

## **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**

#### **Healthy Weight Strategy**

In January 2016, Blackpool Council signed a Local Authority Declaration on Healthy Weight and made a commitment to support employees and residents of Blackpool to tackle the issue of obesity by encouraging individuals to make healthy choices. Since the introduction of the declaration, the Council's Public Health Directorate has been working with the Health and Wellbeing Board to influence change within the Council in line with the declaration's priorities.

As the Chairman of the Health and Wellbeing Board, I invited partner organisations, the voluntary sector and the private sector to take part in a Healthy Weight Summit. The purpose of the session was to encourage organisations to support the development of their own declaration on Healthy Weight and encouraged to pledge to tackle the issue of obesity across the town. Events have been held in February and June 2017, with lots of positive contributions and commitments. A further event is planned in October. An update report will be taken to Scrutiny.

### **Strategic Issues**

#### **Children's Services Improvement Plan**

The end-to-end review undertaken by the Corporate Delivery Unit has been completed and Dartington Research Centre has commenced work regarding a Dynamic Systems Approach. The two pieces of work have been aligned and changes are being implemented as we work through the journey of the child to ensure we will offer the most effective and efficient service to improve outcomes for children, young people and their families.

The new Improvement Plan replaces the previous continuous improvement plan and is more focused and targeted. Mr Tony Crane who is employed by the Department for Education (DfE)

chairs the Improvement Board. The plan has been rolled out across children's social care, early help and partner agencies. A demand management plan has also been developed, which supports making the right decisions for children and young people at the right time and improving practice across the service. We are already seeing impact, with the average number of new looked after children in the last three months at 14 per month, compared to 30 per month in the previous six months.

We are also working closely with Ofsted and have agreed to be one of the pilot sites for the Self View approach to self-assessment. The review of the special educational needs service is complete, the structure is now in place and aims to streamline service delivery and prevent duplication.

### **Schools, Standards and Effectiveness**

GCSE results were announced in August. At this stage, it is difficult to make comparisons across schools and areas compared to last year as the grading schemes and exam structures used in 2017 were completely new. We are working with colleagues across the North West to analyse the data further and early indications show that there were significant improvements in results in a number of Blackpool schools, in particular Highfield and South Shore academies.

The Council continues to develop the school led system via the Blackpool School Improvement Board (BSIB). Five priority areas have now formed sub-groups and each has identified key actions. Each group has collaborated in submitting a bid towards the School Improvement Fund (SIF). These bids have been linked to the work of the Opportunity Area and the outcomes of the bids will be released in the new term. In order to progress positive communication from the BSIB, the Council is developing a communication strategy that will endorse the good work that is happening and ensure that all stakeholders, including parents, carers and the community are involved in this communication. In addition, a series of celebration events will take place across Blackpool, starting in the autumn term, further raising the profile of education.

This term the usual meetings that we hold with each sponsor will also be attended by the Regional Schools Commissioner, Vicky Beer.

The Opportunity Area work continues, following delays created by the election. The Draft Delivery Plan will be submitted to the Secretary of State for Education this month for approval.

### **Policy Issues**

#### **Homeless Reduction Act 2017**

The Act, to be implemented in 2018, places a new duty on local authorities to help prevent the homelessness of all families and single people, regardless of priority need, who are eligible for assistance and threatened with homelessness. Along with the welfare changes, there is potential for this to impact upon Children's Services and the request for more young people aged 16/ 17 years presenting as homeless.

## **Transforming Services**

### **Successful Funding Bid: Violence Against Women and Girls**

Through the Domestic Abuse and Interpersonal Violence Board, the Council has successfully secured a £400,000 bid from the Home Office, Violence Against Women and Girls, (VAWG), Service Transformation Fund. This is part of the government VAWG strategy to promote and deliver best local practice through a preventative model of early intervention over a three-year period.

### **Vulnerable Adolescence Hub**

As advised in my last report to the Council the Vulnerable Adolescence Hub (phase 1) has successfully been implemented. The service is called Blackpool Young People's Services and aims to deliver services to young people aged 10 to 25 years through a 'one door approach'. It will be allied closely to the Link (our adolescent respite and outreach unit) and other edge of care services to provide an alternative or prevent the need for young people becoming looked after. The Council has developed an exit from care plan that is proactively ensuring that children and young people exit care or current provision in a timely manner when it is safe to do so.

The Hub is currently working closely with colleagues in housing to devise and develop pathways to ensure we are Southwark compliant and will be in a position to manage the demand that the Council is likely to face with the changes to legislation regarding homelessness and welfare reforms.

### **Commissioning**

The Lancashire Children Young Peoples Emotional Wellbeing and Mental Health Transformation Programme has been underway since Autumn 2015, in line with the national improvement programme for children's emotional well-being and mental health. A pan-Lancashire, multi-stakeholder Transformation Plan was published in January 2016 and refreshed in January 2017. In 2017/ 2018, three specific challenges have become apparent:

- i. The introduction of the new national CAMHS Access Target: 35% of children with a diagnosable mental health condition will be treated by NHS funded community services 2020/ 2021.
- ii. The disinvestment of £1.1m from Tier 3 CAMHS services by Lancashire County Council, from August 2017, (this does not affect Blackpool).
- iii. Delivery of services on the new Sustainability and Transformation Plan (STP) footprint, to include South Cumbria, with all the on-going expectations of delivery against STP footprint targets, STP assurance requirements and on-going, consistent and sustainable improvements.

In order to address the challenges highlighted above and to ensure there is a consistent approach to commissioning emotional health and well-being services across Lancashire, the

Lancashire Children and Young People's Emotional Wellbeing and Mental Health (CYPEWMH) Transformation Programme is currently initiating a CAMHS Redesign Project, with a recommended approach to project scope and securing provider(s).

### **Health Service and Social Care Joint Working**

There are currently significant pressures on the health and social care sectors, in particular in A&E units and demand relating to the frail elderly. We are currently working together across the Fylde Coast to improve outcomes for residents, this includes having being designated a pilot Accountable Care System area, as part of the Sustainable Transformation Partnership. NHS England want to see much more joined up, better coordinated care breaking down the barriers between GPs and hospitals, physical and mental healthcare, social care and the NHS. In order to do this they are investing in nine areas to become 'accountable care systems' (ACSs) which will be the forefront of nationwide action to bringing together local NHS organisations, often in partnership with social care services and the voluntary sector. They build on the learning from and early results of NHS England's new care model 'vanguards', which are slowing emergency hospitalisations growth by up to two thirds compared with other less integrated parts of the country. In Blackpool, this closer working includes joint commissioning and integrating front line delivery, initially focussing on the Talbot and Brunswick area.

### **Improved Better Care Fund (iBCF)**

The Spring Budget 2017 announced additional grant allocations for local authorities to be used only for the purposes of meeting adult social care needs with the aim of reducing pressures on the NHS, including supporting more people to be discharged from hospital when they are ready and ensuring that the local social care provider market is supported. This allocation is referred to as the Improved Better Care Fund and has to be managed within the Better Care Fund Section 75 pooled budget (a joint health and social care budget with Blackpool CCG).

Providers of adult social care have described the pressures and difficulties faced by the care industry including:

- The inability to recruit and retain staff in a competitive labour market
- The increased costs of National Living Wage
- The increasing complexity of service users' needs and the pressure this places on staff and equipment budgets, as well as supervision and management oversight
- The difficulty in reducing costs any further, as options for the rationalisation of resources have been exhausted and management structures have been rigorously reviewed.

In order to support the local care provider market and in line with the Government's stated intentions "to support council's to continue to focus on core services, including to help cover the costs of the National Living Wage, which is expected to benefit up to 900,000 care workers" a brought forward increase in the 2017/ 2018 contract rates paid to care providers has been funded from the additional grant allocation, in addition to the following measures:

- Continuing services, where temporary funding was due to end that contributes to reducing delayed transfers of care, avoiding hospital admissions and reducing the need for ambulance calls. This includes the Vitaline telecare service, falls response service and the 'blue light' home care service.
- Changing some of the services offered by the Council's home care service to provide longer blocks of care (for example to support people with dementia at home) and a neighbourhood response/ rapid spring clean service to help get people out of hospital more quickly when there are problems with the home environment or very urgent care is needed.
- Social Worker in Accident and Emergency seven days a week.

## **Working with Partners**

### **Delivery of 'Amazing Animals' course with Primary schools**

The Family Learning team devised and delivered the "Amazing Animals" course - a five-week course for Key Stage 1 children. Thirteen courses were delivered in ten different venues (three schools ran two consecutive courses). A total of one hundred and nine adults and one hundred and nine children successfully completed the course, learning together through a variety of activities. Several months after the programme, parents were given a follow-up call to evaluate the impact of the courses. Results included:

- 97% said it helped improve their relationship with their child
- 71% said it helped improve their relationship with other families
- 68% said it improved their relationship with their child's school
- 13% said they have gone into further learning/training
- 13% said they have a new or better job
- 6% have started to volunteer

### **Adult Learning Inspection and Action Plan**

The Adult Learning service underwent an Ofsted Inspection at the end of June 2017, which resulted in the service being rated as "Requires Improvement". This is the first inspection since the new Common Inspection Framework was introduced in the Further Education and Skills sector, and there is evidence the framework is tougher than the previous framework used in 2013. A number of strengths were identified including, "managers and staff create inclusive and supportive learning environments", "managers' work effectively with a wide range of partners to provide learning for many adults who are at risk of social exclusion" and "tutors use effectively activities that interest and motivate learners". Areas noted for improvement included "tutors do not set sufficiently challenging targets", "managers' don't record and monitor data well enough on learners' progression". Work is already underway to address the improvements required. A first draft post-inspection Action Plan will be completed in September. The service is likely to be re-inspected within the next 18 months to two years.

**Delivery of “Keys to Your Home” to new tenants with Housing Options**

The “Keys to Your Home” course continues to be successfully delivered. The four-week programme aims to provide current and future tenants with the essential knowledge and skills to be able to find accommodation and maintain their home. Topics include managing your home and keeping your tenancy, managing your money, being a good neighbour, getting to know your community and your rights as a tenant. Eleven courses have been delivered to date with 108 learners completing the course. The potential for rolling the course out to Care Leavers to assist with their independent living skills is being explored.