

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

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The Resilient Communities area covers my portfolio and those of:

- 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

#### Strategic Issues

##### Adult Social Care

We are continuing to work with our health partners on the Vanguard New Models of Care schemes in a collaborative capacity. The six Blackpool Neighborhood Teams, delivering the Enhanced Primary Care model are presently being configured and at this stage, we are evaluating our existing pathways to Adult Social Care services to ensure they continue to be fit for purpose.

We are continuing to manage the influx of new assessment work into our generic teams, and have plans in place to improve our reviewing of cases across all teams, which should start to impact in October 2016.

#### Policy Issues

##### Accommodation for Children in Care

The local authority duty to provide accommodation for children in care was strengthened in 2011 with the introduction of Sufficiency Statutory Guidance and the Care Planning, Placement and Case Review Regulations.

This duty of sufficiency requires Blackpool Council to:

- Ensure a range of placements sufficient to meet the needs of children and young people in the care of the local authority
- Arrange to promote co-operation with relevant partners to improve the well-being of children in the local area.

A new strategy has been prepared and can be viewed at the following link:

<https://www.blackpool.gov.uk/Your-Council/The-Council/Documents/Children-Looked-After-and-Care-Leavers-Sufficiency-Statement-2016-2018.pdf>

This statement document sets out how Blackpool Council intends to meet the Sufficiency Duty. It also emphasises the Council's commitment to children and young people who are in the care of the local authority or on the edge of care to ensure that, their life chances and outcomes are improved. The statement takes into account population trends and projections, placement data and market factors for Blackpool Council to fulfil responsibilities and duties as a Corporate Parent for children and young people.

### **Children's Social Care**

A number of significant Children's Services policy documents have been published over the summer period. The main documents, a brief synopsis and hyperlinks are listed below:

Putting children first: our vision for children's social care

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/putting-children-first-our-vision-for-childrens-social-care>.

This paper sets out the government's reform programme for children's social care in England over the next five years. It builds on a previous policy paper: 'children's social care reform: a vision for change'. It has three key pillars which it argues should be the foundation for children's social care:

1. People and Leadership
2. Practice and systems
3. Governance and accountability

The paper focuses on ensuring that the right calibre of people can be recruited into the sector and then they can be developed to be the practice leaders of the future. It also calls for innovative practice with professionals being supported to work in effective partnerships and new delivery models. Blackpool has submitted three bids to the Innovation Fund for the development of the adolescent hub, specialist foster care and intensive support therapeutic beds.

Children's residential care in England

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/childrens-residential-care-in-england>

A report has recently been published which is Sir Martin Narey's independent review of children's residential care in England; it can be read at the above link. The report in summary:

1. Looks at the role of residential care within the wider care system and
2. Recommends how to improve the outcomes of children in residential care.

The lack of specialist residential provision is a significant issue across the Region and one, which has been highlighted to Members in the Resilient Committee Scrutiny Committee. This report makes a series of significant recommendations including:

- Local Authorities develop joint commissioning arrangements to attempt to manage better the provider market. Blackpool is a long-standing member of the regional framework, Placements Northwest.
- The development of hub approaches to supporting young people. Blackpool is developing an Adolescent Hub.
- Housing need for young people should be a key part of the local plan. Blackpool has positive transitions in place and this work is a key part of the development of the Adolescent Hub.
- The report recognises the lack of secure placements available nationally. This is something Blackpool has already highlighted with Government and Ofsted and we have submitted an innovation bid to the Department for Education to develop a pan Lancashire approach to meeting the needs of very complex young people who may otherwise need secure placements.

#### “Keep on Caring” – Supporting young people from care to independence

This document is the latest vision for care leavers. It has a number of new elements within it:

1. Setting out in law for the first time what it means to be a good corporate parent – Blackpool has already held a corporate parenting conference and has a robust member-led corporate parent panel.
2. Extending entitlements up to the age of 25 – the adolescent hub is designed to offer support up to 25 years old.
3. Improve education training and employment for care leavers – this is a key development area for the hub and Headstart will support Our Children to be emotionally ready and resilient for work.
4. Improve stability – the development of staying close, which enables young people to remain in residential care for longer if they wish. This is a challenge, as it will have cost and resource implications for Blackpool and needs to be considered as part of the wider commissioning strategy.
5. Improved access to mental health support. Recognising the challenges of access to Children and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS) and the need to look at better provision in this area. Blackpool has a number of very positive developments, the successful Headstart bid to work with Our Children on building resilience, a pan-Lancashire transformational plan that includes increasing access to psychological therapies and the pan-Lancashire innovation bid to develop intensive support via therapeutic residential provision. A report on the work HeadStart will undertake will be given at a future date. In addition, we have been successful in securing £100,000 for therapeutic work for young people with sexual abuse histories.

6. Young people should be financially secure. Through the Corporate Parenting Panel, we are looking at a range of options to support Our Children, including apprenticeships, work experience offers, take-over days, interview practice and mentoring.

## **Transforming Services**

### **Personal, Social, Health and Economic (PSHE) Education Pilot**

Through the Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (JSNA) and the process of developing the Health and Wellbeing Board action plans for alcohol and sexual health, Public Health identified a need for a consistent approach to the delivery of PSHE across all Secondary Schools in Blackpool, to address the local Public Health priorities of:

- Sexual Health including sexual exploitation
- Drugs and Alcohol
- Self-Harm and emotional wellbeing

The evidence base on effective PSHE was reviewed by Lancaster University and Ofsted and included information from consultation with young people and the PSHE Association, which collectively prescribed the way forward using a multi-component whole school approach. As PSHE is not mandated within the school curriculum, to support schools in the delivery of a consistent approach, participating schools were offered an incentive.

All Blackpool secondary schools agreed to deliver Sex and Relationships Education (SRE) and Drugs and Alcohol education within their school to all Year 7 and 9 pupils from September 2015 to July 2016. In addition to this, Unity and South Shore Academy also delivered to Year 8 pupils. Montgomery and South Shore Academy also delivered an optional Emotional Health and Wellbeing scheme of work to their Year 8 pupils. School nurses and the hub and Wellbeing in Sexual Health (WISH) teams co-delivered some lessons.

Approximately 1,333 Year 7, 350 Year 8 and 1,251 Year 9 pupils took part in the lessons. All schools received one-year membership to the PSHE Association. School PSHE Leads attended the PSHE Forum and received three Continuing Professional Development training days.

Schools have been asked to again take part in the Schools Health Education Unit, Young Persons Health Survey in 2017 to measure and evaluate the impact of the project. In order to evaluate the project at a local level, some schools were asked to let their staff and pupils take part in focus groups, where pupil and staff comments were overwhelmingly positive.

Pupils said that they enjoyed learning about healthy relationships, keeping safe on the internet, drugs and peer pressure. They gained a lot of knowledge, now felt able to resist peer pressure and learned about the effects of drugs and alcohol. Some students felt that the lessons were not long enough.

Staff feedback was that the pilot has significantly helped to focus and refresh existing PSHE provision. Students have enjoyed the discussion-led approach and have shown improved knowledge and understanding. The long-term impact will be tested when the Schools Health Survey is repeated in 2017.

Ofsted have included positive comments in their reports for St George's, Montgomery, South Shore Academy and Unity in respect of the PSHE content within their curriculum. Janet Palmer Her Majesty's Inspector (HMI) (National Lead for PSHE Education) has said that 'Ofsted has found there to be a close correlation between the good overall effectiveness of a school and the strength and effectiveness of its PSHE programme'.

### **Care Quality Commission Ratings of Blackpool Care Services**

The Care Quality Commission (CQC) is the independent regulator of health and social care in England. It is the CQC's responsibility to make sure health and social care services provide people with safe, effective, compassionate, high-quality care and encourage care services to improve.

The CQC monitors, inspects and regulates services to make sure they meet fundamental standards of quality and safety and publishes the findings, including performance ratings to help people choose care.

In 2014, the CQC changed the way that they inspect and rate social care services. Services can now be rated at Outstanding, Good, Requires Improvement, or Inadequate.

Blackpool Council contracts with 71 providers of Residential Care and 64 of these have been inspected under the CQC's new regime.

Blackpool Council contracts with 17 Care at Home providers and 14 of these have been inspected under the CQC's new regime.

The following tables show how the percentage of each rating compares with national figures for Residential Care and Care at Home respectively.

National figures are correct as of 2 August 2016 and local figures are correct as at 15 August 2016.

RESIDENTIAL CARE	Blackpool	National Total
	%	%
Outstanding	4.69%	0.60%
Good	81.25%	56.37%
Requires Improvement	14.06%	22.41%
Inadequate	0.00%	20.62%
	100.00%	100.00%

Blackpool has a higher proportion of Residential Care Homes rated Outstanding and Good than the national average.

Blackpool has a lower proportion of Residential Care Homes rated Requires Improvement and Inadequate than the national average.

CARE AT HOME	Blackpool	National Total
	%	%
Outstanding	0.00%	1.07%
Good	85.71%	77.10%
Requires Improvement	14.29%	20.27%
Inadequate	0.00%	1.56%
	100.00%	100.00%

Blackpool has a higher proportion of Care at Home agencies rated Good than the national average.

Blackpool has a lower proportion of Care at Home agencies rated Requires Improvement and Inadequate than the national average.

These results reflect the continuing work of Blackpool Council and Blackpool Clinical Commissioning Group's joint policy for managing poor contractor performance. The policy is based on a developmental approach that reflects mutual dependence and partnership, and that supports improvements in the first instance. Under the policy, Blackpool Council and Blackpool Clinical Commissioning Group always try to address poor performance at an early stage by providing appropriate support to improve.

## Working with Partners

### Self-Care

Initial scoping work has begun on behalf of the Vanguard New Models of Care partnership to develop a self-care strategy for the Fylde Coast. The aim of such a strategy is to provide more of a focus on prevention and put individuals, carers and families at the heart of self-care and self-management.

The Department of Health has defined self-care as:

*“The actions individuals and carers take for themselves, their children, their families and others to stay fit and maintain good physical and mental health; meet social and psychological needs; prevent illness or accidents; care for minor ailments and long term conditions; and maintain health and wellbeing after an acute illness or discharge from hospital.”*

There is an increasing body of evidence from research and practice that person and community centred approaches to health and well-being – the drive for services to do more to empower individuals and communities - will improve:

- Mental and physical well-being;
- NHS and Social Care sustainability, and
- Wider social outcomes.

Having the knowledge, skills and confidence to self-care and self-manage ill health conditions is key and can have a positive impact on health and social care outcomes, personal experience and appropriate use of services. A Self Care Strategy will help to achieve this by:

- Demonstrating the active role that individuals and communities can play
- Identifying and modelling the impact of key evidence-based approaches and developing tools to support implementation
- Supporting culture change, by developing a range of cutting edge behaviour change approaches to impact on the relationships between professionals and people
- Aligning the system by identifying relevant system change levers and drivers
- Providing an approach to effect change locally, which has been developed and refined across a number of healthcare economies.

In the UK at least 60% of adults have a long-term condition (a condition that cannot be cured, but can be managed through medication and/ or therapy) a figure which is likely to increase given the ageing population and the rising numbers of people with risk factors such as obesity. Individuals with long-term conditions require substantial support and resources from health services with 80% of GP consultations and 67% of acute hospital admissions related to long-term conditions. However around 80% of care for people with long-term conditions is undertaken by the patients themselves or by their carers (Department of Health, 2004 *Chronic disease management: A compendium of Information*).

For those living with long-term conditions, self-care includes eating well, exercising, taking medicine, keeping in good mental health, watching for changes, coping if symptoms worsen and knowing when to seek help from health and social care professionals. Interventions can range across a continuum from passive information provision by providers (e.g. leaflets, electronic information) and providing technical skills (e.g. home measurement of blood pressure or blood glucose) at one end, to interventions that aim to improve self-efficacy and support behaviour change.

A stakeholder engagement event is planned for November 2016 during Self Care Week, to launch this work.

## **14-19**

Summer Ventures, Blackpool Council's Connexions service summer programme for NEET and school leavers at risk of becoming NEET, has completed its third year of delivery and 70 young people have completed the programme with 68 of them having a concrete progression plan for the next academic year.

Connexions have completed their 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 June 2016, 435 young people have come through the service with 303 moving into a positive destination within six weeks.

Connexions and Virtual Schools continue to work together to provide all 16-24 Looked After Children who are in education with 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 in Care 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. The project has also helped to reduce the number of 'Our Children' that are NEET. Currently 45 of Our Children are Not in Education, Employment or Training (NEET) compared to 53 at this time last year.

Connexions is working with Blackpool Sandcastle as part of the Corporate Pledges made last year at the Corporate Parenting conference to support 'Our Children' into employment. Currently four of 'Our Children' now have paid employment with the Sandcastle.

## **Youth Employment**

As at the end of June 2016, Blackpool had seen an increase in participation of education, employment of training against June 2015 for 16/ 17 year olds, June 2016 – 84.9%; June 2015 – 83.4%. There has also been a reduction in those that are Not Known June 2016 – 5.3%; June 2015 – 7.3%. This data is from the Department of Education.

Blackpool Council's Connexions service has continued delivery of its pre-traineeship programme, Advance, for long term NEET 19-24 year olds with the support of the Adult, Community and Family learning team. Over the academic year 2015/ 2016, 65 young people have taken part with 37 moving onto employment or training.

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

The Family Learning team has worked with 234 families on projects to support directly adults and children to improve their English, Maths and Language skills. Of these, 38 adults achieved qualifications in Maths and/ or English. Accredited courses in Physical Care of Babies and Children and Awareness of Safeguarding have also been delivered with 28 learners achieving qualifications. Courses were delivered in 30 venues in Blackpool, including children's centres, schools and libraries. The Family Learning service continues to work closely with schools and children's centre staff as well as with partners in Better Start, where we have delivered Sharing



REAL (Raising Early Achievement in Literacy) with Parents and contributed to family literacy events, with colleagues in libraries, supporting Summer Reading Challenge and National Bookstart Week and with the Arts Service to support Save our Stories and Wordpool.

A new course was piloted over the summer called "Learn the Tablet, Keep the Tablet" which involved providing new tablet computers and including the cost in the tablet course. The learner received the tablet on session one, learnt to use the device throughout the three weeks, taking it home in-between and keeps the tablet at the end of the course. It is designed for the digitally illiterate and the computer phobic who would struggle to transfer their newly learnt skills to another device when they get home. The first class was full with one elderly learner asking if the tablet was second hand and commented that he could not believe the opportunity. If successful, the course will be rolled out in September and will hopefully encourage those remaining residents who are too afraid to reach out to technology. The course is funded through Skills Funding Agency.

Adult Learning are moving forward into Year 2 of the Mental Health Pilot now being overseen by Department of Education. There were 190 unique learners who accessed these courses from its inception in March 2015 to 31 July 2016. These courses are aimed at those who have mild to moderate mental health issues, but those who have more severe and enduring issues are also participating in courses with excellent evidence of impact (70% of learners had an improvement in their mental health by the end of their course). Many of those who attended reported that they felt considerably better about themselves with some progressing to mainstream courses such as English and Mathematics and others doing some volunteering. The second year of funding will allow Adult Learning to work with this client group offering a variety of courses.