

CABINET SECRETARY (RESILIENT COMMUNITIES) – COUNCILLOR GRAHAM CAIN

The Resilient Communities area covers my portfolio and those of:

- Councillor Eddie Collett (Reducing Adult Inequalities and Adult Safeguarding),
- Councillor John Jones (School Improvement and Children’s 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>

Strategic Issues

Headstart

The Council continues to work with key partners on the Headstart third phase bid. Headstart is a Big Lottery initiative designed to build on the successful programmes already developed as part of a strategy to improve the resilience and emotional well-being of young people between the ages of ten to sixteen.

Public Health Grant Proposed Target Allocation Formulae

The Department of Health (DH) has launched a consultation on proposed new target allocation formulae for the Public Health Grant for 2016/ 2017 on 8 October 2015. The consultation closed on the 6 November 2015. The formulae aims to redistribute the Grant across England based on need. The formulae measures need by using mortality rates for the under 75s as a proxy, but with additional components for sexual health services and drug and alcohol services.

Historically the NHS invested heavily in public health interventions, as Blackpool is the most disadvantaged Local Authority in England with the worst life expectancy. This was reflected in the original Public Health Grant.

The overall impact of the proposed changes is that Blackpool would receive 0.28% of the national pot compared to the current figure of 0.30%. The key drivers of the reduction are the sexual health and children’s services (0-5) elements of the formula. Without these two elements, the allocation would be 0.34%.

The consultation suggests that the revised formulae would only slightly disadvantage Blackpool by 0.02%, which seems negligible, but in fact, it would mean the loss of approximately one third of the total public health grant received if implemented in 2016/ 2017. This is because the current DH formulae have not been implemented, but used to inform a slow pace of change,

with some Local Authorities receiving a larger increase in resources rather than a cut to some to fund an increase for others.

SIGOMA colleagues at Barnsley Council have calculated that the full implementation of the formulae (except for children's services (0- 5), which they have not calculated) would result in a reduction of £6.84 million on the current budget of £17.946 million, taking it to £11.106 million, for Blackpool. The Council has formally responded.

Adult Social Care

There has been a significant increase in the number of requests for assessment from both service users and carers since the Care Act was implemented in April 2015. The Service is presently analysing the information to better quantify the impact this is having on Providers and individuals.

Care Costs

Increases to the National Minimum Wage from October 2015, extension of auto-enrolment for pensions and the announcement of a National Living Wage of £9 by 2020 will see increased costs in providing services commissioned by the Council.

The Care Act stipulates that the Council must consider the rates it pays contracted Providers and have regard to their ability to meet these new obligations. The Council has been working closely with care Providers who have been supplying cost data to enable the Council to develop a detailed understanding of the pressure on direct care costs.

The data will allow the Council to model the changes to direct care costs and fees over time in order to project the implications for future Council budget setting at departmental and Council levels.

Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE)

The CSE sub group of the Safeguarding Board has recently updated the multi-agency action plan with most actions being rated as green. The service has also presented at Scrutiny Committee as a thematic and this will be followed up again in six months time. Additional resources have been moved into the Awaken Team to support improved capacity to undertake direct work with children. In addition and in preparation for a possible thematic Ofsted inspection, the Blackpool Safeguarding Children's Board will be undertaking a multi-agency case audit to identify strengths and areas of improvement.

Inspectorate Framework – Children's

The Children's Centre inspection framework is now on hold pending national revision. A number of centres were due to be inspected, but this will now not occur until 2016.

School Inspections

As of 1 September 2015, the Ofsted Inspection Framework has been replaced with the Common Inspection Framework (CIF). The new framework includes a common approach to inspection from Early Years through to Post 16.

There are new elements within this Framework that schools and providers will need to address including the Prevent Duty. The Council has organised training both centrally and for individual schools to address this area.

During this term, there have been no school inspections in Blackpool, this reflects national practice and is a result of Ofsted building capacity within their teams.

Blackpool School Improvement

This term, the School Improvement Partners have been trialling a new system of school categorisation. This replaces the annual review and enables School Improvement to work alongside both the Head Teacher and Chair of Governors in reaching a joint evaluation of a school's need and in the case of a maintained school, appropriate levels of support. This system will lead to ongoing focused visits from the School Improvement Partner to each school. A system of Quality Assurance has also been set up, which will require all visits from School Improvement to schools to be monitored and evaluated for focus and impact.

Challenge Board (Schools)

The Challenge Board continues to work closely with school leaders to align assessment needs across the town, curriculum design, continuing professional development and ensure that exclusions and Children missing from education are minimised.

The Board has been successful in securing money from the Regional Schools Commissioner to fund transition activity between primary and secondary clusters. This project is led by the tracking school and will focus on curriculum, assessment, marking, teaching, and learning strategies between primary and secondary schools.

The Challenge Board has also agreed to fund a pilot model between South Shore and feeder primary schools, which seeks to target and support children in Year 5 who are most at risk of permanent exclusion when they move to Secondary Schools. This project will be led by Education Diversity.

The Local Authority will be relaunching the Behaviour Advisory Teacher Partnership shortly, which will include all Secondary Schools. The partnership will meet half-termly and work remotely to ensure effective identification, assessment and provision for young people to minimise exclusions from mainstream schools. This will include support from Educational Psychology Service the Virtual School and the Children Missing Education team.

A new Inclusion Board chaired by Councillor John Jones will review all cases of permanent exclusion, provide independent appeals for parents and will monitor breaches of admission regulations in order to minimise the period of time children spend on the out of school register.

Youth Offending Team

The Youth Justice Board has now confirmed that the Youth Offending Team (YOT) has made sufficient improvement and progress and is no longer considered as being in need of additional intervention. A refreshed Strategic Plan and YOT Board have been launched with key areas of focus now agreed with Partners.

Corporate Parent Panel

The first meeting of the re-vamped Corporate Parent Panel took place on Thursday 29 October. The Panel agreed terms of reference and membership. Elected members have been offered a series of training sessions on the role of the Corporate Parent. The Corporate Parenting Conference, which will work with all Council Departments and partners to secure tangible pledges for improving the offer to our children, will take place on the 9th December.

The Revised Prevent Duty Guidance (Guidance for Specified Authorities in England and Wales on the duty in Counter Terrorism and Security Act 2015)

The guidance details the responsibilities of all agencies in relation to the 'Counter Terrorism and Security Act 2015'. In response to this, the Blackpool Safeguarding Children's Board is rolling out Prevent and Wrap 3 Training for all Schools in Blackpool from October to December 2015. A multi-agency programme of activity will also commence later in the year. A Children's Strategic Plan will be developed to sit with the Pan Lancashire Strategy.

SEN and Disability

The draft criteria for the joint Care Quality Commission (CQC)/Ofsted Inspection for SEN and disability (0-25 year olds and their families) in a local area has now been published. The deadline for comments is early January and the first inspections are due in May 2016.

Policy Issues

Volunteering Strategy

The Council has started to develop, with Councillor Kirkland, a volunteering strategy for the organisation. Volunteering is becoming an increasingly important feature in the town and it is appropriate to give some consideration in terms of what it means at a policy level for Departments across the Council who have and continue to develop links with volunteer groups and individual volunteers.

Smoking in Cars Campaign

From 1 October 2015 new legislation was introduced, which now means that private vehicles in England and Wales must be smoke free if they are enclosed, there is more than one person present and one of them is under 18. It is now an offence for a person of any age to smoke in a

private vehicle carrying someone under 18 and for a driver (including a provisional driver) not to stop someone smoking in these circumstances. The fixed penalty notice fine for both offences is £50. Figures released by the British Lung Foundation (BLF) in 2013 show that around 185,000 children between the ages of 11-15 in England are exposed to potentially toxic concentrations of secondhand smoke in their family car every day or most days.

Smoking near children can cause a range of respiratory illnesses such as asthma, bronchitis and reduced lung function. Passive smoking results each year in more than 165,000 new episodes of disease of all types amongst children, 300,000 primary care consultations, 9,500 hospital admissions and around 40 sudden infant deaths. This comes at a total cost of more than £23 million per year in primary care visits, asthma treatment and hospital admissions in the UK.

Care Act 2014 – Young Carers

The Care Act has brought in a number of changes in relation to young carers. The Local Authority must now identify any children who are involved in providing care and must consider whether the child or young carer should be referred for a young carer's assessment (under the Care Act) or a needs assessment (under the Children Act).

Inappropriate caring responsibilities should be considered as anything which is likely to have an impact on the child's health, wellbeing or education, or which can be considered unsuitable in light of the child's circumstances. If it appears that a young carer may have needs for support, the Local Authority must assess and agree the support required.

Local Authorities must ensure that services, facilities and resources are in place to prevent inappropriate caring roles. This should include joint protocols for identifying, assessing and referring young carers.

Transforming Services

Appointment of Providers for the Provision of Sexual Health Services for Integrated Contraceptive and Sexual Health Service (Genitourinary Medicine) For All Ages and Young Peoples' Sexual Health Service (Under 25)

It has now been confirmed that Blackpool Teaching Hospitals Foundation Trust has been appointed to deliver the services for both the all age and under 25 services for the residents of Blackpool.

This procurement was undertaken in order to meet the statutory requirement that the Council provides open access contraceptive and sexual health services, available to anyone present in its area (Health and Social Care Act 2012). This was conducted in accordance with the Council's contract procedure rules.

Public Health identified savings by shadowing the national sexual health tariff system, which gave a level of detail to ensure payment was based on activity, or care given to patients, whilst also showing a significant reduction in expenditure.

Integrated sexual health services lead to better health outcomes by reducing unintended conceptions and by reducing the amount of sexually transmitted infections in the population. An integrated service provides contraception and testing for sexually transmitted diseases (STI's) in one visit. This eliminates the need for multiple services, removes duplication and provides an opportunity for the optimum sharing of skills and resources. Using this approach makes sexual health services more efficient therefore deliver better value for money and improve the service user experience.

Adult Social Care

Highfield Day Centre Service

The Council has a statutory responsibility under the Care Act 2014 to assess the needs of Blackpool residents who appear to be in need of Community Care Services and then to arrange for the provision of those services if necessary, if the Service User involved meets the eligibility criteria. The Council views building based day care services as an integral part of personal health and social care provision and currently runs a service for adults at Highfield Day Care Centre on Highfield Road, Blackpool. The existing day care service mainly supports older adults including some people with mild to moderate dementia, but is not limited to any specific client group.

As part of the ongoing drive to identify savings and maximise efficiencies a decision was made to go out to the open market to tender for bids to operate the Highfield Day Centre Service for Adults. A new service provider was successfully appointed, Independent Living (North West). The existing and new providers have met and are working together with HR on a transition plan.

Transforming Care for Adults with Learning Disabilities (Winterbourne Review)

Since the investigation into the abuse at Winterbourne View and other similar hospitals, there has been a cross-Government commitment to transform the care of people with learning disabilities and/ or autism who have a mental health condition or display behaviour that challenges (including offending behaviours). There have been comprehensive reviews into what went wrong and new recommendations published into what care provision for this group of clients should look like.

The Regional Commissioners Network for Learning Disabilities covering the three local authorities of Lancashire, Blackburn with Darwen and Blackpool and the eight Clinical Commissioning Groups within the County have worked collaboratively to develop a five-year transformational plan for Lancashire.

The plan focuses not only on supporting the successful discharge of 93 patients in Lancashire (seven in total for Blackpool) by building local infrastructure, but also on strengthening and

enhancing existing service provision to ensure the needs of the wider learning disability population continue to be met.

In Blackpool, the ambitions of the pan-Lancashire transformational plan are currently being aligned to a set of locally determined priorities, namely;

- To improve the accommodation mix and offer specialist placements within the community
- To develop a specialist provider framework capable of meeting the needs of people with challenging behaviour and complex needs
- To expand the Integrated Community Learning Disability Team and develop the local workforce to meet community needs
- To develop additional crisis support

The Council's specialist Extra Support Service, supporting learning disabled adults at risk of challenging behaviour, is working through a service development plan in response to the Department of Health (DOH) 'Transforming Care for Adults with a Learning Disability – Next Steps' which is directly linked to the Winterbourne Audit and Review.

The Extra Support Service, together with specialist providers, will be equipped to support more individuals with very particular needs and risky behaviours within the local community and therefore prevent admissions to specialist hospitals and/or expensive out of area placements.

Working with Partners

Resilient Communities

The Council, working in partnership with Blackpool Churches, Faith groups and Together Lancashire launched this new initiative to forge deeper links in our mutual roles of serving resilient communities.

The event held on 6 November, included new research and a database, which has mapped over 60 social and community projects within Blackpool's faith communities. Collectively, they serve thousands of our most vulnerable residents, with an aggregate economic impact of more than £1.5 million.

The initiative aims to build upon successful projects like the Blackpool Food Partnership. Established for two years now, the Partnership coordinates a large volume of food bank/ food kitchen outlets, which cover the town's most deprived neighbourhoods. The next steps involve negotiating a "Faith Covenant for Blackpool". This will be a joint declaration of our intent to work in closer collaboration. Our aim is to agree a framework to help us serve the needs of the most vulnerable and build communities that are more resilient in the years ahead.

Blackpool Safeguarding Adults Board

A Commissioning Review is currently in progress in respect of the future Governance arrangements for the Children and Adults Safeguarding Boards taking into account the changes under the Care Act (2014), which gave statutory status to the Safeguarding Adults Board in April 2015. Recommendations emerging from the review are now being considered by Partner Agencies of both Boards.

Intermediate Care

Work continues with the Clinical Commissioning Group regarding the Commissioning of Intermediate Care Services and the most effective way to align service delivery to ensure that unnecessary Hospital admissions are avoided and people can be discharged from Hospital in a timely and safe manner.

School Organisation and Capital - Priority School Building Programme (Phase 1) (PSBP)

The Local Authority will see four new school facilities delivered under the PSBP programme, which is being delivered via the Education Funding Agency.

The first of the new schools will see new buildings for both Aspire Academy and Highfurlong School. The buildings were handed over by the Education Funding Agency on the 2 November 2015, with children relocated into their new premises on the 9 November 2015. The new buildings, which are constructed on the site of the old Collegiate High School on Blackpool Old Road, will see the completion of a 900-pupil place secondary school and a 54 place Special School. Work will continue on the site until January 2016 when the old Highfurlong School will be demolished and the external landscaping and car park is complete.

Works are also progressing on the new school for Hawes Side Academy. The works commenced on site during April, with the new school planned to be open by September 2016. Similarly, South Shore Academy will also see new premises being constructed under the PSBP, with works commencing during the spring of 2016 for completion by autumn 2017.

Capital Post 16 SEN Provision

The Local Authority has been working closely with both Woodlands Special School and Park Community Academy on the development of a Post 16 Special Educational Needs (SEN) facility. The facility will see the refurbishment of the old Westbury Lodge building on Whitegate Drive. Work is due to be undertaken by Blackpool Local Education Partnership and the Eric Wright Group, with an anticipated start by the middle of November and completion by early March 2016.

Youth Offending Team

In 2009, Blackpool had the highest youth re-offending rate in the country. Data now available through the national re-offending project for 2014/ 2015 shows that the rate of youth re-offending and the average number of further offences committed by young people in Blackpool are now below the national average.

The success of the YOT Partnership's prevention strategy to provide viable and effective alternatives to prosecution has resulted in the diversion of younger, less serious offenders into alternative provision. This has reduced 'First Time Entrants' to the youth justice system by 80% over the last five years. A partnership of the three YOTs in Lancashire has been successful in gaining external funding from the Police and Crime Commissioner for a Youth Justice Triage Service, with whom the YOT has worked closely to drive and sustain the improvement in performance.

The strategy has raised the age of the current YOT cohort, so that 82% are now aged 15 to 18. The needs of an older YOT cohort are now more complex and the risks they pose are greater.

Continuous Improvement Board

The launch of the above group will take place on 16 November 2015. The Group replaces the Social Care Improvement Board to take forward innovation and good practice across all agencies to ensure that Blackpool moves to a 'Good' Ofsted rating in the future.

Blackpool Music Service and Music Education Hub

Service Level Agreements have been confirmed with 97% of Blackpool Schools. They now deliver up to 22 hours of tuition per week in every Blackpool School bar one.

Duke of Edinburgh

The Service is currently completing Stage 2 of a Reaching Communities Bid, which is due for submission on 10 December 2015. If successful, the Local Authority will be able to ensure that Duke of Edinburgh will be sustainable in Blackpool for the next three years. The Local Authority will develop the award across the town, targeting and reaching out to our most deprived and vulnerable young people, by setting up, supporting and developing more Duke of Edinburgh Centres and creating more opportunities for more young people to access the award.