

CABINET SECRETARY (RESILIENT COMMUNITIES) – COUNCILLOR GRAHAM CAIN (TO BE PRESENTED BY COUNCILLOR AMY CROSS)

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

Visit by new Secretary of State for Education

As Members are aware, educational attainment and aspiration are key issues for Blackpool Council and its partners. I am therefore very pleased that Blackpool hosted the new Secretary of State for Education, the Rt. Hon Damian Hinds, on 13 February. The visit included Blackpool and the Fylde College where he saw the College's cutting-edge maritime and offshore facilities at Fleetwood Nautical Campus and Blackpool Build Up, which offers entry-level construction skills. The Secretary of State also visited Hawes Side Primary Academy for a tour of the half-term sports activities being sponsored by Blackpool FC Community Trust, he then met with members of Blackpool Youth Voice and a number of HeadStart apprentices to discuss their experiences of growing up in Blackpool.

The Secretary of State's final engagement was a visit to Highfield Leadership Academy to meet with (Mufti) Hamid Patel, the Chief Executive of Tauheedul Multi-Academy Trust and a group of Chief Executive Officers from Blackpool and Lancashire Multi-Academy Trusts. This meeting focused on hot topics such as social mobility, challenges in coastal areas, school improvement and the recruitment and retention of teachers.

Continued School Improvement and our new Pupil Referral Unit Work Experience Project

I am pleased to confirm that schools are continuing to improve in Blackpool. Baines Endowed Primary School and Children's Centre was inspected in January 2018 and moved from requires improvement to good. Marton Primary Academy and Nursery and Waterloo Primary Academy have also both been inspected but the result is not yet published.

At the start of this academic year, Leisure and Parks Services' joined forces to develop an innovative project with Educational Diversity's Pupil Referral Unit in Blackpool. The aim of the project is to provide students with opportunities to gain valuable employability skills and

experiences outside of the traditional classroom environment. The programme started with a cohort of six young people who had become disaffected with learning, but aspired to develop some vocational skills. Initially two students joined the Parks Service, two students worked within the leisure centre and two secured placements alongside the outdoor activities team. The project is being piloted on a small scale at this time to ensure the young people receive the very best help and support they require to gain real life experience alongside qualifications in these relevant areas. We hope to expand the project in the future based on the learning of this first phase.

Secondary Admission Offers for September 2018

The national statutory secondary school offer date was 1 March 2018. Offers were issued to all parents who applied for a Blackpool secondary place by the statutory date. In total 1,334 offers were issued as follows:

1,105	first preferences	(83%)
120	second preferences	(9%)
45	third preferences	(3%)
64	non-preferences	(5%)

Therefore, 1,270 (95%) who wanted a Blackpool secondary academy received an offer for one of their preferences. In addition, there were 238 offers for Blackpool residents who were allocated Lancashire schools/ academies. This represents around 15% of total secondary offers made (a reduction in cross border drift of around 6% from 2017). Overall 83% of Blackpool residents applied using the Council's on-line system.

HeadStart Update

HeadStart took the opportunity to spread the 'Resilience Revolution' message to over 250 Children's Services staff at the Children's Social Care Communications Event at the Winter Gardens on the 25 January. Presentations included an emotional plea from Claire Walsh and Hailey Aspinall encouraging everyone to consider finding out more about our 'Friends for Life' programme (for more information e-mail claire.walsh@blackpool.gov.uk). Our talented apprentices also showcased their inspiring work, which included a new 'Apprentice Handbook' and a translation of the Resilience Framework into Polish.

I am pleased that there has been a focus on engaging with parents and carers at different events across the town to promote their influence on the HeadStart Programme. For example, a group of parents are meeting monthly and are keen to spread the word and make more parents aware of why they should join the 'Parents of the Revolution' group. The Junior Park Rangers is a joint project between HeadStart and Better Start and will see 10-16 year olds given the opportunity to volunteer in parks and open spaces to learn and develop new skills, whilst making Blackpool's parks a safer, more accessible place. 'Dads 4 Life' is another joint group between HeadStart and Better Start, which involves Dads who are engaging with both programmes. The group has a long-term vision of engaging with more Dads and promoting the importance of delivering and partaking in activities with their children and young people.

Strategic Issues

Demand Management

I am pleased to report that the numbers of children and young people safely diverted from care continues to increase. As of 21 February 2018, there were 524 children and young people in care, which takes us below our 2016/ 2017 year-end figure. We continue to develop a plan to improve the timeliness of discharge for others. Demand for statutory services is safely reducing, as are the numbers of children subject to child protection plans. These are all encouraging signs that we are safely moving towards a position of providing the right services at the right time for children young people and their families. Our newly developing approach to early multi-agency intervention in the emergence of concern or need has been the subject of a regional peer challenge, and we have acted upon findings to improve service delivery further. I am well aware that there is still a huge amount to do in terms of demand management in Children's Services, but I am convinced we are now making demonstrable progress.

Opportunity Area Update

As I reported to Members last time, our Opportunity Area pilot is now starting to roll out a wide range of activity. In addition to what I reported in January, I can introduce members to the following actions and projects that have now commenced as part of this exciting programme:

- A project focussing on transition between primary and secondary phases and to foster collegiate working within families of schools has now been launched. The project involves all primary and secondary schools in Blackpool and is one of the largest undertakings of its type in the country.
- 'Blackpool Research School' at St Mary's Catholic Academy has been launched, the aim of which is to develop evidence-based professional interventions, empowering teachers to use accessible tools based on research evidence to improve outcomes for all pupils. You can follow the work of the Research School on @ResearchSchSMCA and see what up and coming events and activities are planned.
- We have co-funded the 'Our Future Our Choice' event, which is designed to help young people understand the link between success in school and future careers and the importance of developing key employability skills valued by employers and educational institutions alike. The event, attended by 1600 pupils, was a great success.
- Over 90 aspiring school leaders have applied to undertake a National Professional Qualification (NPQ), fully funded by the Teaching and Leadership Innovation Fund (TLIF).
- Enterprise Advisers are now working in all secondary schools, sixth forms and colleges to ensure that all young people are receiving high quality experiences of the world of work.
- Two major Strategic School Improvement Fund (SSIP) projects are underway. These are focused on maths transition and leadership and the Government and are amongst the largest funded projects in any SSIP bidding round. These projects were developed in collaboration and with the endorsement of Blackpool School Improvement Board.

Policy Issues

Stakeholder Workshop for Care at Home Specification

An important stakeholder workshop took place on Friday 23 February designed to help shape and influence the future of Care at Home contracts in Blackpool that are commissioned by either the Council or Blackpool CCG. It was attended by 35 provider representatives, the CCG, and key Council services -commissioners, providers and social work. The day proved a great success, with active participation by all who attended, including current providers of care at home services and others who had expressed an interest in our future tendering process, which is scheduled to commence later this year. The commissioning team is in the process of drawing together the outcomes from the day, together with learning from elsewhere and this will be used to inform the specification for sign off for the tender process. This workshop acts as an example of how the Council wants to work proactively with providers and other partners to deliver the best achievable services within our available resources.

Healthier Choices Award

The Healthier Choices Award is all about giving customers the option to eat healthier food. Food establishments located in Blackpool with a food hygiene rating of three or above are encouraged to make a few simple changes to the way they prepare and cook food. To achieve the award caterers commit to provide healthier food options, including keeping saturated fat and salt levels to a minimum, adding vegetables to as many dishes as possible and offering smaller portions. Any premises serving food can register their interest via the Council's website and all fast food outlets with a hygiene rating of three or above have been contacted with information about the award. To date 96 Awards have been presented across Blackpool to takeaways, cafes, sandwich shops, fish and chip shops, staff restaurants, Children's Centres, schools, private nurseries, a couple of Bed and Breakfasts and one residential care home.

Independent Safeguarding Review

As Members are aware, prior to Christmas I instructed an independent review of a well-reported Coroner's case by the Safeguarding Adults Board. We await the release of this independent review by the Chair of the Board. I wish to assure Members that I continue to hold this matter as a top priority, but we cannot proceed further until the outcome of the independent review is disclosed.

Transforming Services and Working with Partners

Vanguard Healthcare Programme: Empowering People and Communities

As I have previously reported, Public Health is working closely with the NHS across the Fylde Coast on the Vanguard programme of work. This aims to transform people's experiences of healthcare and improve the health and wellbeing of residents. It takes a three tiered approach, extensive provision of service for the high need patients, enhanced primary care for people with two or more long term conditions and episodic care for those that use services as a when

they need them. A key part of the ambition of the Vanguard programme is creating empowered people and communities, hence the creation of an Empowering People and Communities work stream, for which the Director of Public Health at Blackpool Council is the programme lead. The Empowering People and Communities work stream has three core elements of work:

- Empowering residents and stakeholders to work together to create solutions to issues and barriers to good health in Blackpool. This work has mainly been delivered through Community Orientated Primary Care Citizen's Inquiries.
- Increasing opportunities for people and communities to self-care and self-manage health and wellbeing and a Fylde Coast Self Care Strategy is now in final draft. The emphasis of this strategy is on healthy lifestyles and behaviors in terms of prevention and early intervention.
- Place-based approaches to creating better health and wellbeing, which is currently being taken forward by the Integration 20:20 events in Blackpool. These workshops bring together stakeholders on a Neighborhood basis to raise awareness of what exists in each neighbourhood, to connect people and organisations with each other and increase levels of partnership working with each other and residents.

@TheGrange

As Members are aware, the City Learning Centre on Grange Park is in the process of been rejuvenated as a Community Hub for Grange Park residents. Following local consultation the building has been renamed @TheGrange and now includes shops, a community shop, open plan learning/ library café. It will also provide hot desk accommodation for organisations that deliver services on Grange Park and to the wider neighbourhood and retain a number of modernised meeting rooms for local resident community groups, voluntary sector organisations, businesses and statutory agencies to use. @TheGrange will act as the centre of a new Community Farm and will provide the focal point for wider housing redevelopment on Grange Park.

The official opening is scheduled to take place on Saturday 14 April, with a day of events to get all the family involved. Groundwork will be coordinating activities and I am very pleased that a wide range of partners are actively involved, including Blackpool CCG, BTH, Better Start, Adult Education, Libraries, Blackpool Catering, His Provision, St Marks church, Christ the King and Boundary primary schools, Grange Children's Centre, Jobs Friends and Houses, BCH, Lancashire Constabulary, Boat House Youth and More Positive Together with Community Groups. A team effort!

3G Pitch Funding Success and Blackpool Community Sports Awards

I am delighted to inform Members that Parks and Leisure Services have recently secured funding from the Football Foundation to install a new, full sized 3G pitch on Stanley Park. The new pitch will replace one of the existing sand dressed all weather pitches and will see new lighting and fencing also installed as part of the project. This project is part of an ambitious town-wide vision developed and supported by local clubs and partners that aims to build three

3G pitches in Blackpool, providing much needed all year round training and match facilities that meets the needs and demand created by local clubs and residents.

I was privileged to attend the Blackpool Community Sports Awards sponsored by Storys' Contracting took place on Thursday 1 March in the Winter Gardens, celebrating sporting achievement across Blackpool over the previous 12 months. Over 150 people attended and winners young and old were announced for 11 awards including Community Club of the Year, Lifetime Achievement Award and Young Volunteer of the Year. It was an inspiring and motivational evening.