

## CABINET SECRETARY (RESILIENT COMMUNITIES) – COUNCILLOR GRAHAM CAIN

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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

#### Children’s Social Care

The Service has continued to see a significant rise in demand for social care services and as a Local Authority we still have the highest rate of looked after children per 10,000 population in the country (currently at 493). The rise in numbers is not being seen across the whole North West region, but local partner agencies are reporting similar pressures especially since December 2015. In order to understand this picture further the Blackpool Safeguarding Children’s Board will support their newly appointed analyst to undertake a whole town review of rising demand to develop a better understanding of the issues which underlie this. In addition the Deputy Director (People) is leading an audit of children received into the looked after system and of those subject to child in need plans. This is in addition to other audits which have been carried out to consider the consistency of thresholds. Additional Social Worker posts are currently being recruited to. The Leadership Team is also reviewing a number of services to support a more robust offer for those in need of early help, adolescents in crisis and on the edge of being in care. This offer will be a combination of the revision of existing council services and bids for new monies/ resources, for example through the Social Work Innovation Fund.

### Strategic Issues

#### Early Help

Blackpool has been successful in a bid to the Department for Work and Pensions for a Local Family Offer equating to funding of £41,500. The overarching objective of the funding is to improve and maintain the quality of the couple/ co-parenting relationship locally (whether they are together or apart) in order to sustain a safe, stable and nurturing family environment for their children.

As part of our Local Family Offer, Blackpool intends to ensure that couple/ co-parental relationships become a key part of the current assessment process and the delivery of interventions. The intention is to equip practitioners to have meaningful conversations about relationships in order to establish where families need most support.

The chosen approach will be to undertake an enquiry driven piece of work for six months including the development of a clear pathway of support available around the couple/ co-parenting relationship and materials/ tools to upskill the workforce. The scoping of the current relationship support offer will feed into the creation of the pathway and dovetail with emerging practice such as the delivery of Parents as Partners and the Step Up pilot.

### **Healthier Lancashire**

Progress is being made under the banner of the Lancashire and South Cumbria Change Programme. The Case for Change work, which includes an intensive six-week analytical piece, is now in full swing. This important and sensitive work is a vital stepping-stone on our change journey and as with everything we do, requires real collaboration and co-design across the whole Lancashire and South Cumbria health and social care system.

For each of the eight priority areas (Acute and Specialised, Urgent and Emergency Care, Prevention, Primary Care, Mental Health, Regulated Care Sector, CAMHS and LD) the approach to the Case for Change will be bespoke, as each area is at a different stage and the analytical work needs to provide the most helpful and appropriate support.

However, for all of the areas the outcome of the Case for Change work will also include:

- A detailed understanding of how the challenges against the 'triple aims' (health and wellbeing, care and quality, and finance and efficiency) are expected to evolve over the next five years
- A clear view of what interventions will have the greatest impact to improve health and wellbeing and will help close the quality and financial gaps.

As the Lancashire and South Cumbria (LSC) Change Programme completes its final strategic planning phase activities, we are looking ahead to the next stage.

Each Workstream Mandate provides an overview of the:

- Objectives
- Background
- Approach
- Benefits
- Required resources
- Leadership team
- Links and dependencies

The mandates are currently being finalised and will be shared fully with the system. Currently it is helping to frame the drafting of the Sustainability and Transformation Plan through the STP workshops.

### **Refreshed Market Position Statement.**

Contracts and commissioning are developing an updated Market Position Statement that will encompass regulated services predominantly Domiciliary and Residential care across Adult Social Care (excluding Learning Disabilities as this falls within the transforming care programme). The Market Position statement will provide a detailed picture on the current position in Blackpool in terms of demographics and challenges as well as projecting future requirements. It will be used to engage with providers across the market in order to shape future provision and to encourage innovation in terms of options to deliver services differently, within the climate of reducing budgets and increased responsibilities resulting from recent legislative developments such as the Care Act. Timescales are to have a draft discussion document to share at a provider day and through other networks and forums by the end of Quarter 2.

### **0-19 Healthy Child Programme Services review – 31 May 2016**

#### 0-19 Healthy Child Programme Services review

The statutory responsibility for delivering and commissioning public health services in line with the recommendations of the Healthy Child Programme (HCP) for children and young people aged five to 19 years transferred to local authorities in April 2013. The responsibility for children's public health commissioning for 0 to five year olds, specifically health visiting, transferred from NHS England to local authorities on 1 October 2015.

Key services that deliver specific elements of the Healthy Child Programme are Health Visiting and Family Nurse Partnership for 0 to five year olds and Public Health School Nursing services for five to 19 year olds. Other services include oral health provision, National Childhood measurement and breast-feeding peer support services. Together these services focus on promoting the health and wellbeing of the 0-19 population. The provisions of the Healthy Child programme will include the core public health offer for children:

- providing child health surveillance and development reviews
- promoting child health protection, immunisation and screening
- providing information, advice and support for children, young people and families
- providing early intervention and targeted support for families with additional needs
- providing health promotion and prevention by the multi-disciplinary team
- contributing support in early years and education settings for children with additional and complex health needs
- providing additional or targeted public health nursing support as identified by public health intelligence or Joint Strategic Needs Assessments

### Purpose of 0-19 Review

The primary aim of the 0-19 services review in Blackpool is to ensure that we secure the biggest improvement in the health and wellbeing of our children through commissioning best value, evidence based services for children and young families in Blackpool within available resources. Through opportunities afforded by A Better Start and the Council, having overall responsibility for commissioning these key services presents a unique opportunity to analyse how services can be improved upon, possibly integrated, or delivered creatively to best meet the needs of children and young people in Blackpool. A review to understand how we can deliver services differently to meet the needs of children, young people and their families will inform the development of a new model of service delivery and will inform commissioning options and recommendations for the future. Engagement and consultation with key stakeholders and families is ongoing throughout the summer and early autumn to identify what families need from these services.

Key dates to note are:

- Market Testing and Procurement Event - 0-19 Healthy Child Programme Public Health Nursing service - Wednesday 15 June 2016, 13:30 - Cabinet Room D, Henry Bolingbroke room, County Hall, Preston
- Health Visitor and School Nurse Stakeholder event Thursday 23 June (Venue to be notified).

### **Policy Issues**

#### **Implementation of the additional 15 hours Childcare Free entitlement**

The Early Years team is working on the preparations for the delivery of the +15 Hours Childcare Free Entitlement policy (commonly referred to as 30 hours), which will provide an additional 15 hours of free childcare for the working parents of three and four year olds and is due to be implemented from September 2017.

A consultation is underway to assess the impact that this will have on families and how and where they are likely to take up the additional hours and the impact on demand for places and the future plans of the childcare settings who will deliver the funded hours in Blackpool.

The Early Years team is working with the Systems team and the Department for Education (DfES) ECS (Eligibility Checking System) Change Team to develop further the Council's in-house free entitlement database to administer the +15 hours funding to providers and to link the system directly with the Electronic Checking Service to perform eligibility checks for the +15 hours entitlement.

## **Transforming Services**

### **14 – 19**

Summer Ventures, Blackpool Council's Connexions Service summer programme for NEET and school leavers at risk of becoming NEET, is recruiting for its third year of delivery. In May 2016, 70 young people have signed up for this year, well ahead of this time last year.

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. At the end of April 2016, 396 young people have come through the service with 268 moving into a positive destination within six weeks.

Connexions and the Virtual School continue to work together to provide all 16 to 24 Children Looked After who are in education, specialised Careers Guidance, financial advice and early intervention for those at risk of disengaging. This project has also allowed us to know what the current destinations of our Children Looked After are including the qualifications they are undertaking and progress against them. Currently seven of Our Children are planning to start degree level qualifications in the new academic year and one is planning to commence postgraduate studies.

### **Youth Employment**

As at the end of April 2016, the proportion of 16 to 18 year olds who were NEET (Not in Education, Employment or Training) was 6.9% compared with 6.8% in April 2015 and the proportion "Not Known" to the service was 4.1% in April 2016 compared with 4.3% in January 2015. Skills For Care, the Care Industry Skills body, contracted with Blackpool Council's Connexions service to deliver pre apprenticeship programmes for 16 to 24 year olds.

Blackpool Council's Connexions service has continued delivery of its pre traineeship programme, "Advance", for long term NEET 19 to 24 year olds with the support of the Adult, Community and Family learning team. Since January 2016, 20 young people have taken part with seven moving into employment or training.

The Connexions Youthability Hub has completed its second year of activity. Connexions Youthability Hub is a one-stop shop for young people aged 16 to 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 three months, employers such as Blackpool Transport, Premier Inn, Arnold Clark and McDonalds have supported Youthability. During Feb-April 2016, 260 young people have accessed Youthability during its weekly three-hour slot with 39 young people gaining employment.

Arnold Clark Automobiles Limited interviewed six young people for Apprentice mechanic vacancies and two were successful in obtaining apprenticeships. Pyramid Training took on five

apprentices in childcare. McDonalds Restaurant interviewed young people for Cook positions, eight were offered jobs. Groundwork and the Fire Service Princes Trust Advisors have attended and signed up 15 to 20 young people for the forthcoming 12-week programmes.

### **Adult Safeguarding and the Deprivation of Liberty Safeguards**

This area of work continues to grow and work is underway with key partners to ensure that we are able to respond within our statutory requirements.

### **Adult Social Care**

Vanguard monies for 2016/ 2017 has now been allocated to the Fylde Coast, but at a significantly reduced rate to the bid, leading to reconsideration of the planned programme of work to fit within the available financial envelope.

### **Sexual Health - Sector Led Improvement: Chlamydia**

Sector-led improvement (SLI) is an approach to improvement where local authorities help each other to improve continuously. SLI is based on the underlying principle that local authorities are responsible for their own performance, are accountable locally and that there is a collective responsibility for the performance of the sector as a whole.

Blackpool Public Health has come together with colleagues in Lancashire, Blackburn, Cumbria and Public Health England as part of a strategic partnership group, to focus on Chlamydia and the local delivery of the National Chlamydia Screening Programme (NCSP). The process itself involved examining the data for each area and clinical provider. Each Local Authority having areas where they excelled or needing further improvement, for example engagement of boys and young men, partner notification and length of time from testing to treatment.

Although Blackpool has historically and continues to perform well in relation to the NCSP, the exercise has revealed that there are still areas for improvement. There is now an action plan in place, involving work with our young people's sexual health provider, local laboratories and other stakeholders to increase the number of tests undertaken for boys and young men, reduce the length of time from testing to treatment and improve data quality. The sector led improvement process is being evaluated and the findings will be submitted for publication, to inform the wider public health community.

## **Working with Partners**

### **Third Sector**

Work is underway to develop a market position statement for the Third Sector operating in Blackpool.

This is in response to feedback from the Sector, which requires a clear direction from the public sector and an agreed understanding as to what is needed in a world of austerity and increasing integration. It is expected that this work will bring together key stakeholders and a position

statement ready for sharing by the Autumn, showing where we are now, the strategic direction and challenges ahead, and the potential role for the Third Sector in future developments.

### **Adult Community and Family Learning**

JobCentre Plus gave feedback that the European Computer Driving License (ECDL) Level 2 qualification (computer course) was in demand by employers for those learners who had completed basic ICT courses and wanted to progress to a higher level course. The first courses started in January and have been run on a roll on roll off basis with learners being able to work at home as well as attend sessions on a Monday night at Palatine Library enabling learners to work at their own pace in a flexible way. Learners pay on a half-termly basis to make the cost more manageable and the first learners have now completed the qualification.

Well-being courses are going exceptionally well and are currently oversubscribed and the mental health lead is scheduling in additional courses to cover the demand. Topics such as stress management, anxiety, confidence building and Mindfulness have been very popular. The work with partners has proved very fruitful with work continuing with Lancashire Women's Centre, the Bridge Project at the Salvation Army and Public Health.

Family Learning continues to work in schools and children's centres, with a range of courses including Safeguarding for Families, Family First Aid, Family Maths, Family English and Family Arts and Crafts. Functional Maths and English are ongoing in four children's centres and two Secondary Academies working with parents to improve their own skills and support them to help their children. A total of 40 parents are due to sit Functional Skills exams in July.

Working with Better Start, the Family Learning service delivered a project based around Julia Donaldson's book, Stick Man in children's centres, libraries and Stanley Park. Families enjoyed hunting for stick man, making their own stick families and other activities such as stick weaving and making family flags. In half term, Family Learning worked with five children's centres to deliver workshops based on Under the Sea to support National Bookstart Week.

Eight parents completed REAL Training (Raising Early Achievement in Literacy) to enable them to support their children's literacy development and several are already working as volunteers to support other families with the project.

### **Children's Centres**

Annual Conversation meetings have taken place with all Local Authority and Academy/ School based Children's Centres. The focus of the meeting was to review each Centre's progress against the Blackpool Children's Centre Outcomes Framework and to set targets for 2016/ 2017.

The Blackpool Children's Centre Outcomes Framework was introduced in 2015 and finding from 2015/ 2016 demonstrated that progress had been made against over 92% of the outcomes set. The Children's Centre outcomes for 2016/ 2017 focus on specific target groups such as Children on statutory plans, Children who live in low income households and Children living with

Domestic Abuse. Currently 6,780 (81.4%) children under five years old are registered with a Blackpool Children's Centre.

### **Safeguarding Guidance for Early Years Settings**

New guidance for settings has been developed recently. This has been approved by the Blackpool Safeguarding Children's Board and is being disseminated in June. This will help settings to ensure they implement effective safeguarding and record keeping processes.

### **The Harbour**

A particular piece of focused work is being undertaken with Lancashire Care Foundation Trust via the Systems Resilience Group, regarding issues of concern at The Harbour, adopting a partnership approach to understanding and resolving problems.

### **Healthworks**

This is a new initiative aimed at service alignment of a series of employment and health services, co-located within Blackpool town centre. The idea arose from partners' desire to realign existing services with new project opportunities to create a more efficient and user friendly hub. This initiative aligns closely with both priorities of Blackpool Council's new plan 2015/ 2020:

#### **Priority One - The economy: Maximising growth and opportunity across Blackpool**

The Council has a track record of delivering successful employment and enterprise programmes that have helped thousands of local residents to access employment, transforming their socio-economic life chances and creating new job opportunities from successful start-up and growth businesses. A core objective is to assist those most distant from the labour market, often with complex health related conditions, to get a foothold on the local jobs market to directly benefit from new investment. The Chancellor's Spending Review and Autumn Statement 2015 announced significant future funding for the introduction of a new Work and Health Programme (to replace the current Work Programme and Work Choice). This will provide specialist support for people with health conditions or disabilities and longer term unemployed back into the workplace.

#### **Priority Two – Communities: Creating Stronger Communities and Increasing Resilience**

In the past, we have had the resources to support people with health issues by providing services. Due to funding cuts and austerity measures, we now have to help people understand the changes they need to make to their lifestyle and/ or behaviours in order to be healthier, both mentally and physically, so they are less reliant on our help and more in control e.g. resilient. A number of other related Public Health contracts have been reviewed in parallel with the Wellness Service and a degree of duplication was identified. This proposal aims to reduce replication, join up services and pathways that promote health and wellbeing and address social isolation, lack of physical activity and unhealthy weight. HealthWorks will also facilitate self-referrals and/ or signpost to online interactive self-help tools, which promote health and wellbeing, including a selection of the best apps, health diaries and online CBT programmes etc. There will also be online resources for frontline workers for use with clients, such as easy



recipes for people in receipt of discretionary food parcels, safe cycling maps, easy walking routes etc.

By joining up services in a meaningful way through such opportunities as co-commissioning, local residents will have access to a combination of services that hitherto have remained disconnected and difficult to access. Healthworks aims to improve the customer journey to improve employment and health outcomes simultaneously.

### **Meeting with representatives of Funeral Directors and Clergy**

A second partnership meeting has taken place regarding the development of Carleton and Layton cemeteries and the crematorium. It was a positive meeting and further meetings are being scheduled on a quarterly basis. The grounds of both Carleton and Layton look well maintained and Saturday bookings in the crematorium are starting to increase as this is being promoted more. There is provision identified to extend Carleton cemetery in the coming years as demand dictates and it was agreed to have representatives from the group closely involved in that design.