

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

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The Resilient Communities area covers my portfolio and those of:

- Councillor Kathryn Benson (Schools and Learning)
- Councillor Amy Cross (Adult Services and Health), and
- Councillor Maria Kirkland (Third Sector Engagement and Leisure Services).

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

#### Head Start – Information and Analysis.

Interest has been high in the recruitment of key posts to support the performance monitoring and management of the Head Start programme in Blackpool. We have now made positive appointments made for evaluation, research, performance management and analytics with a wealth of experience from varied backgrounds. Proving a positive, in depth monitoring of the implementation of the schemes and ensuring that there is evidence to support the positive impact of investment will be key to ensuring the work is sustainable and effective. We have also agreed an innovative collaborative research approach with Brighton and Newcastle Universities.

### Strategic Issues

#### Special Educational Needs and Disability (SEND)

The new SEND vision and overall next steps (0-25) was recently agreed by the various Health bodies and the Health and Wellbeing Board.

Blackpool Council and the local Health Trusts have completed a self-evaluation framework (SEF). The SEF is in preparation for a potential inspection by Care Quality Commission (CQC) and OFSTED. This will be into the local area in terms of how it assesses and provides for 0-25 year olds with SEN and/ or a disability and their outcomes. The SEF incorporates data, parent/ young people views and the inspection framework. It is being further refined and then will be discussed with parents again. It is envisaged that the current service plans across health and the Council will be combined as far as possible to reflect the local area.

Further work to prepare for inspection includes the re-formatting of the current strategic groups, working across agencies to ensure services/ providers are all prepared and learning from the initial inspections since they commenced in May 2016.

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

The service is experiencing significant demand pressures with the highest level of looked after children and children on a child protection plan in place (507 and 419 respectively). Immediate measures have been put in place to manage and service this demand. This includes harnessing additional social work resources from across children's services, agreeing a sub-regional agency hourly rate and creating a wellbeing support package for staff. Also in development is a more detailed demand management strategy, which includes a revised approach to early help and our partners role in this, more robust edge of care support through the re-modelling of one of the children's homes, the development of a PAUSE project to prevent multiple removals from the same family and the creation of better services for our most vulnerable adolescents through co-locating in a hub. The service has also undertaken regional and national benchmarking in relation to placement provision and costs and has had an internal audit review in this area to test further.

### **Release of the Public Health Annual Report 2015**

The Director of Public Health (DPH) has recently published the Public Health Annual Report 2015. The DPH has a statutory duty to write an annual report on the health of the local population and the Local Authority has a duty to publish the report (section 73B (5) and (6) of the 2006 Act, inserted by section 31 of the 2012 Act). The purpose of the Public Health Annual Report is to present the DPH's independent assessment of local health needs, determinants and concerns.

This year's report looks at a selection of work from the past year with examples of particularly notable projects from each of the three domains of public health practice, protecting the public's health, promoting health and wellbeing and healthcare public health. On the subject of health protection, the report describes the introduction of a tattoo hygiene rating scheme to improve infection control practices in tattoo and piercing premises, the Love my Beach campaign, which is successfully improving the quality of local bathing waters and the modernisation of local sexual health services. Within the health promotion section the report looks at developments in the areas of reducing smoking and promoting healthier weight. The final section discusses the opportunities for improving public health offered by the NHS-led Fylde Coast New Models of Care programme and the NHS Health Check Programme, which is commissioned by the Local Authority. The report presents a number of recommendations aimed at improving the uptake of vaccinations, particularly the seasonal influenza and preschool booster for MMR, encouraging partners to follow the Local Authority's lead in supporting and promoting healthier weight, taking innovative action to reduce smoking in pregnancy and maximising opportunities for prevention through the NHS New Models of Care.

The report is published electronically to the Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (JSNA) website [www.blackpooljsna.org.uk](http://www.blackpooljsna.org.uk) and circulated to key leaders and partners across the town.

## **Policy Issues**

### **Department for Education**

The Department for Education has recently announced 10 'new opportunity' areas. Blackpool has been named as one of the said areas and shall be able to draw down national funding to improve outcomes across the life span of a child. Further details are awaited at this stage although early indications suggest that this will be led by a Partnership Board taking a structured project management approach.

## **Transforming Services**

### **Adult Care and Support Services**

#### Transforming Care (Learning Disabilities/ Autism) – Workforce Development:

The Department of Health in collaboration with Skills for Health, Skills for Care and Health Education England have developed a "Learning Disabilities Core Skills Education and Training Framework". This framework comprehensively outlines what a whole variety of different employees, across both health and social care, need to learn about, to enable people with a learning disability to successfully reach their full potential and live meaningful lives. It covers nineteen different topic areas that are of key importance to people with a learning disability. It gives the desired learning outcomes for each topic and links to key references and documents that will be valuable to those planning training and curriculum content. Importantly it recognises and encourages transferability of knowledge and skills between sectors encouraging integration between health and social care.

In Blackpool, the Learning Disability Provider Forum partners supported by the Council's 'Care and Support Service Manager' and 'Learning Disability Portfolio Commissioning Manager' will be contributing to a Learning Needs Analysis (LNA). Working with Health Education England, the Forum, will help provider organisations supporting learning disabled people in Blackpool to understand the existing knowledge and skills within their workforce, where and if there are any skill gaps and better understand the opportunities to respond to those areas to ensure the skills of this particular workforce broaden and improve. The data will be accessible to each individual provider and available to the Council, which will ensure more effective procurement of training going forwards as this will be targeted towards specific areas required by the workforce.

The information from Blackpool will also feed into the work being carried out by the 'Lancashire Transforming Care Partnership' and as funding becomes available from the Department of Health for training and development, the partnership will be in a stronger position to allocate specific funds to particular areas to support them to respond to the skill needs. In Blackpool, we are positioning to receive funding for training when it is available and therefore as a Council we will be supporting those providers who support learning disabled people to contribute to the learning needs analysis over the coming months and to lead the drive towards the upskilling of the learning disability workforce.

## **Schools, Standards and Effectiveness**

Following a restructure of the School Improvement Service there are a number of changes currently being implemented.

Blackpool will continue to act as an Appropriate Body for the registration of Newly Qualified Teachers (NQTs) within Blackpool schools, the NQT's and their Mentors were briefed on this process at the annual NQT Conference, which was held on 22 September.

Additionally, in line with the White Paper, schools are being encouraged to collaborate with the Local Authority as a partner within a School Led System. This model was introduced at an event at the Winter Gardens on 14 July and has now been developed further after the inaugural meeting of the Blackpool School Improvement Board. This inaugural meeting was used to address priorities for Blackpool Pupils and to enable the development of a collaborative system that would identify and share strengths, as well as challenging and supporting areas of weakness.

The Blackpool Challenge will continue to function and will address town wide issues that impact upon pupil outcomes and will support the Blackpool School Improvement Board. These have been developed into four 'Summits' and will form key conferences throughout the year. The Summits include Aspiration, Recruitment and Retention, Inclusion and Parental Engagement and Employment and Skills.

## **Working with Partners**

### **Cameras "The Living Room"**

Cameras "The Living Room" started life as a four-week pop up café in May 2016 and has continued to operate since the day it opened. The Living Room is located in the town's Central Library and deliberately situated opposite the main local job centre. It operates as a social enterprise café, providing a solution to most big social problems from daily strife all the way to homelessness, addiction and abuse by focusing on two things friends and purpose.

The Camerados Living Room is about providing a safe and approachable space for individuals who are not involved with services and not particularly associated with any particular client group. It is a space that is available for the public and has no stigma and no pressure attached. The Living Room will provide the first answer in diffusing the chaos in the lives of the vulnerable people. It will provide a non-judgmental atmosphere with comfort and companionship. Similar to The Samaritans, but in a Living Room format, the project does not present as an intervention, although it does ask people to help others in tough situations.

Although the Living Room is open to the public it has been designed for individuals who are lonely, socially isolated and/ or having a tough day who need a bit of company and comfort. The Living Room offers a unique environment, which feels more like a high street coffee shop than a community centre. It will be a place where services in the town can send or take people who are not involved in statutory services, but who are clearly in need of some

support in a non-clinical setting. It is also a place that will be accessible for people to use on a regular basis and a place that will provide a community facility for running group sessions such as knitting, art and other social type meetings. Visitors to the café will also benefit from regular friendship and social help on hand, reducing their likelihood to relapse, offend or recreate the behaviour that was costing the public purse.

Initially the project was run by volunteers, but since then the Council has commissioned a twelve-month extension to the Living Room to support the project to become self-sustainable through its sale of hot drinks and meals. Funding was allocated from a grant from the Police and Crime Commissioner to the value of £57,800. The additional funding will be used to develop and test the model and to have the café operating at different times of the day/night. The funding will enable Camerados to employ three trainee workers in the café where they will learn about food preparation, cooking and management skills to make them more employable. It is anticipated this facility will improve health and well-being of the community with outcomes around hospital admission, GP attendance, mental health referrals and healthy eating.

An example is Client B who had been a heavy alcohol user for the last 20 years. Immobile due to the effects of excessive drinking, she was chronically isolated and had been exploited by a number of abusive partners. Over the last few months, Client B has made her own way to the Living Room via public transport and has been engaging with members of the public, assisting in the co-ordination of arts activities within the Living Room. Client B now reports feeling less vulnerable and more confident being around others and has reduced her drinking away from her previously dangerous levels.

Client A had been chronically isolated and bored for a number of years, having no family or social connections. After becoming a prolific caller to emergency services, Client A was listed on the '999 frequent caller' list until Camerados invited Client A to come and help at the Living Room. Of his own accord, Client A transformed the outside area of the library and regularly receives praise and requests from a number of people attending the library. Client A no longer calls 999 and socialises every day, he regularly says that he does not know what he would do without the Living Room and that it has enhanced his life and sense of wellbeing.

These are just two examples of the dozens of people who have already been helped out by the Living Room, which helps to improve their mental health, teach them new skills and reduce the chance of them re-offending or relapsing to NHS or police services.

### **Autism Update**

The Council submitted its fourth self-assessment exercise (the Autism SAF) on the implementation of the 2010 Adult Autism Strategy (as amended by Think Autism in 2014) to the Department of Health on 17 October. The purpose of the self-assessment is to enable local strategy groups to review their progress and support future planning with partners including people with autism and their families. Whilst it is important that the focus of implementation of the autism strategy is at a local level, the Government has a duty to monitor progress

towards the implementation of the goals identified in the strategy. As in previous years, the information submitted will be collated and analysed by Public Health England to provide the Cross Government Autism Programme Board with a report of the findings, before the information is widely shared.

The Autism SAF includes sections on planning, training, diagnosis, housing and accommodation, employment and criminal justice. Completion allows localities to celebrate areas where progress has been made, such as training for staff, but also highlights areas where further action is required, for example refining our current diagnostic pathways. As a result, a small working group of officers from Blackpool Council, Blackpool CCG and Blackpool Teaching Hospitals has been established to develop and oversee the local action plan.

### **Carer of the year awards**

The Blackpool Care at Home Provider Forum held its Third Annual Carer of the Year awards on the 19 October 2016 at the Baronial Hall in the Winter Gardens. The Honorable Alderman, Mrs Sylvia Taylor, together with the Mayoress, Ms Joan Goldin, represented the Mayor at the event and presented awards to the Best Newcomer, Tom Boyle from Homecare For You, Best Office Worker, Emma Hay from Safehands, Most Improved Carer, Sophia Rea from Carewatch, Best Double Up, Julie Hatch and Winnie Mason from I Care and Long Service Award, Eric Woodcock from I Care. Yvonne Farnworth from Carewatch was awarded the Carer of the Year.

Approximately 100 people attended including representatives of The Villa Group, who sponsored the event, representatives from the Blackpool Carers Centre, the Head of Contracts and Commissioning Val Raynor, the Commissioner for Care at Home, Julie McGowan, the Lead Nurse from CCG, Alison Small, and providers and carers.

### **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.
- Blackpool Council contracts with 71 Residential Care providers. There are two providers who have yet to be inspected or who have been inspected and we are awaiting the CQC's inspection report.
- Blackpool Council contracts with 17 Care at Home providers. There are four providers who have yet to be inspected or who have been inspected and we are awaiting the CQC's inspection report.

- 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 4 October 2016 and local figures are correct as at 7 October 2016.

RESIDENTIAL CARE	Blackpool	National Total
Outstanding	4.44%	0.84%
Good	80.60%	70.98%
Requires Improvement	13.43%	25.88%
Inadequate	1.49%	2.30%
	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%	1.25%
Good	86.67%	78.07%
Requires Improvement	13.33%	19.26%
Inadequate	0.00%	1.43%
	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 success of Blackpool Council and Blackpool Clinical Commissioning Group's joint policy for managing poor contractor performance.

### **Special Educational Needs and Disability (SEND)**

Several North West local Authorities, led by Blackpool have been meeting to learn from each other in terms of Education, Health and Care Plans. These have been in operation since September 2104, replacing Statements of SEN. They cover the age range up to 25, are far more outcome focussed based on aspirations from a person centred perspective. The last meeting looked at Plans a year on and how the outcomes were measured by the initial annual review. Mutual learning occurred and the SEN Officers at the meeting all took away good ideas to feed into their own local systems. Blackpool represents four local authorities (Blackpool, Lancashire,

Cumbria and Blackburn with Darwen) at the NW SEND network, which feeds NW views on the SEND changes to the DFE and mutually supports the NW local authorities in terms of training and other developments.

## **14-19**

Summer Ventures, Blackpool Council's Connexions service summer programme for young people not in Education, Employment or Training (NEET) and school leavers at risk of becoming NEET, has completed its third year of delivery. A total of 70 young people have completed the programme with 68 progressing into Education or Training.

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 11 of 'Our Children' are undertaking degree level qualifications.

The "September Guarantee", which is the promise of an offer of learning to all 16 and 17 year olds, has seen a year on year increase in the number of offers made. In 2016, the number of offers made was 96.6%, up from 95.3% in 2015.

The Corporate Parent Pledges from businesses continues to have an impact with "Our Children" A number of Departments and external businesses are offering work experience placements and/ or a priority offer of employment to "Our Children". The Connexions Service, led by Theresa Knighton, works closely with the Over 12's team to support "Our Children" to take advantage of the pledges. For example, Blackpool Sandcastle employed four of "our Children" through this scheme.

## **Youth Employment**

Throughout the academic year 2015/ 2016, Blackpool has seen an increase in participation of education, employment of training against previous year. The Department of Education has released its annual "scorecard" <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/young-people-neet-comparative-data-scorecard>. In 2015/ 2016, participation in education or training for 16 and 17 year olds has increased from 86.7% to 87.9%. Blackpool Council Connexions service is also in the top quintile nationally for successfully re-engaging the NEET group.

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. The 2016/ 2017 academic year has started well with nine young people on the first programme.



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

In Family Learning, a range of workshops were offered over the summer in children's centres including craft sessions, science, rock pooling and beachcombing alongside workshops to support the Summer Reading Challenge in libraries. Overall, 147 families participated in the summer workshops. This term Family Learning courses are running in 15 schools and children's centres delivering a range of programmes including Family English, Family Maths, Safeguarding for Parents and Child Development. The new course this term is 'Amazing Animals', which is currently being delivered in seven schools with more scheduled. The programme has been designed as an introduction to Family Learning for families in Key Stage 1 and provides an introduction to progression in reading, writing and maths. Families are using the ROGO books in the sessions and learning is embedded using an animal theme with one session taking place at Blackpool Zoo where families take photos and discover facts for their family scrapbook.

Blackpool Council is now delivering Project Search in its entirety through the Adult Learning Service. The enthusiastic 10 interns are all now placed in their first work experience placement ranging from working with OWD to the Dungeons in Blackpool Tower. All the interns are raring to go and willing to work hard to achieve their aims of getting a job.

Over recent months, Adult Learning has looked at using Facebook to advertise some of its ICT courses. This is proving to be a success as last week a digital photography course was filled within four days of the advert going out. Further use of Facebook as part of the marketing strategy will be introduced over the coming months.

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

The service is currently working with partners to revise the way early help services are delivered. This includes a revision of the Getting it Right framework and new processes are being established which support better work in relation to universal services being able to support at an early stage. This work was coordinated by a Blackpool Safeguarding Children's Board summit on the 18 November.

Also established recently is a multi-agency sub group to look specifically at domestic abuse services and improve outcomes in this area. This group has developed a draft strategy, which is currently going through sign off processes and will be coming to Executive as soon as possible.