

CABINET SECRETARY (RESILIENT COMMUNITIES) – COUNCILLOR GRAHAM CAIN

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

Fantastic Success for Stanley Park: Named the Nation's Best!

I am absolutely delighted that Stanley Park was named as best park in the UK at the Fields in Trust national awards ceremony, held at Lords Cricket Ground in London on 30 November 2017. I am sure all Members will agree with me that this is a tremendous accolade for the park and Blackpool. Stanley Park is one of the true jewels in Blackpool's crown with an unrivalled array of facilities, from the Italian, Rose and Remembrance Gardens to the bandstand and lake, to some of the region's finest and most important sports and leisure facilities. Stanley Park faced stiff competition from three other finalists Craigavon City Park in County Armagh, Roath Park in Cardiff and Rouken Glen Park in East Renfrewshire.

I would like to thank and congratulate, in particular, the Friends of Stanley Park and also our Parks Team who under immense pressure are doing a marvelous job. I should also mention that the Friends of Stanley Park won best 'Have a Field Day' category for its re-enactment of the opening of Stanley Park with special guest, Lord Derby.

School Improvement

I am pleased to announce that Ofsted inspectors continue to be positive about progress in Blackpool schools. In recent months, Layton Primary School acquired 'outstanding' status and Our Lady of the Assumption Primary, Moor Park Primary and St Teresa's Catholic Primary Schools all maintained a 'good' rating. In addition to our schools' Ofsted inspection achievements, I am particularly pleased with a developing level of expertise that supports town wide improvement. The recent Ofsted report relating to the Fylde Coast Teaching Alliance, which provides on the job training for university graduates looking to become secondary teachers, received an outstanding status for overall effectiveness. The 'Leaders and managers have a strong vision and a shared moral obligation to train the highest quality teachers for Blackpool', this is very encouraging and exactly what we need for the town and its young people.

St John Vianney RC Primary school has been awarded model school status for the read/ write programme and are now able to work with local schools to spread the expertise they have acquired. This is an example of excellent teaching and learning practice for phonics and early literacy, which can be shared town-wide via our School Improvement Board.

Health Visiting Service Enhancements for Young Children

I would like to draw Members' attention to an important piece of work to transform health-visiting services that is on track to achieve full roll out of in April 2018. The Health Visiting Service is determined to do what they can to ensure that every Blackpool child is happy, healthy and ready to learn when they transfer to school.

The Health Visiting Service is now rolling out a new model that consists of eight universal contacts to all families, six within the first year of life plus two additional health reviews, including a school readiness child health review. This new model is innovative in that it goes further than the nationally mandated requirement for local authorities to commission Health Visiting Services to deliver five health and development reviews. Our enhanced service will enable the identification of additional needs at an earlier stage and interventions provided for families to address current or anticipated issues that will affect positive outcomes for children. A particularly significant new visit for families and children will be an 'integrated child health review' at three/ three and a half years. This visit will ensure that children in Blackpool are better prepared for school entry. The introduction of this assessment in collaboration and undertaken concurrently with early years providers and parents in a nursery setting will ensure that children are better prepared for school in the three domains of Social and Emotional Development, Speech and Language and Physical Development.

This new service offer has attracted significant national interest from other Better Start sites, other Local Authority Commissioners and in particular, the Institute of Health Visiting, who acknowledge the Blackpool model as an exemplar of best practice in England.

Strategic Issues

Blackpool Opportunity Area, 2017/ 2020

Members will recall that in my last report I provided outline detail on the Opportunity Area Delivery Plan that was published in October 2017. Since then some important strands of early activity have started to be implemented and I would like to highlight two. Firstly, action to help improve attainment in secondary schools following the 2017 English GCSE results. The Opportunity Area Board wanted to intervene rapidly in English to secure an improvement in this academic year and in response, an English steering group together with an English review team has been established. The English review team was requested to identify two categories of support rapid interventions, which could have an impact on current Year Ten and even Year 11 students and longer term interventions (which could include Key Stage Three, transition and possibly even earlier). Work on the rapid intervention support is underway and schools participating have received an individual report highlighting strengths and areas for

improvement. Proposals for developing a longer-term English strategy, including a consideration for a Blackpool wide literacy programme, will be identified in due course. Secondly, action to better co-ordinate interventions was an emerging theme from a consultation with stakeholders in July 2017 and the need for a town wide assessment of the root causes of the social mobility issues in Blackpool. A rapid analytical review was commissioned in November 2017 to inform the integrated work of the Blackpool Opportunity Area. The review began with an analysis of the data and evidence on social mobility in Blackpool and of “what works” to inform delivery objectives and plan, it then moved on to an assessment of the data infrastructure and assets in Blackpool, making recommendations about improvements to enable improved targeting, monitoring and evaluation. The final review report, which will be available in draft form at the end of January, will be used to inform activity in Blackpool on the delivery plans for the Opportunity Area activity and support consultation on these issues with the communities involved.

Demand Management

Our demand management plan continues to evolve and I am pleased to report that the numbers of children and young people safely diverted from care continues to increase. The numbers of children in care has recently risen due to the impact of several large families requiring our support and immediate protection and a delay in discharge for others linked to demand impact. Actions are currently being undertaken to rectify this position as quickly as possible. Our newly developing approach to early multi-agency intervention in the emergence of concern or need will be the subject of regional peer challenge in the months ahead, testing out pathways, thresholds and outcomes for children and young people.

As Members will no doubt be aware, Christmas is typically a very busy time for Health and Social Care and this year was no different. We have used additional monies provided to us to invest in enhancing services in key areas that we and our health colleagues predicted would make a difference easing service pressures. It is to the credit of our staff, both in house and external providers that for the first time in memory there were no people waiting for packages of care as we went into the Christmas period. The in-house homecare, Vitaline and ARC rehabilitation services have been particularly instrumental in flexing what they do to squeeze the absolute optimum performance out of the system that supports people to return or remain at home in conjunction with the Adult Social Care teams.

I can confirm that we have begun the fees consultation with our residential and care at home providers, taking into account the impact of the National Living Wage increases, as well as other non-staffing inflationary pressures, quality requirements and delivery pressures within the sector. We are in open dialogue regarding the operational and business pressures facing this sector, which is essential to the delivery of care and support for vulnerable people in Blackpool.

Policy Issues

Fylde Coast Self-Care Strategy

NHS and Local Authority partners across the Fylde Coast have been working together over recent months to develop a Self-Care Strategy. The Strategy aims to put systems and processes in place so that patients and the wider community feel able to self-care, that they have the confidence and knowledge to make it happen and that they know when to ask for help and when to contact services for support. We want all sections of our community to have access to the information, advice, support, tools and resources that they may need to make healthy lifestyle choices. In order that they may maintain and improve their physical and mental health and wellbeing and feel able to manage their own (long-term) conditions and to prevent them escalating from something manageable into a crisis situation.

The Fylde Coast Self-Care Strategy 2017/ 2020 encourages the commitment to empowering people and communities to take greater responsibility for their own health. It is built on the guiding principle of building on the assets/ strengths (e.g. knowledge, skills and experiences) that already exist in the community and recognising that the community is at the heart of the New Models of Care transformation agenda. This Self-Care Strategy is currently out to consultation to encourage any final comments and considerations before launch. Any feedback on the content of the strategy should be emailed to emily.davis@blackpool.gov.uk by Friday 9 March 2018.

Transforming Services and Working with Partners

Supporting the Health and Social Care System to Reduce Delayed Discharges from Hospital

The Council's in-house Care at Home Service has developed a 'Home's Best' offer. The Home's Best service is a 'free at the point of need' provision for up to two weeks during which time the Council's Care at Home Service will liaise with Adult Social Care, Neighbourhood HUBS and other partners to identify the individual's ongoing care and support needs. If ongoing care is required past the two weeks, then this is expected to be commissioned in the normal way and provided by either an alternative care provider or through the Council's Care at Home Reablement Service and/ or Enhanced Homecare if people have particular needs i.e. dementia, challenging support needs and/or complex care arrangements.

'Home's Best' offers a preventative model and can enhance further the discharge pathway from acute settings (Hospitals) including Accident and Emergency. Key service features include:

- 'Free at the point of need' care for up to two weeks, seven days a week, to enable to person to 'get back on track' and for further assessments to determine ongoing needs;
- Support to those people who are motivated to getting back home as soon as possible with minimal delay after a Hospital admission;
- Enhanced Homecare offer to respond to complex care arrangements (Dementia);
- Longer blocks of care;

- Enhanced rapid spring clean service to enable safe discharge and/ or avoid ambulance conveyance to hospital due to environmental risks (ability to commission specialist hazardous clean as required); and
- Additional training for staff to equip them with the skills to meet the needs of the individuals and establish 'specialist provision'.

The Care at Home Team has been raising the profile of this model of service as an alternative to typical care provision since September 2017. So far, the team has successfully supported around 210 Blackpool residents, leading to a significant reduction in unnecessary hospital admissions.

Learning Disabilities Social Crisis Accommodation Development

During the past 18 months, there has been a reduction in private providers offering respite care and short-term placements for clients experiencing a social crisis. I am pleased to confirm that a new unit has been agreed for the ground floor of the Phoenix Centre, an existing facility that is well placed to cater appropriately for these service users. The unit will have its own access and will be separated from the rest of the Phoenix Centre building. The new unit will be created out of an office space that is currently occupied by Mental Health Staff from Blackpool Teaching Hospitals who are currently seeking alternative office space to enable this project to proceed immediately.