

20 January 2016

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

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The Resilient Communities area covers my portfolio and those of:

- Councillor Eddie Collett (School Improvement and Children’s Safeguarding),
- Councillor Amy Cross (Reducing Health Inequalities and Adult 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>

**Corporate Issues**

**Equality Impact Assessments**

Extensive work has been completed across a wide range of services affected by the 2016/ 2017 budget proposals to examine the potential impact on service users and residents. The work includes examining relevant data and research together with appropriate levels of consultation, for all key equality characteristics. This work has informed the decision-making in the budget process.

**Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE)**

Members of the CSE sub group of the Safeguarding Board met to review service developments against the Ofsted inspection criteria and actions identified will be added to the Board action plan. The group has also redesigned the audit tool to have a stronger focus on outcomes and a number of cases will be audited against this over the next few months.

**Corporate Parenting Panel**

The Corporate Parenting Panel met for the second time in its new format on the 17 December. It has been agreed that the young people will “take over” the chairing and agenda setting for a number of meetings of this group. Those meetings will also be held at the newly completed Care Leavers Building (which will be called the Core) which opened on the 21 December with a formal opening to take place in January 2016.

**Corporate Parent Conference**

A hugely successful Corporate Parenting Conference was held on the 9 December with a request to all Heads of Service, Elected Members and Partners to pledge specific actions as Corporate Parents. The response was very positive and has resulted in concrete offers such as work placements for our children. These will all be followed up in the New Year.

## **Strategic Issues**

### **Health and Wellbeing Strategy**

The Board has discussed the Director of Public Health's latest Annual Report, which called for an action plan to address health inequalities. As a result, it has agreed to incorporate this into a new Health and Wellbeing Strategy, which will run until 2020. The strategy, which will be developed and consulted on early next year, will address inequalities in health arising from three major issues the housing market, substance misuse and social isolation. A fourth priority, early intervention, will ensure we continue to move towards addressing the root cause of problems rather than simply managing their effects.

### **Children and Young People's Partnership**

The Partnership has recently become a sub-group of the Health and Wellbeing Board, which will both strengthen its ability to focus on young people's health issues and link this to educational outcomes and aspirations. To do this effectively requires a new strategic approach, which will be described in a Young People's Strategy to be developed by the partnership in the New Year. This will ensure that major initiatives like Head Start and Better Start, plus our forthcoming Children and Young People's Emotional Wellbeing Strategy are bound together to influence our systems and overall approach to young people across the whole public sector in Blackpool.

### **Volunteer and Social Action Strategy**

Volunteers are an integral part of delivering good quality public services, adding an extra dimension to what the Council does and ensuring an extra level of customer care in some of our frontline services. We want to look for opportunities to use their time more effectively across services and link with other public sector organisations to reduce duplication of effort. We also think that to make communities more resilient, we need to increase the numbers of people either volunteering or helping their communities to take action. The strategy will help us achieve this, whilst ensuring we develop a consistent approach to involving and supporting volunteers.

### **Her Majesty's Inspectorate (HMI) Monitoring Visits**

Unity received a Monitoring Visit from HMI on 4 November that acknowledged that systems in place were appropriate and would, in time, impact upon results. South Shore Academy received their first monitoring visit on 3 December. The report is yet to be published, but the HMI recognised that the school had begun to address key issues and had also strengthened capacity.

Montgomery received a monitoring visit on 8 December, again, the report is yet to be published, but the judgements were positive overall.

### **School Improvement Processes**

The School Improvement team has carried out a joint desk top/ school evaluation exercise with maintained schools to enable an overall LA category and identification of appropriate support. This meeting involved both the Head teacher and the Chairman of Governors. This process has been Quality Assured for robustness and carried out in the majority of primary, secondary and special schools. The School Improvement team has since begun the autumn term visits, which follow up on the meeting outlined above and will provide an opportunity for school priorities to be challenged and supported appropriately.

### **30 hours free childcare**

From the comprehensive spending review, it is noted that:

- Increasing the free childcare from 15 hours to 30 hours a week for working families of three and four year-olds will go ahead.
- Criteria has been further confirmed for 30-hours of free childcare, parents must work 16 hours and earn less than £100,000.
- The first funding review report has raised national average rates to £4.88 for three and four year olds and £5.39 for two year olds, with a further review in the New Year <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/review-of-childcare-costs> linked to a schools funding review.
- National early years funding formula is to be set following consultation.
- There will be a fund for capital developments in early years.
- Up to £10,000 childcare costs could be tax-free for parents.
- If we are successful as an early implementer, the pilot will roll out from September 2016, which is a year ahead of the national rollout planned for September 2017.

### **Free entitlement grant for Two Year olds**

Take up of the grant is still increasing and reached 75% in the summer term 2015.

### **Adult Social Care**

Demand for Adult Social Care assessments remains high and the position will be reviewed over the first six months of the Care Act in January 2016, with a view to considering any further training needed, or system changes. A further cycle of training will be delivered over the first three months of 2016, including face-to-face sessions and webinars.

Development of a dashboard to aid analysis of service demand and spend trends is progressing well, which will enable real time monitoring of change at both team levels and across the whole service.

## **Policy Issues**

### **Learning Outside the Classroom (LOtc)**

All Academies, bar two, are purchasing the LOtc service from the Local Authority (LA) and continuing to seek LA approval for adventurous activities as well as residential and overseas visits. Additional training courses related to offsite visits were held this term due to direct requests from schools and academies. A full day Educational Visits Co-ordinator (EVC) training course was held along with two twilight Visit Leader training courses. An EVC network meeting is planned for January to update all current EVCs.

The Council Policy and Guidance for the Management of Offsite Visits and Adventurous Activities is currently being reviewed and amended and there will be a draft put out for consultation at the EVC network meeting.

### **Child Employment and Entertainment Licensing**

The number of licences issued to employers and producers has continued to increase year on year. The last three months have seen an increase in the number of applications for child employment licences compared to recent years and this may be an indication that the local economy is improving. Due to the nature of the town, the number of entertainment licences issued remains high and all local amateur production companies have now been briefed in relation to the new Child Performance Regulations introduced by the Department for Education (DfE) earlier this year.

### **Highfield Day Centre (Adults)**

In December, following a recent tender and TUPE process the existing In-House day care service at Highfield transferred to Independent Living (North West). Independent Living (North West) also delivers day care services in the North of the town at Warren Manor. The Highfield day care service will continue to be delivered in the same location (Highfield Day Centre, Highfield Road, Blackpool), on the same days, by the same staff, with the addition of a new overall Service Manager who will be dividing his time between the Warren and Highfield sites.

### **Transforming Care (for adults with a Learning Disability)**

Implementation of the transformational plan for Lancashire and the locality plan for Blackpool is underway. Nationally, there is a requirement for local areas to re-establish pooled budgets and the mechanism for transferring funding for individuals that will be eligible for a dowry is still under discussion. Since the time of my last report, Blackpool has established a transforming care steering group chaired by the Director of Adult Services to provide additional strategic leverage around implementation of the regional and local plans and ensure joint working across the Lancashire footprint as appropriate. The steering group will report progress to the Strategic Commissioning Group, Health and Wellbeing Board and Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) Governing Body and act as the interface with regional governance bodies including the Learning Disability Fastrack Steering Group for Lancashire and the Collaborative Commissioning Board.

## Transforming Services

### Specialist Stop Smoking Service Update

#### Background

Following a full tender process to commission the provision of an integrated, safe, effective and person-centered smoking and nicotine addiction prevention and treatment service, a contract was awarded to Solutions 4 Health Limited. As the successful bidders, the service launched as 'SmokeFreeLife Blackpool' on the 1 October 2015.

The new Smoking and Nicotine Addiction Prevention and Treatment Service in Blackpool will achieve expected outcomes, namely:

- A reduction in the number of smokers in Blackpool
- A reduction in health inequalities by ensuring the service is aimed at the key priority groups identified
- The delivery of an effective and efficient service that demonstrates value for money and is responsive to the needs of individuals.

Solutions 4 Health were awarded the contract as they demonstrated a great understanding of the aims and objectives of the service specification. They were able to demonstrate vast experience of how they engage communities in order to motivate quit attempts. They gave us reassurance of their ability to offer a flexible service to meet the needs of our target communities, for example, workplace shift patterns and seven day working. The organisation offers extensive value in terms of a hub and spoke model so that there is a robust system in place to ensure continuity of service.

#### Progress to date

- Solutions 4 Health Limited supported a smooth transition of staff from the previous provider, Blackpool Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust, under TUPE arrangements.
- During October 2015, launch events were planned to coincide with Stoptober.
- An outreach coordinator was also recruited to implement the outreach service with support from the wider team. The outreach service, launched on the 6 October 2015, is delivered from a service branded mobile clinic, which enables the service to reach out into the heart of our communities.
- The service has also now purchased a service branded small car, which will enable the service to be more visible and more mobile using this vehicle to provide clinics in workplaces across Blackpool and provide home visits where appropriate (e.g. pregnancy and patients recently discharged from hospital).
- Attended GP Practice Managers forum and Intermediate advisor training dates confirmed, offered to GP practices to support delivery of the GP smoking cessation contract.

- Purchase of equipment and training underway for lung age health checks in the community.
- Partnerships built with Local Pharmacy Committee and Local Medical Committee.
- Figures for Stoptober: 222 Service Registrations and 240 Quit Dates set (some from GP's).
- Lead advisors identified for pregnancy and for primary care (GP Practices)
- The service is achieving the target of clients being offered an appointment within 48 hours of referral

### **Suicide Prevention**

This report outlines progress to date on the recent suicide audit the subsequent suicide prevention report and recommendations including stakeholder involvement. The report will also update on the development of an effective workforce able to deliver the ASIST model and prevent further suicides in Blackpool.

Public Health completed a suicide audit using data collected from the coroner's office, primary care records, secondary care records and custody. Due to relatively small numbers, the audit is completed by pooling data over a three-year period.

Blackpool has the highest rate of suicide of any upper tier local authority in England, for all persons, during the period 2011/ 2013. Blackpool has a significantly higher rate per 100,000 population (13.6 - 95% CI 10.2, 17.07) than England and Wales (8.8 - 95% CI 8.6, 8.9) as a whole

Throughout the UK, there are more suicides in males than females. In 2013, there were 3,684 male suicides (17.2 per 100,000 population) and 1,038 female suicides (4.6 per 100,000 population). The most common age of suicide for males in Blackpool was between the ages of 25-45 years, with a total of 33 deaths in this age group out of a total of 43 male deaths. The most common method of suicide is hanging/ strangulation in males, which accounted for 70% of the male cohort in Blackpool in 2011/ 2013.

Based within the final report are a number of recommendations, which have been made as a result of the audit. Some of the recommendations include:

- Real time surveillance of suicides
  - Currently we report on suicides retrospectively. This prevents the Council acting upon hot spots, copycat suicides whilst also supporting family members in real-time
- Flag system for 'frequent flyers' in Primary care
  - Over 50% of people who commit suicide had attended their GP in last month. A flag system would enable GPs to identify potential suicides
- Signs in hot spot areas
  - Erecting signs in public spaces directing people who may be suicidal to support i.e. Samaritans phone number

Recommendations will be overseen by the suicide prevention stakeholder panel and implemented during 2016/ 2017.

### **Applied Suicide Intervention Skills Training (ASIST)**

Public Health has commissioned two trainers to deliver the Applied Suicide Intervention Skills Training (ASIST) to deliver to all front line staff within Blackpool.

Applied Suicide Intervention Skills Training (ASIST) is a comprehensive two-day course, which enables the delegate to become more willing, ready and able to help persons at risk of suicide. Developed in Canada and approved by the World Health Organisation (WHO), it is an interactive and practical course proven to help front line workers learn how to identify risk and intervene to prevent the immediate risk of suicide.

Both trainers have exceeded expectations in the initial delivery of ASIST for the past 24 months. Testimonials from those who have attended the two-day course are exceptional and we now have a waiting list of over 100 front line workers across Blackpool including Police, mental health, youth workers etc. wanting to complete the course.

### **Education Diversity and Support Units/ Service e.g. Pupil Referral Units, Elective Home/ Traveller Education**

It has been a busy start to the new academic year within Educational Diversity, settling into new premises for KS2 and KS3 provision, "Pegasus" formerly known as Christ the King Primary school. The first few weeks have been quite turbulent as two staff teams and two students groups have come together, but things are now beginning to settle. Learning walks completed by senior leadership team members, safeguarding officers and school improvement team colleagues have highlighted quality first teaching within safe and inspiring learning environments.

A new internal exclusion system has been developed to support students as a punitive sanction for failing to adhere to the positive behaviour policy. Students are often excluded to another centre where they complete behaviour reflection, alongside further curriculum work. This is allowing for continuity of learning as a young person is still being educated with an expectation that they have to attend for the duration of the exclusion period.

The Behaviour Partnership has been relaunched, led by the Deputy Head teacher and scheduled monthly meetings established. It is hoped that through this renewed collaboration with secondary colleagues, we can work together to share good practice and develop an inclusive philosophy, thus reducing the number of students placed within our service.

### **SEN and Disability**

With regard to the SEND Local Area Inspection Framework, the proposed Care Quality Commission (CQC)/ Ofsted inspection of a local area is likely to be more widespread than first envisaged. Pilot inspections have included Public Health, Housing and Community Safety.

Further to this, representatives from these agencies have been invited to the self-evaluation/ inspection preparation group. A series of storyboards about the work that has occurred are also being prepared for May when the first inspections are due and Blackpool may be one of the early inspections. A briefing will need to be given to senior managers and lead members following the final criteria being published in "late January". The work that has occurred around Blackpool's statutory SEN responsibilities is being praised and a recent invitation to present to West Midlands authorities on the work around Education, Health and Care Plans has taken place.

### **School Organisation and Buildings**

The team will soon be publicising the Council's School Organisation Plan. The plan sets out the Local Authority's current status with regard to school organisation, the number and types of schools within the borough, the approach to planning for pupil places and the forecast numbers as we move towards and into the next decade. More crucially, it flags the concern about the predicted shortfall in pupil places, particularly within the secondary sector and outlines options to accommodate these issues.

Building works commenced at the end of November at Westbury Lodge on Whitegate Drive. The property is being remodelled and refurbished to create a 16-19 year old special education needs facility for both Park Community Academy and Woodlands School. The facility should be completed by spring this year.

Aspire Academy and Highfurlong school are now in their new schools. Staff at the school have given some very positive feedback with pupils reacting well in their new surroundings. The old Bispham High School site, which had been occupied by Aspire Academy on a temporary basis, has now been secured and boarded up, whilst a decision is made regarding the future of the site.

The Council offers a number of services to schools under the 'Traded Services' agreements/ contracts. The offers for academic year 2016/ 2017 to both Academies and Maintained/ Voluntary Aided schools were sent out prior to the Christmas break, with a return sign off date set for the end of January for LA maintained schools and end of April for Academies.

### **14 -19 Strategy**

In Years 10/ 11 work has begun by Learning Advisers on supporting the most vulnerable future school leavers. This includes supporting statement young people with the Post 16 learning and careers element of the Education, Health and Care Plan along with supporting Looked After Children with their career ideas. The number of 16 to 18 year olds in learning (full time further education or work based learning such as apprenticeships) is 4558 (86.7%) at the end of November 2015 compared with 4442 (83.8%) at the end of November 2014. The Virtual Early Leavers Service (VELS), a web based service supporting young people who leave college early in a timelier manner to re-engage them back into learning, is in operation for the first time in the Autumn term, which traditionally is the peak term for early leavers. A total of 191 young people left the two main colleges early and were supported through the VELs service.



## **Adult Safeguarding**

Following a successful joint bid with Blackpool Clinical Commissioning Group for funding from NHS England, a project centered upon Mental Capacity and its role in underpinning the safe delivery of care is in progress. The project aims to generate a greater understanding amongst regulated providers, paid carers and families about how they can contribute to the prevention of harm to vulnerable adults by using dignity and respect as the basis for care. Training, resources and assessment tools have been developed to support the ongoing impact of such work.

## **Working with Partners**

### **Disability Summit**

Working with Disability First and the Blackpool Disability Partnership, the Council hosted the first ever Blackpool Disability Summit on 4 December 2015. A wide range of support organisations, charities and local people attended the event. Focusing on the theme of inclusion matters, the conference explored ways of attracting more people with disabilities into public life. The annual Disability Question Time with both local Members of Parliament (MP's) also featured in the programme.

### **Faith and Social Action in resilient communities**

During November 2015, a joint event was held to bring together the Council and leaders in the local faith communities to explore ways of working closer together. The conference was hosted by St Mark's Layton and over 80 people attended exploring key issues. A new directory was launched, which has mapped over 60 social and community projects within Blackpool's faith communities that collectively serving thousands of our most vulnerable residents with an aggregate economic impact in excess of £1.5 million.

### **Schools Safeguarding**

The Safeguarding Officer started in post on 1 October 2015 and has been involved in work with many schools in Blackpool, visiting 31 schools. Visits have included conducting audits, providing advice on Safeguarding or work on behalf of the Board. Alongside the more general school improvement work, he has been working with Highfield Humanities College looking at specific Safeguarding documentation and advising on processes and structures to ensure that Safeguarding is moving forwards quickly.

As a trainer for Blackpool Safeguarding Children's Board, the Safeguarding Officer has also delivered Prevent awareness training to a number of schools.

### **Blackpool Music Service**

A total of 300 choristers from 23 schools performed live on the BBC's Children in Need. Blackpool instrumentalists have also performed live with the BBC Philharmonic Orchestra and 280 children have been entered for Arts Awards. 3,000 musicians have performed to capacity audiences in the last month, which has enhanced the musical aspirations of children in Blackpool.

### **Maternity Matters**

Each local health authority is required to have a functional and effective Maternity Services Liaison Committee (MSLC), which is an advisory group for parents and professionals working in partnership. The Blackpool group has its own identity and is known as 'Maternity Matters'. The group is supported by Commissioning within the Council on behalf of Blackpool CCG in partnership with Fylde and Wyre CCG. Maternity Matters has a key role in local commissioning and the successful implementation of maternity policy and an evidence based approach. One of its key functions is to seek the views of service users. In April 2015, a market stall event was held at Bispham Community Centre to seek views and opinions of local parents. Over 100 people attended the event and 60 mums completed the survey on their experiences of maternity services, ante-natally, during birth and post natally. A 'You said ...we did' document was produced, which is reviewed each time the group meets.

### **Continuing Professional Development, School Workforce and the City Learning Centre**

The new additional training brochure supplement has been completed and can be viewed at <https://goo.gl/38d3eL>. This is in addition to the annual brochure published in July 2015. The present active working parties and networks have set their priorities in line with the Council, Challenge Board and School Improvement priorities and are working on these developments.

Those priorities that are associated with the Challenge Board have been identified and are to be reported back to the Board. Those additional areas that are supporting school improvement are reported back to the School Improvement team meetings.

A co-ordinated Quality Assurance approach is to be set in place by the Challenge Board teaching and learning group to monitor the impact of this progress on a three to six month basis.

The pupil premium working party has identified three priority areas, student's self- reflection/ analysis, teachers working together and feedback through assessment for learning. All have been identified as key impact areas from national research. The new reading working party has begun to scope out a town wide approach to reading as a universal offer and specifically to target higher-level readers. It had the pleasure of distributing 40,000 books levered from Save the Children through the chair of the Challenge Board and the Head of libraries. This is part of a national campaign for "Read on Get on" to get every child to be a competent reader before the age of 11 by 2025. I hope to encourage Council members to be part of this.

### **Governor Services**

Throughout the Autumn Term, the service has continued to support schools with Training and Clerking through the two Service Specifications provided. Two schools have been supported in finding suitable persons to carry out reviews of Governance where this has been identified as a requirement following Ofsted inspections and two members of the team have been commended by external bodies for the outstanding quality of their minutes.

## **Adult Social Care**

The updated protocol between Blackpool Coastal Housing Limited and Adult Social Care to improve working arrangements and ensure regular operational meetings with staff from both areas to meet better the needs of social housing tenants will be launched in January 2016.

Adult Social Care has a responsibility to provide a Humanitarian Response in the event of an emergency, which affects local residents and displaces them from their homes. This work is supported by a team of employees who volunteer over and above their day-to-day roles to be called out to help people with emotional and practical support. Work is ongoing to extend the team of volunteers in going forward.

## **Blackpool Safeguarding Boards**

The Blackpool Children and Adults Safeguarding Boards are working more closely to bring about a greater degree of joint working and a consistent approach to safeguarding Children and Adults. Joint use of resources in this way brings about better information sharing, reduces duplication and makes best use of available resources. A joint Safeguarding Board website has also been developed for the benefit of the partners and the community.

## **Voyager Project PILOT - (Social Care Volunteers Team and Blackpool Coastal Housing)**

The aim of this pilot is to support and promote the wellbeing of tenants identified as being at risk of losing their tenancies, who may be socially isolated or need support and encouragement to develop their skills. The service will engage with individuals for a limited period of time to assist a person to maintain or regain the ability to live independently by providing practical support to help them gain confidence along with improved networks through various different means and increase the potential to support tenants to maintain their tenancies longer. The service will reduce levels of social isolation, low self-esteem and lack of confidence, which can occur as a result of poor support networks, bereavement, reduced mobility, or low socio economic status. It will support those tenants identified as vulnerable by the Tenancy Sustainment Officer where physical or mental health conditions indicate they may benefit from preventative interventions in order to maintain their independence or prevent crisis situations from arising.

The service will engage with tenants to understand their individual circumstances, interests and skills in order to inform and support them to re-connect with or develop new networks. Tenants will be encouraged and supported to establish networks, through neighbours, community groups etc. The service will take a holistic approach to engagement ensuring that tenants are safely signposted to statutory or voluntary and third sector partner agencies as appropriate in order to support them to manage their tenancies for as long as possible.

The service will promote independence and wellbeing among tenants referred in to the pilot. A range of information sources including Blackpool4me, leaflets and webpage resources will be used to convey information in the most accessible and appropriate format for each individual. Following initial contact and with the consent of the person the service will facilitate engagement and safely signpost to partner agencies wherever appropriate.

The service will aim to support a minimum of 25 tenants across the six month pilot period.

**Cremations**

I am happy to report the cremations service has worked to plan over the last 12 months (including moving from 30 minute to 45 minutes services) and coped well over the Christmas period in dealing with the unusual peak that this time of year unfortunately brings.

We wish to continue to develop the service and are hosting a discussion evening in late January with representatives from Funeral Directors and the clergy on how to extend the service further.