

30 March 2016

CABINET SECRETARY (RESILIENT COMMUNITIES) – COUNCILLOR GRAHAM CAIN

The Resilient Communities area covers my portfolio and those of:

- Councillor Eddie Collett (School Improvement and Children’s Safeguarding),
- Councillor Amy Cross (Reducing Health Inequalities and Adult Safeguarding), and
- Councillor Maria Kirkland (Third Sector Engagement and Development).

The full details of the portfolio areas can be found on the Council’s website at <https://www.blackpool.gov.uk/Your-Council/Your-councillors/Executive-members.aspx>

Corporate Issues

Budget Equality Assessments

A wide range of services have been involved in assessing the impact of budget proposals on equality issues. The work includes analysis of relevant data and research together with appropriate levels of consultation, for all key equality characteristics. This work has informed the decision-making in the budget process and also includes measuring the impact on our workforce.

Continuous Improvement Board

The Continuous Improvement Board is now in place covering all of Children’s Services. It is independently chaired and is attended by all key partners. The Board will focus on Ofsted improvement and better outcomes via a series of detailed plans.

Strategic Issues

Review of Care at Home and Residential Care Fee Rates 2016/ 2017 (Adult Services)

A review of the fee rates paid to care at home and residential care providers has taken place against a background of:

- The introduction of the National Living Wage in April 2016, which will see the hourly rate for workers aged 25 years and over increase to £7.20.,
- The ongoing requirement to enrol employees aged 22 or over and earning over £10,000 in a pension scheme.
- Employment case law and changes to the requirements for the payment of sleep-in shifts.

Alongside the financial issues, the Council must be mindful of its legal requirements under the Care Act 2014. These requirements in relation to market shaping and commissioning include:

- A duty not to undertake any actions, which may threaten the sustainability of the market as a whole, for example, by setting fee levels below an amount, which is not sustainable for providers in the long-term.
- Allowing for providers to meet statutory obligations to pay at least the national minimum wage and provide effective training and development of staff.

Consultation with providers to quantify the impact of the introduction of the national living wage, the pension enrolment requirement and the implications of employment case law with regard to sleep-in rates has been undertaken over several months. Using information directly from providers and costing models, which have been developed locally and nationally, fee rates for 2016/ 2017 have been proposed and will be effective from 1 April 2016.

When considering residential fee rates, the opportunity has been taken to achieve a number of long-standing objectives:

- To simplify the current fee framework by reducing the number of fee rates and move towards a more consolidated fee structure by no longer applying the Quality Banding Scheme.
- Fee rates for adults aged 18-64 with a Learning Disability, a Physical Disability or a Mental Health issue will be aligned and merged with the rate for older adults' standard residential care.
- A more consistent basis for funding the additional care needs of people with complex and challenging conditions has been developed.

Policy Issues

Transforming Care – Children and Young Peoples Emotional Health & Well being

Implementation of the Transformational Plan for Lancashire and the Locality Plan for Blackpool is underway. Blackpool has submitted the Transformational Plan and established a Transforming Care Steering Group to provide additional strategic leverage around implementation and ensure joint working across the Lancashire footprint as appropriate. The Steering Group will report their progress to the Strategic Commissioning Group, Children and Young Peoples Partnership and the Clinical Commissioning Group Governing Body and act as the interface with regional governance bodies including the Children and Young Peoples Emotional Wellbeing Operational Board for Lancashire and the Collaborative Commissioning Board.

Transforming Services

HeadStart Programme

The Council submitted its bid on the 26 February for the Big Lottery HeadStart Programme. HeadStart is a Big Lottery Fund five year strategic investment that aims to increase the mental wellbeing of young people aged 10-16, achieving the overall outcome of decreasing those who go on to develop mental health conditions. Blackpool is one of 12 areas involved in the investment that offers both universal and targeted interventions and considers the young person life at home, in school, in the local community and in the digital environment.

The purpose of HeadStart Blackpool is:

- To embed a resilience approach across the young people's workforce.
- To embed co-productive practice across the council, working with young people to develop appropriate and effective initiatives.
- To gather and analyse evidence on the programme, using this intelligence to re-allocate resources from crisis services to prevention services where appropriate.
- To develop resilience-promoting work environments for the young people's workforce.

The detailed HeadStart programme has been developed in conjunction with young people, with the governance of the programme including both an Adult and Young People's Executive Board that feeds into the Children and Young People's Partnership (CYPP).

Healthy Weight

The following provides an update on the strategic approach in place to promote healthy weight within the town.

Obesity is a serious Public Health problem for the town and contributes significantly to poor health. Not only does obesity result in an increase in chronic disease leading to distress and sickness, there are significant impacts for the broader economy of Blackpool through disability, unemployment and burden on the social care system. In Blackpool it is estimated that there are approximately 83,500 Blackpool residents aged 16 and over who are overweight or obese. This is 72% of the Blackpool population compared to the North West 66% and England 63.8%.

The picture for the children in Blackpool is a particular concern. The data from the National Child Measurement Programme for 2014/ 2015 shows that 26% of our Reception children (approximately 2,600) have excess weight (overweight or obese) compared to 23% for the North West and 22% nationally. The children are also weighed in Year 6 and for the same year, 38% have excess weight compared to 34% for the North West and 33% nationally. Rates of overweight and obesity are increasing faster than the national average, which appears to be starting to level off. High levels of sugar consumption, particularly in the form of sugary drinks, are increasingly being recognised as a key driver of obesity levels, but are also making a significant contribution to poor levels of dental health in our children.

Healthy Weight Strategy Refresh

The Healthy Weight Strategy was recently refreshed. The refreshed strategy reflects the growing consensus that preventing childhood obesity is key to achieving healthy lives in adulthood and ultimately to reversing obesity prevalence. To achieve this we need to change our approach as a society to food, drinks and physical activity and prioritise the creation of 'healthy-preference learning' opportunities for children. Also highlighted is that a relatively quick way to reduce inequalities is through enabling disadvantaged communities to express healthy food preferences by ensuring access to healthy food, skills and social support.

Local Authority Declaration on Healthy Weight

A key component of the refreshed strategy is the Local Authority Declaration on Healthy Weight and the Council recently became the first local authority in the country to sign up to this declaration. An action plan for the strategy has been developed and this incorporates the commitments within the declaration.

'Give Up Loving Pop' (GULP) campaign

This campaign, aimed at encouraging teenagers to swap sugary pop for healthier drinks, ran in November 2015. An evaluation of the campaign is currently underway, but initial feedback has been very positive. Subject to the evaluation findings, the plan is to run this campaign again during 2016/ 2017.

Pilot of Child Obesity Prioritisation Toolkit

Members of the Public Health team are working with Public Health England to pilot a Child Obesity Prioritisation Toolkit. This toolkit comprises three stages:

1. Leadership and priorities
2. Stocktake
3. Prioritisation

To date the pilot of Stage one and two have been completed. This has involved structured discussions by senior officers including the Director of Public Health and Director of Children's Services and a workshop for members of the Healthy Weight Steering Group. A follow up workshop looking at Stage three of the toolkit is arranged for early March.

Next steps

The Healthy Weight Steering Group to oversee the delivery of the action plan arising from the Healthy Weight Strategy and Local Authority Declaration on Healthy Weight.

A national Childhood Obesity Strategy is expected to be released and any implications for local authorities will need to be considered.

Update on Mile Fluoridation Scheme

The proposal to introduce fluoridated milk as part of the Free School Breakfast Initiative was approved by the Executive at its meeting on 18 January and the Council on 20 January 2016. The following was agreed:

- To agree to the proposal to introduce a fluoridated milk scheme as part of the Council's Free School Breakfast Initiative.
- To note the details of the implementation plan would be agreed by the Director of Public Health after consultation with the relevant Cabinet Member and the implementation group.

A project plan is now being drawn up and a Steering Group will be convened to scope out the implementation of the scheme and oversee its application. Members of the Group, including representatives from the Council's Public Health, catering from the Council's Community and Environmental Services Department and Public Health England, are attending a national workshop on milk fluoride scheme. This will inform the processes and systems required for running a successful scheme, considering the arrangements for overseeing and monitoring the scheme, and developing effective communications to support the scheme. We are currently working towards a potential roll out for autumn term 2016. Work has already commenced to develop the communications plan and materials (such as information for parents, information to schools, newsletters, develop the web page, Question and Answers and responses for external enquiries).

Safeguarding and the Deprivation of Liberty Safeguards

The Safeguarding Boards for both Adults and Children's Services are continuing the journey towards closer working and shared resources. Examples are the formation of a joint Business Management group to support more efficient and effective use of information across Blackpool with regard to individuals who may be at risk of harm, a joint sub group for training to support staff development across Boards' partner agencies and closer working between the Business Development Managers and support staff.

Adult Social Care

As part of our work with Health on the Vanguard and New Models of Care, provisional staffing proposals in relation to social care elements of neighbourhood teams have been drafted. There is an expectation that the neighbourhoods in Primary Care (six in total for Blackpool) will be developed with targeted direction from the Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG), and staff have now been seconded from the CCG into posts to develop these. The Local Authority will be part of the planning in respect of this and consider what, if any, system changes we will need to make these become established service delivery areas/ teams. The ultimate aim is to deliver health care closer to home, encourage self-care where appropriate and ensure social care contributes to keeping people safe and well, and as independent as they can be.

Care and Support

As part of the work in response to Transforming Care (Winterbourne View), the Council's In House Extra Support Scheme (Learning Disability Supported Living) is working through some key development work. This is in advance of a full service review that delivers some of the aspirations of 'Transforming Care' and requirements of the 'Positive Behavioral Support Competency Framework', the key areas of development include:

- Funding has been secured from Skills for Care to support the training and development of staff working within the service area to ensure that the practice of Positive Behavioral Support is embedded.
- Partnership working with Blackpool and Fylde College to deliver the bespoke training over the next nine months.
- Service Manager representation at Pan-Lancashire project groups that are driving the Transforming Care agenda.
- Blackpool identified as a 'project area' for the work being done in relation to developing the workforce.
- Service Manager representation at a National Level contributing the 'Accreditation' consideration for future Positive Behavioral Support Training.
- Development of E Learning Modules relating to 'Challenging Behavior' and 'Positive Behavioral Support' that will be available to Council employees and the wide Provider Market

Working with Partners

LGBT history month

February was LGBT history month and the overall aims of this annual campaign are to:

- Increase the visibility of lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender ("LGBT") people, their history, lives and their experiences.
- Raise awareness on matters affecting the LGBT community.
- Work to make institutions safe spaces for all LGBT communities.
- Promote the welfare of LGBT people.

In Blackpool this year, we have worked with our key partners in the LGBT strategic partnership. This has included a number of local events including a social media photo campaign, special screening of award winning film "PRIDE" depicting the turbulent events in Welsh mining communities during the 1984 strike and a day of Trans Awareness, featuring Christine Burns MBE, patron of LGBT history month.

Bereavement Services

An open evening with representatives of local Funeral Directors and Clergy was held on 27 January, which was well attended. Issues discussed included improvement at Layton Cemetery,

alterations to the Chapel at Carleton, extension of the cemetery at Carleton and the holding of cremation services at different times of the day including Saturdays.

Adult Community and Family Learning

The Family Learning Service has been developing and delivering provision in a range of partnership projects. The service worked with the Grand Theatre and nine schools on a Family Learning project, which included photography and theatre performance. Accredited Functional English and Mathematics for parents has been delivered in four Children's Centre's. Two secondary schools are piloting accredited Mathematics courses for parents for the first time. The aim of the courses is for parents to be able to assist their children with the mathematics curriculum. Family Learning is also being delivered in two new settings (Thames Primary Academy and Stanley Kittens).

There are two emerging exciting partnership projects. Firstly, Family Learning and Better Start are working together on literacy projects and secondly, Family Learning has been working in partnership with the Early Years Team to develop and deliver REAL (Raising Early Achievement in Literacy) training for practitioners and parents to support children's literacy development.

Access and Inclusion

Research on the Educational Progress of Children Looked After (CLA) in England, linking care and educational Data has recently been published by the Rees Centre, University of Oxford and University of Bristol. It includes data comparisons for four groups: CLA Long Term (split into early entry (pre KS2) and late entry (post KS2)), CLA short term, Children in Need (CIN) and a comparison group (not CLA or CIN). It concludes that comparisons between CLA and CIN are more useful than comparing CLA with their non-looked after peers.

The research identifies protective factors such as early entry to care, good attendance at a mainstream school, supportive foster carers, birth parents and teachers.

The factors, which have the biggest impact on poorer performance are placement and school instability (especially changing school in Year 10 or Year 11), high unauthorised school absences and fixed term exclusions. The individual characteristics which affect performance include Free School Meals, Special Educational Needs (especially Autism Spectrum Disorder, Moderate Learning Difficulties, Severe and Multiple Learning Difficulties or those with a disability), being male.

The research identified that the attainment gap widens over time from KS2 to KS4. The planned priorities and developments in response to the local context are being overseen by the Blackpool Challenge Board.

School Improvement Processes

The School Improvement Team is carrying out spring visits to Maintained Schools. The focus within the meetings is to review gaps between Pupil Premium children and other pupils in

school. School Improvement Partners will also be asking for judgements within Early Years regarding any gaps.

14 -19 Strategy

The Sixth Our Future, Our Choice event took place at Blackpool Pleasure Beach at the end of January this year. All of Blackpool's secondary schools, Further Education colleges, training providers and employers, support this collaborative event, steered and managed by the Blackpool Guidance Community Network and Blackpool Council. It is widely recognised as a template for good practice in relation to national aims and priorities. The two-day event attracts around 1,500 young people and in excess of 120 school staff from local secondary schools, including special schools and Pupil Referral Units. This year also saw ten of Blackpool's Primary schools attending the event.

Connexions are currently in the first full year delivering the Virtual Early Leaver service. This service is designed to quickly identify early leavers from Colleges and training Providers and then provide immediate support to them. To date 308 young people have come through the service with 197 moving into a positive destination within six weeks.

Connexions and Virtual schools are working together to provide all 16-24 Looked After Children who are in education specialised Careers Guidance, financial advice and early intervention of those at risk of disengaging. This project has also allowed us to know what the current destinations of our Looked After Children are including the qualifications they are undertaking and progress against them.

Youth Offending Team Partnership

Membership continues to evolve and improve to meet governance requirements of HM Inspectorate. Links have been strengthened with the Safeguarding Board and the BeSafe Partnership.

Community Safety Public Protection Reports for young people who commit a serious offence or attempt suicide or self-harm while under Youth Offending Team supervision showing a pattern of young people who have been victims of Child Sexual Exploitation have prompted a Multi-Agency Audit that is currently in progress.

Following the imposition of an in-year grant cut by Youth Justice Board a further reduction to the national grant is anticipated, but will not be known until late March. National negotiations between the Youth Justice Board and the National Offender Management Service regarding their contribution of staff and financial resources are proposed, which will bring reductions in both. Indications from the Youth Justice Board suggest a further, significant cut to the Effective Practice Grant in 2016/ 2017.

A 'table-top' review report on the service in relation to inspection criteria was presented to the Chief Executive and Director of People in January, with improvement actions identified in line with current best practice, including the participation of young people in the development of

the service. The service is one of a number within the scope of the current review of services to vulnerable adolescents.

Youth Employment

The Connexions Youthability Hub is due to complete its second year of activity. Connexions Youthability Hub is a one stop shop for young people aged 16 - 24 to get a range of support that helps them into employment. This support includes specialist careers advice, NHS counsellor support (from Connect) and direct input from employers alongside other Council/ Third Sector support services. Over the last twelve months employers such as Blackpool Transport, Sainsbury's, Tesco, and Burger King have supported Youthability. Since April last year 855 young people have accessed Youthability during its weekly three hour slot with 71 young people gaining employment and a further 247 in apprenticeships and Traineeships.

Admissions

The following data refers to Blackpool Residents gaining their first preferred Blackpool Secondary School or one of their preferred Blackpool Schools.

Percentage Offered First Preference	Percentage Offered First, Second or Third Preference
2016 – 75.0%	2016 – 91.1%
2015 – 79.4%	2015 – 92.0%

The national Offer Date for confirming Primary allocations is 16 April 2016.