

Computer data helps target support to those at risk of a fall

New technology is being used in Norfolk to help prevent people from having falls, prevent hospital admissions and reduce demand on social care and the NHS.

Norfolk County Council is piloting the approach using a computer algorithm that helps to identify those at risk of falling. The council then writes to those people and offers them a range of support, such as assistive technology, help with their mobility or home fire safety checks.

So far, the council has sent out 700 letters and made 530 calls to people at risk, making referrals for 234 individual interventions.

The new technology brings the power to read and analyse millions of lines of social care records to find trends and patterns which it would take many months for any person to do manually. It learns as it goes and through this process it predicts which individuals are at most risk of a fall so the council can approach them and hopefully prevent this happening.

South Norfolk and Broadland Council will be supporting the scheme from early October, with their records also be used to help strengthen the data. The council has ensured that it is fully compliant with General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR) in implementing the pilot.

October 2023 cabinet budget release

Services to the people of Norfolk will be protected as much as possible, despite the county council's £46.2 million savings target.

That is the message from Norfolk County Council, as the cabinet prepares to discuss savings proposals amid "substantial uncertainty over funding".

A report to cabinet says that the council faces a "significant challenge" to develop a budget for 2024/2025, ahead of further announcements on funding from the Government, later this year.

Pressures facing the council include:

- Price inflation of £12.5 million, including £7 million in adult social care and £3.2 million in children's services
- Demographic pressures, including £5.5 million in adult social care and £9.5 million in children's services

So far, £26.5 million of savings have been proposed and the remainder will be developed over the next few months:

- Adult social services, £14.2 million
- Children's services, £4.8 million
- Community and environmental services, £5.5 million
- Strategy and transformation, £0.9 million
- Finance, £1.0 million

Public consultation on the budget will be undertaken over the autumn.

The current proposals include a Council Tax increase of 4.99 per cent, including the adult social care

precept of two per cent.

The council is waiting to hear whether more funding will be provided in the autumn statement in November, or the provisional local government funding settlement in December.

The council's scrutiny committee and select committees will comment on the budget proposals, before cabinet finalises the proposals in early 2024 and the full council makes a final decision on the budget in February.

Cabinet will consider the report when it meets at 10am on Monday, 2nd October.

Electrical items now for sale at Wells Reuse Shop

Wells-Next-The-Sea Reuse Shop, based at the recycling centre, has been successfully selling preloved items, such as bikes, furniture and household goods, since 2019. To date, 65 tonnes of items have been sold for reuse instead of being thrown away, with a proportion of the money raised from the sales donated to local charities, most recently the Big C Cancer Charity.

A new addition to the shop in 2023 is selling used electrical items. These must be in good condition and all are EET (Electrical Equipment Testing, formally known as PAT testing) and function tested before being sold.

Customers can now buy electrical items such as TV's, vacuum cleaners, and lamps at the reuse shop at affordable prices with TV's starting from as little as £15. As electrical items are reused instead of being transported away from the site, broken up and processed, this saves on CO2 emissions too.

For more information about Norfolk Reuse Shops please visit [Reuse Shops - Norfolk County Council](#)

CLLR Michael Dalby

Michael.dalby.cllr@norfolk.gov.uk

07306886552