

## CABINET MEMBER FOR ADULT SOCIAL CARE – COUNCILLOR ROWSON

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### Care and Support – Adult Provider Service

#### Blackpool Supported Lodgings Service - The Story so Far.....

Blackpool Supported Lodgings Service was commissioned as a two year fixed term project in January 2013 with the remit to provide support to young people from the age of 16 to 18 years with the provision of continued support past 18 years through 'staying put' funding.

The principle of the service is about promoting 'ordinary living and sharing of a home' providing stable, settled and supportive accommodation for young people where they can develop their skills as they move towards independence including the development and maintenance of interests and relationships of their own.

The young person is placed with a 'Host' who provides support based on their individual needs, welcoming them into their home and family.

In January 2013, two new workers were employed to set up the service. A support and information apprentice whose role was to provide back office support to the project and an officer to recruit, assess, support and monitor 'Hosts' and subsequent placements.

Over the two years there have been a steady flow of referrals made to the service that have been actively followed up, with meetings and referral documentation completed, these have resulted in really positive placements which in some cases have been supported for periods of a year or more.

The recruitment of 'Hosts' continues and the service takes every opportunity to promote the service and raise the profile of Supported Lodgings within the community and colleagues who could potentially refer into the service.

Over the two year pilot there have been lots of learning experiences for the 'Hosts', officers and people who use the service, some of these have been challenging and emotional. The 'Hosts' have learnt about sharing their homes with young people who arrive with a whole range of differing needs, they have learnt about the complexities of Local Authority and Looked after Children (LAC) reviews and Missing from Home (MFH) processes.

The young people have learnt how to share their lives and understand that people do care and that they have a valuable contribution to make to their local community and to other people's lives as well as achieving real positive outcomes in their own lives.

During the last two years, there have been young people who have come into contact with the Supported Lodgings Service and who have now moved on in their lives and in some cases away from care and support and into independent living. The time they spent with caring 'Hosts' have enabled them to gain the skills and confidence to make life changing decisions and the Supported Lodgings Service has been able to be a 'stepping stone' for the young person as they have moved along their journey towards adulthood.

This positive work has been recognised and the Supported Lodgings Service has received continued funding which will enable the service to build on the good work already achieved and support more young people along their life journey into adulthood and onto greater independence.

### **New Langdale Volunteers**

The New Langdale 'Green Team' led by Neil Froggett (Langdale Volunteer Coordinator), who has been supporting a project at Kingscote Park, which has achieved outstanding results and has been commended, by the Local parks Friends Groups and Stanley Rugby Club.

The New Langdale Volunteers provided their services for two full days on consecutive Wednesday's on the 19 and 26 November 2014 during which time they tidied, mulched planted areas, planted shrubs and bulbs and then focused their considerable talents in creating a new Woodland Walk in the centre of the park (Millennium Woodland).

It has been recognised the huge difference the 'Green Team' made in improving and enriching the lives of local residents, who use and treasure their local green open space. The group worked well with other partners in the scheme that included the Local Parks Friends Group and Stanley Rugby Club, who manage the centre pavilion/ changing room facility in the centre of the park.

The New Langdale Volunteers received positive feedback from someone who supported the volunteers over the two days and said that he:

"felt quite humbled by just how wonderful all the volunteers were and just how hard they all worked and it reminded him in some ways of why he originally started in a career in gardening all those years ago - Neil is an inspiration to everyone with his enthusiasm and clever way of leading his clients, he must be an example of good practice. I learnt so much working with the 'Green Team' and could spend all day singing their praises, but perhaps most profoundly it taught me how much they contribute and give back to society. It's brilliant for members of the public to see your clients as the givers as oppose to being looked after by society. You must be extremely proud of them and rightly so, as I was proud to work with them for just this brief time. (Mark November 2014)".

The New Langdale Volunteers continue to develop new projects across Blackpool and within Local Communities to enhance the residential area and to work with local residents to create and develop the green spaces available within their local area.

### **The Local Authority's current position on the Deprivation of Liberty Safeguards applications**

A request for an authorisation to deprive someone of their liberty is received from a care or nursing home or hospital or from a supported living environment where the Managing Authority (e.g. the care home etc.) believes that the individual is subject to a number of restrictions in their care and treatment to the extent that they are being Deprived of their Liberty (DoL).

The Supervisory Body (the Local Authority) must then cause a series of assessments to be made under the provisions of the Mental Capacity Act 2005 to decide if that is the case. If a Deprivation deemed to be occurring, the Local authority is required to authorise that Deprivation for a period of time contingent upon the individual's circumstances. In 2013/ 2014 there were 48 applications for a DoL received by the Local Authority.

In March 2104, a piece of case law commonly known as the Cheshire West and Chester ruling amended the threshold for a DoL. This has created a many fold increase in the number of applications for Deprivation resulting in a significant increase in the work required to be done by the Council. From April 2014 to 16 December 2014 the Council has received in excess of 270 DoL's applications (almost a seven-fold increase) and each requires a review during the period of authorisation. The

maximum possible length of an authorisation is 12 months although many are authorised for a much lesser period of time.

The Adult Social Care service uses its own in-house Best Interest Assessors (BIAs) who carry out the assessments wherever possible, but is purchasing services from independent BIAs in an increasing number of cases in order to meet statutory timescales. The Council has 20 BIAs based across teams. There are four in training and two due to commence training in March 2015. Legal update training for BIAs is provided and the re-formation of a BIA forum to provide peer support is planned. Update training for Supervisory Body signatories is also provided.

To facilitate greater partnership working the Council has recently agreed to indemnify a small number of Health colleagues who are BIA trained to carry out some assessments. At least two to three full working days are required for one BIA assessment and each assessment requires the payment for assessments by a doctor. The impact on Supervisory Body signatories is also significant as each requires a number of hours' scrutiny/ discussion with the BIA before authorisation.

### **Local Authority Safeguarding Peer Review (Adult Social Care)**

The Towards Excellence in Adult Social Care (TEASC) programme brings together partners at a local, regional and national level to improve outcomes for citizens. It works with and for Local Government and its partners to enable them to take responsibility for their own improvement, with a focus on innovation and people centred coordinated care.

It uses the commitment of Councils to share learning and support, to find new ways of engaging local people, to invite challenge from peers and to use the knowledge of what works, data and innovation to act as drivers for improvement in the quality of services locally.

The Adults Peer Challenge intends to help local government to help itself to respond to the changing agenda in adult social care. The peer challenge process is intended to be a constructive and supportive process with the central aims of:

- Helping a council and its partners to assess its current achievements
- Identifying those areas where it could improve.

It is not an inspection nor does it award any form of rating judgement or score. It is delivered from the position of a 'critical friend' to promote sector-led improvement.

The approach agreed for the Blackpool Council Peer Challenge involves exploring the authority's aspiration's, performance and delivery against a modified version of the LGA's model for Standards in Adults Social Care, which has been developed by the LGA and its partners in its Sector Led Improvement programme.

Blackpool requested a peer challenge to consider three aspects of safeguarding practice:

- Strategic approach - to consider direction and policy setting, work with partners and the working of strategic bodies, such as the Safeguarding Board.
- Commissioned services - To consider how the Council ensures effective safeguarding practice in commissioned services, particularly consistency of approach and outcomes.
- Frontline social work practice - In particular the consistency of approach, impact and quality of decision-making.

The Peer Review team will be on site at Bickerstaffe Square for three days from 28 to 30 January 2015 and will interview a number of people including myself, the Chief Executive, the Director of Adult Services, Senior Managers, representatives from provider services, safeguarding board members, practitioners, individuals, carers and a number of partnership board members.

The team's findings will form the basis for a Report for the Director of Adult Services and the Chief Executive and help the Service to identify learning opportunities that may bring about better outcomes for individuals and its stakeholders.

## **The Care Act**

### Promotional Activity

Presentations have been undertaken across a wide range of in-house and external organisations. These have included the Health and Wellbeing Board, Clinical Commissioning Group, Blackpool Coastal Housing Limited, Safeguarding Adults Board, Chief Leadership Team. All of the adult social care teams have received briefings, which are ongoing. There is a monthly newsletter, which is distributed internally in Adult Social Care and featured on The Hub. From November 2014 there has been a monthly drop in at Bickerstaffe Square. Work is underway to use in-house video displays in raising awareness.

### Organisational Arrangements

There is a Care Act Project Board, with representation from the chairs of all the work stream leads, the Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) and myself, which meets bi-monthly. The work streams, four in total, all report to the Board. The work streams meet approximately six weekly and focus on a particular segment of the Act. These are Adult Social Care, Information and Advice, Finance and Funding, Systems and Reporting, Commissioning and Market Development. Each work stream provides highlight reports on progress in their particular area for the Board. There is a dedicated project lead for the Act that provides the linkages between the streams, Jayne Bentley. She also attends the Association of Directors of Adult Social Services (ADASS) North West Task and Finish Group for the Act.

### Training

A training Provider has been commissioned to provide a series of training sessions over the next four months tailored to particular areas, including the following, adult social care workforce (social workers and case assessors), social work managers, Providers and the Public, legal aspects, members and commissioners. Colleagues from the NHS have also been included, particularly from areas where our staff are collocated with or managed by the NHS. The first session has been held and some key areas identified from that, as detailed below.

Some Key Development Issues between now and April 2015:

- Lessen delays between social care assessment, financial assessment and Direct Payments/ closer and more joint working.
- The unknowns of how much extra work new user and care assessments will generate and the staffing needs to be able to cope with demand.
- Policy and Practice Guidance for staff and information and advice for service users and carers.
- Political decision making regarding charging policies for both service users and carers from April 2015 onwards (in line with "power to" rather than "duty to").
- How much prevention.
- Framework changes.
- Better Care Fund developments
- Ongoing staff training on legal and financial aspects of care assessment delivery
- Specialist adult social care legal advice
- Member support for national publicity campaign

Underpinning all the above is cultural change of an enormous magnitude across the whole authority and partner organisations, which will take some time.

### **Commissioning Strategy for Adult and Children's Social Care**

The Commissioning and Contracts team has published the first draft of the new commissioning strategy. This has been developed over the past few months following consultations with the voluntary community, service users, providers of services, minority groups and social care staff.

The strategy will last for the next three years and takes into account the requirements of the Care Act. New commissioning principles and priorities have been developed which are aligned to other Council strategies and priorities. There is also a detailed delivery plan explaining the work to be undertaken during 2015/ 2016 and this will be refreshed on an annual basis.

The draft document will be circulated and the commissioning team welcome any comments. The final document will be available during the first quarter of 2015.

### **Care Home Dementia Awareness Training**

During the last six months another 275 care home staff have completed dementia awareness training. This now brings the total number of staff to over 400 that have received training since the project began. An award ceremony recently took place when over 40 representatives from local care homes received completion certificates.

There is now evidence of progression from this training work with Care Homes introducing dementia friendly environments such as colour co-ordinated crockery, better signage and life story work to help improve the quality of live for people living with dementia.

### **Autism Capital Funds**

The Government is issuing £18,500 of capital monies to each Local Authority to spend on Autism. After consultation with our local autism group, the group have decided to spend the money on extending an existing facility, a log cabin, to make it more sensitive to the needs of people with autism. The log cabin is currently used for people low functioning autism/ Learning Disabilities as a gardening and craft centre. The extension will enable people at the higher end of the spectrum to utilise the space and work shop. It will also provide a base for peer support groups and advice and information. It is a joint venture between the NHS assessment service and Adult Social Care and all partners are excited and enthusiastic about the project.

### **Extra care**

A Commissioning review has recently been completed on the Extra Care schemes in Blackpool, Elk and Tulloch. A tender exercise will begin in 2015, whereby a new model of care will be commissioned resulting in continuity of care and carers to tenants residing within the schemes.