why I asked a question about programmes of training across the system, within the council and beyond. The council were reassured to hear that the working group leading on this is developing plans for training and support following on from a number of events which have taken place across the county over recent months, all designed to raise the awareness of ACES and their effects. Anyone wishing to read the report in full can do so in the Council agenda at the link below:

<https://councilportal.cumbria.gov.uk/documents/g10668/Public%20reports%20pack%2027th-Jun-2019%2010.00%20County%20Council.pdf?T=10>

- **Local Government Association Annual Conference**

As some councillors will be aware, I have been asked to attend this year's conference in Bournemouth on behalf of the Labour Group on the council, and in the place of Cllr Anne Burns, our portfolio holder for Children's Services. This is a chance for councillors to come together to share concerns and best practice,

I fully expect that at this year's conference, we will all be discussing the ongoing budget pressures we're facing in light of the drastic cuts to local government funding and complete lack of clarity about how future funding will be calculated. Another hot topic will undoubtedly be the lack of any progress on any issue other than Brexit – which seems to show little or no progress either, and the difficulties we face in trying to deliver services

without any direction from central government, and in the absence of many long awaited green papers, one such being the social care green paper which has been promised since May 2017. An excerpt from a house of commons briefing paper on the subject:

The publication of the Green Paper has been delayed several times: it was originally due to be published in “summer 2017”. The latest position is that it will be published “at the earliest opportunity”, although the Health and Social Care Secretary had previously said in January 2019 that he “certainly intend[ed] for [publication] to happen before April [2019]”. According to media reports, the most recent delays are attributed to the Government concentrating on Brexit and also a lack of clarity and detail about the proposals to be included in the Green Paper. <https://researchbriefings.parliament.uk/ResearchBriefing/Summary/CBP-8002>

It has long been the case that local councils feel very much as though there is a gulf between our work in local government and the machinations of central government, and this has never been more keenly felt than right now.

Anyone wishing to read more about the topics on discussion at this year’s conference can find out more at the link below:

<https://www.local.gov.uk/events/lga-annual-conference-and-exhibition-2019>

I will be happy to verbally update any councillors wishing to hear more about the event at a future meeting.

- **Councillor surgeries**

I am planning a calendar of surgeries which will be held in various locations throughout the division which I will share as soon as possible. Based on previous experience, I may be looking at holding these on days when other events are happening, to ensure reaching as many people as possible. It’s already the case that many community events turn into surgeries of sorts, but I’m keen to formalise these somewhat and make sure I can promote them as widely as possible.

Committees I sit on, with links to more details on the County website:

- [County Council](#)
 - [County Council Local Committee for Eden](#)
 - [Cumbria Health Scrutiny Committee](#) (Chair)
 - [Local Enterprise Partnership \(LEP\) Scrutiny Board](#)
 - [Scrutiny Advisory Board - Adults](#)
 - [Scrutiny Advisory Board - Children and Young People](#) (substitute)
 - [Scrutiny Management Board](#)
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