

CABINET SECRETARY (RESILIENT COMMUNITIES) – COUNCILLOR GRAHAM CAIN

The Resilient Communities area covers my portfolio and those of:

- Councillor John Jones (School Improvement and Children's safeguarding),
- Councillor Eddie Collett (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

September Guarantee

Each year every Local Authority is measured on the percentage of school leavers and Year 12 Leavers (17 year old Sixth Form and College Students) who are offered a learning opportunity at a college or training provider by the end of September. At the end of July, 87.3% of 2015 school leavers had either been offered a place or were awaiting the outcome of an application – a similar position to July 2014 (87%). The position for Year 12 Leavers is ahead of this time last year – 59.2% have been offered a place or were awaiting the outcome of an application at the end July 2015 compared with 46.8% July 2014. Early September is the peak activity period against this measure when the major colleges share data and young people who do not appear to have an offer are contacted by phone in the evenings and weekends or through a home visit.

HeadStart

This is a Big Lottery Funded project which forms part of their systems programs alongside Better Start and Multiple and Complex Needs. Blackpool Council is the lead agency and the overall aim of the program is to reduce the number of young people that develop mental ill health by achieving a whole systems change regarding the way in which young people are supported to become more resilient with an emphasis on the way we model and deliver services to them and their families. There is currently a pilot project being delivered as a test and learn opportunity and the preparation for the stage three bid has begun which could see up to £10 million investment in the town over a five year period. The deadline for the bid is 26 February 2016.

The Big Lottery Fund has indicated that the bid should reflect young people's experiences in school, the family home, the local community and in the digital environment, which will highlight cross cutting issues for the HeadStart partnership.

The programme will include the challenge of modelling a whole system that can support the necessary integration of school, community, family and digital. This will have an impact on current service delivery and the systems in which they operate, for example a current piece of work is looking at the system regarding young people that self-harm, understanding what the

current system is from universal, targeted to specialist (including in- patient) and exploring what could be re modelled to achieve better outcomes for young people.

The vision for the HeadStart project is to increase the resilience of young people, families and the local community. It is envisaged that this will lead to beneficiaries being less dependent on services and having greater confidence/ ability/ autonomy in addressing their issues earlier before they require support from services. Included in this vision is the embedding of a co-production approach where potential/ current beneficiaries of services are involved in improving/ developing services, for example young people have been jointly commissioning services within HeadStart and defining what they feel best suits need.

Strategic Issues

Youth Employment

Year-end figures with the NEET Performance Scorecard have now been published in Blackpool. The percentage of 16 to 18 year olds who were Not in Education, Employment or Training (NEET) at the end of June was 7.0%, which was an improvement compared to the same time last year (7.5%). This equates to 354 young people. The percentage of young people who were “Not Known” to Connexions at the end of June 2015 was 6.6% which is an increase compared to the same time last year (5.0%). This is mainly due to a change in counting methodology in 2015, if a young person leaves the Blackpool area, evidence is now required of a young person registering with another Local Authority to be counted as “Left Area”, otherwise they are counted as “Not Known”. Blackpool has a relatively high number of young people who fall into this category due to the transient aspect of the population. The percentage of 16 to 18 year olds in learning is very similar to the same period last year 79.6% in June 2015 compared with 79.8% in June 2014. Work is ongoing across the town and in conjunction with partners to provide transition mentoring learning programmes and summer school courses.

National Minimum Wage/ National Living Wage

Increases to the National Minimum Wage from October 2015, place additional cost pressures on the providers of social care services and test the new duties under the Care Act that are designed to ensure that Councils take account of the viability of the rates they pay for care in relation to the services they commission. Work is underway with providers to understand the impact of these measures and the potential offsets to costs provided by changes to National Insurance and Corporation Tax measures.

0 – 5’s Transition

Responsibility for commissioning Children’s 0-5 Public Health services transfers to Local Authorities on 1 October 2015. This includes health visiting and Family Nurse Partnership (FNP) targeted services for teenage mothers. Work is ongoing with Local Authorities and NHS England area teams to ensure a smooth transfer of commissioning.

From early in 2015 contract and performance meetings have been jointly undertaken between the current commissioners NHS England and Blackpool Council, meeting with the provider to focus on achieving the required outcome indicators for 0-5 services and ensuring that performance data reporting systems are compatible with Local Authority requirements prior to hand over in October.

Public Health Annual Report

In June 2015, the Public Health Annual Report 2014 was published. The purpose of the Public Health Annual Report is to present the Director of Public Health's independent assessment of local health needs, determinants and concerns. This year the report focused on health inequalities and provides Blackpool's response to the recommendations made in "Due North: Report of the Inquiry on Health Equity for the North." "Due North" was the final report of an inquiry that was commissioned by Public Health England to investigate the clear North/ South divide in health that exists in England.

The recommendations from 'Due North' were as follows:

- Tackle poverty and economic inequality within the North and between the North and the rest of England.
- Promote healthy development in early childhood.
- Share power over resources and increase the influence that the public has on how resources are used to improve the determinants of health.
- Strengthen the role of the health sector in promoting health equity.

The report describes the current picture in Blackpool, work that is currently ongoing in Blackpool and looks at what further actions should be taken to improve the health of everyone in Blackpool. This year there is just a single recommendation arising from the Public Health Annual Report namely that all the recommendations for local action set out in the Due North report are implemented without delay.

Policy Issues

School Support and Advice

The School Improvement Service continues to provide support, advice and challenge in relation to category of need. The categories used to determine need are under review. The new categories will mirror more effectively judgements made in the new Ofsted Common Inspection Framework, which came into force in September. The new categories will also support the drive to move 'Good' schools towards 'Outstanding'.

Adoption

There has been a change in funding to adoption services. The Government announced an additional £30m national funding as part of the summer budget to pay fees (currently £27,000 per adopter) when a child is placed with an adopter recruited and approved by another agency. This means Blackpool is able to recoup in the region of £300,000 this financial year.

OFSTED

OFSTED has just concluded consultation on the format for multi-agency thematic inspections. It is proposed that it will undertake six inspections nationally between October and April, which will consider multi agency approaches to child sexual exploitation and missing from home. The format for the inspections will include a notice of inspection eight working days before the commencement of the fieldwork. During this period, agencies will be asked to jointly audit in the region of five cases. The Fieldwork will be a week long and will include all the relevant inspectorates with OFSTED acting as the lead. OFSTED will undertake an audit of the front door and then track cases through all agencies systems and processes. The

inspection will not be graded, but will produce a letter of priority and general actions for single and cross agency organisations.

Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE)

A development plan for services is in place, which is managed by the Blackpool Safeguarding Children's Board sub group on CSE and includes actions from the ministerial review, which was undertaken in spring 2015. This includes:

- Increased training and public awareness raising
- A self-assessment and revised commissioning plan
- Improving data capture and sharing.

In addition, referral pathways are being improved so that young people can have faster access to the services they need. The service is also seeking additional resource to provide better data on missing from home and the link to CSE through a pan Lancashire bid to combat organized crime, which has secured additional monies for Blackpool.

Delays to key financial aspects of the Care Act

The cap on care costs and the plan to introduce a 'care account' was due to be introduced in April 2016, but has now been delayed to April 2020 following concerns about the timetable for implementation and calls for more funding for care and support. Some people currently pay something towards their care and support costs (depending on a means test to work out ability to pay) and will continue to do so. At the moment, if people have capital and savings above £23,250 they will fund all of their social care, subject to a local cap on costs.

For those who do have to pay the full amount for their own care there is now a national scheme called deferred payment agreements, which means that people should not have to sell their home within their lifetime to pay for their care.

Consultation on changes to the Deprivation of Liberty Safeguards (DoLS)

In early July, the Law Commission published its consultation paper on deprivation of liberty, including proposals for a comprehensive scheme to replace the Deprivation of Liberty safeguards (DoLS). This is the legal framework for placing restrictions on the freedom of people without the mental capacity to agree to them and include a range of things from bed rails preventing a person getting out of bed unaided, to locking of doors and restrictions on the choices a person can make.

Councils, including Blackpool, have received additional funding to help with the extra costs of a huge increase in the number of cases brought within the DoLS framework following case law last year, which are now also adding to the volume of annual reviews needed. However, there are skill shortages (for example in Best Interest Assessors and Doctors) and existing pressures of work that are adding to these. Applications currently stand at an average of 60 applications per month since April 2015 compared with only 49 applications for the whole of 2013/ 2014. The funding received has also been split with the Coroner's service as the DoLS changes have also impacted on that service.

The Law Commission consider that there is a compelling case for replacing the DoLS, which are perceived to be overly technical and legalised and not meaningful for disabled people and their families or carers and are consulting on their proposals.

Increasing the uptake of Direct Payments

We have been successful in increasing the number of people taking direct payments in Blackpool over the last 12 months. Direct payments are monetary payments made to individuals who request to receive one to meet some or all of their eligible care and support needs. They provide independence, choice and control by enabling people to commission their own care and support in order to meet their eligible needs. Most people choose to employ their own personal assistants (PA), but greater autonomy and innovation are also encouraged. The Care Act confirms that direct payments remain the Government's preferred mechanism for personalised care and support.

The Direct Payments Team currently supports 434 people (93 Children with Disabilities and 341 Adults and Carers). This is an increase of over 14% from the 380 supported at the same time last year, with 115 new people being supported to access Direct Payments throughout this period.

Response to Public Health England: E-Cigarettes: an evidence update released 19 August 2015

The report claims to provide the best-evidence available for health professionals, policy makers and the public, to clarify the truth about the relative risks and benefits of e-cigarettes. There are a number of concerns we have raised regarding some areas within the report. The report highlights that e-cigarettes are 95% less harmful to your health than normal cigarettes, and helps smokers to quit tobacco altogether. However, this also contradicts advice from the World Health Organisation, who recommend that until such time that there is a product produced, that is deemed safe and effective and of an acceptable quality by a competent regulatory body, consumers should be strongly advised not to use any of these products.

The report fails to cover the effects that e-cigarettes may have on the normalisation of smoking e-cigarettes amongst children and young people. Recent data from the Health and Social Care Information Centre shows that Blackpool has the highest proportion of 15 year olds who have ever used e-cigarettes at 33.9% compared to England average of 18.4%. E-cigarette use is prevalent in young people who have never smoked tobacco. It is of great concern that non-smokers are taking up use of e-cigarettes and there is evidence emerging that a proportion of these are progressing to smoking tobacco. This is of concern given that nicotine use has been found to disrupt brain development in young people, which can have long-term, irreversible consequences on brain function.

Transforming Services

Commissioning

Following the release of Future in Mind the following Transformational and Systemic work is currently underway across Blackpool with the Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) acting as the lead partner agency around Children and Young People's Emotional Health and Wellbeing in Blackpool.

There is an expectation that each CCG locality area co-ordinates the effort across all agencies in relation to how Children and Young People's Emotional Health and Wellbeing Services are delivered and that Transformational change is implemented. Delivering this requires real changes across the whole system. It means the NHS, all services within Local Authority (public health, social care, schools and youth justice sectors) must work together to meet set criteria.

CCG's will be expected to submit Transformational Plans to NHS England in October 2015 clearly articulating the case for change and evidencing how this will be achieved with all partners over the next five years.

Due to considerable investment in Blackpool from BIG Lottery (Better Start, Headstart and Fulfilling Lives), Blackpool Council, Blackpool CCG, NHS England and Lancashire MIND, around emotional well-being and mental health the Transformational Planning is timely in that it provides the Strategic Framework to ensure that this work is linked together to ensure a coherent system. This is necessary to ensure that complex commissioning arrangements and funding of new programmes is seamlessly linked.

A governance structure that will include ALL key partners will be implemented in order to take this work forward over the next five years. The structure will ultimately report to the Health and Wellbeing Board through the Children and Young People's Partnership Group. It will also link with Strategic Commissioning Group, Better Start Executive, Headstart Executive, CCG Executive Board, Clinical Leads Group and Commissioners Network Meeting.

Within the documents and also as part of additional press releases, the Government will increase the funding dedicated to Children's Mental Health Services. There is a recommendation for commitment by the Government of £250 million annual investment with outputs of 110,000 additional children and young people being treated within mental health services by 2020.

Looked After Children and Children's Homes

The number of children that are looked after is at the lowest level since 2012 (currently 443). However, this is significantly higher than the national and statistical neighbour average. This number of children places significant pressure on resources to support our children. Therefore, the strategy for 'Our Children' is being revised to include the following:

- A cultural shift away from the term 'looked after children' to 'our children' to strengthen the focus on the lived experience of the child and the corporate parenting function, if it would not be ok for our birth children it is not ok for these children. This means a number of plans are in place to drive up quality of provision and outcome.
- More robust edge of care provision to prevent reception into care, this will include exploration of models of intensive support and respite and links with Better Start to prevent multiple babies being removed from the same families.
- Revised commissioning, our current placement provision is not varied enough to meet the needs of the full range of our children, therefore the service is identifying young people for whom we could specifically family find, working with providers to extend the range of placements and also to reduce the costs by moving away from spot purchase arrangements.
- Rigorous approach to preventing breakdown, all placements which are at risk of breakdown will have a formal planning meeting to ensure additional support is provided and the data from those that breakdown will be captured to highlight service provision/ commissioning gaps.
- Robust approach to re unification, all of those children subject to placement with parents (i.e. on a care order, but placed at home) will be reviewed with a plan to discharge where appropriate. Tracking of placements will be improved to support better legal and parallel planning.

- Improved support to enhance educational and employment outcomes, all children will have a personal education plan in place by the end of next term. In addition social workers will take a more active role in understanding educational needs and working with young people in this area. Plans are in place to develop traineeships to support improved pathways into employment and apprenticeships.
- Emotional wellbeing and mental health support, many of our children have significant mental health needs, especially self-harming and it is very difficult to access appropriate services for them. We often have to purchase additional therapeutic support for our young people in placement and we are working with Health Commissioners to provide tri partite funding. In addition through the development of HeadStart the service is looking to access mental health support for our children including the development of a “friend for life” which provides young people with one consistent adult to support them.
- Care leavers drop in, work is ongoing to develop the care leavers drop in, the venue has now been secured and it is hoped building work can begin in September. JustUz have led the design of the building.

Safeguarding

An independent review of the front door to services (which included the efficacy of access to early help and social care) was undertaken in July 2015. This demonstrated that work is required to clarify roles and functions in relation to early help and simplify pathways to services. Work is therefore being undertaken with the Getting it Right and MASH (multi agency safeguarding hub) steering groups being combined to ensure clarity of thresholds and support services across the multi-agency partnership and reduce the number of meetings required.

The pathways at the front door are also being simplified to remove the EAT and Catalyst service and combine them with MASH to ensure a more efficient route through providing more support pre-social care and a faster route to access social care services when thresholds are met. This realignment will also allow additional support into duty and assessment (the social care front door) and Awaken (the specialist CSE team) to improve capacity.

Troubled Families

Targets continue to be exceeded in this area and we have received a personally written note from Louise Casey praising the service lead. Blackpool has a nationally celebrated model for the delivery of the Troubled Families agenda, which focusses on a whole family approach to tackling persistent absence, crime and anti-social behavior and unemployment. Our target of 100% of families turned around in Phase One was met early and we were invited to become early implementers of Phase Two allowing us the opportunity to expand the programme and focus on locally relevant needs.

Extensive Care Services and Enhanced Primary Care

The Council is working closely with the CCG and Acute Trust on the planning and delivery of a transformational programme to deliver new models of care focused on groups of GP surgeries operating in a neighbourhood model. The aim is to deliver care much closer to home and reduce the need to attend or be admitted to hospital for treatment.

The first Extensive Care service for Blackpool has begun, located in Moor Park Primary Care Centre and health and social care professionals are working together to deliver a more

proactive service for people with two or more long-term conditions who have a history of repeated hospital admissions. Funding is being sought as part of the NHS Vanguard programme to help pay to get the changed services up and running whilst at the same time keeping existing services going during the period of change. As part of this work, new roles have been developed, such as Wellbeing Support Workers, who will be a key point of contact with people using the service and ensure that they are connected to all the right services at the right time, as well as tackling wider issues of social isolation and poor living conditions.

Blackpool Intermediate Care Commissioning Review (2015)

Intermediate care services provide help to get people out of hospital more quickly or to avoid them having to go into hospital in the first place. They are a range of health and social care services that aim to help people maintain or regain their independence for example residential rehabilitation, reablement at home, Occupational Therapy and Physiotherapy. Most people benefiting from these services are older people, although there is no age limit.

Work is currently underway to put together a plan for moving these services forward by bringing health and social care even closer together and ensuring that people have the best chance of achieving a good outcome from them. When working well, these services should reduce the number and length of hospital admissions and help to keep people out of long term residential care for longer.

Transforming Care for Adults with Learning Disabilities (Winterbourne Review)

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.

Improving the skills of the workforce supporting people who 'challenge' is a key feature of Transforming Care. With a highly trained, skilled and experienced workforce the Extra Support Service will be equipped to support more individuals with very particular needs and risky behaviours within the local community and therefore preventing admissions to specialist hospitals and/or expensive out of area placements.

Working with Partners

Adult, Community and Family Learning

The Adult Learning Team has been working with the Equality Challenge Unit to raise awareness of equality issues facing learners in adult education. The project had three outcomes firstly to train a number of staff on equality and diversity, secondly to seek and sign up a variety of venues to the 'Safe Haven' project and thirdly to make a film concerning the communication used between members of the public and those from the transgender community. The film was very well received by not only the trans-community, but also by the funders who pronounced it an 'outstanding piece of work'. This will now go on to be used both locally and nationally as a training tool with organisations such as the NHS and the Government department BIS (Business Innovation and Skills).

The Adult Learning Team received funding to take part in the Mental Health Community Learning Pilot, which is looking at forming stronger partnership work with the NHS Mental Health Team and Public Health. A variety of courses are being delivered which are dual

facilitated by a tutor from Adult Learning and a Psychological Well-Being Practitioner. These courses include Stress Management, Work Related Stress and Depression and have been designed to help and support residents with mental health issues. The desired outcome is that residents of Blackpool will have an enhanced offer and a quicker route through a joined up service.

The Blackpool Music Service and Music Education Hub

The service continues to work at a local, national and regional level and after extensive regional choral finals in Blackpool, Lancashire and Blackburn with Darwen, a Grand Finale was held in King George's Hall (Blackburn) on 19 June. Anchorsholme Primary Academy won and Norbreck Primary Academy came second. With hundreds of school choirs entering this competition credit must be given to the school choirs and their Head teachers.

Thirteen young instrumentalists have passed auditions for National Orchestras since September. After 13 years, it appears there are now appropriate and extensive progression routes in numerous genres of music for all pupils.

The Service's Spanish Tour with the Youth Concert Band started at the end of July. Thirty-eight instrumental ambassadors will perform in and around the Costa Brava and have an opportunity to experience new traditions and cultures. For many of them, this is their first time beyond the Borough of Blackpool.

Youth Offending Team (YOT)

The YOT Partnership has been working through its improvement plan since January 2015, which shall be subject to sign off by the Youth Justice Board in September 2015.

The partnership has achieved a number of targets including a continued reduction in First Time Entrant and Custody rates and a reduction in the number of offenders and re-offences. There has also been a reduction in the number of custodial remands, helped by the commissioning of a remand fostering service from a third sector provider.

The service has also seen an increase in funding from the Police and Crime Commissioner for the Youth Justice Triage Service we commission from a third sector provider jointly with our two neighbouring YOTs and successful implementation of Youth Disposal Panels with our two neighbouring YOTs and our shared police service.

The YOT has also been subject to a commissioning review and service and staffing structures being revised in line with this. However, the Youth Justice Board has announced an additional in year cut of 14% to the grant, which means the service will need to save an additional £58,000. Therefore, the service will need to consider where efficiencies could be created, especially through co location or improved integration of services for vulnerable adolescents.

Pupil Welfare Service

The Pupil Welfare Service has built strong and promising relationships this academic year with Blackpool Schools and engagement in buy back is excellent leaving only two schools outside of service provision for the next academic year. Work to establish the core functions has progressed well and schools are all engaging in the process of register audits allowing us to safeguard all Blackpool young people in education.

Services around Schools

The Blackpool Challenge held its launch on 22 June at the Winter Gardens. The priority will be to support schools in their improvement journeys through Achievement for All, Challenge Partners and the World Class Programme.

Following the release of the Key Stage 3 results, the Blackpool Challenge Board will undertake the autumn conversation with Head teachers and Academy Sponsors in order to establish projections for 2016. Work will continue to revise the Area Education Strategy for 2017/2020.

After this summer's GCSE results the Blackpool Challenge Board will be focusing on strategies to secure the future progress and attainment of Blackpool children at Key Stage 3 and Key Stage 4. The performance of schools nationally and within Blackpool has gone down this year with Blackpool's 5A*-C English and Maths down from 44 to 41.8%. Investigations are underway with schools to clarify the impact of changes in grade boundaries for the IGSE English exam, which has affected three schools in Blackpool.

The impact of the Maths strategy at both primary and secondary is starting to show progress and the three levels of progress in Maths has improved slightly this year across Blackpool. The number of children achieving two good GCSEs in Science has improved by 4.6% however this remains a target area for further improvement as it is still a limiting factor for five Good GCSEs.

Educational Diversity has noted significant improvement in the number of children attaining a qualification.

Connexions

In conjunction with strategic partners/ providers across the town Connexions held its annual jobs and apprenticeship event at Blackpool Library in July. On offer there were over 500 apprenticeships and jobs for young people to apply for, alongside a range of volunteering opportunities. The event was well attended with 250 young people making the most of the opportunity.

Blackpool Safeguarding Adults Board

The Blackpool Safeguarding Board continues to work with partner agencies to embed the multi-agency policy and protocol. The newly appointed Adult Board business manager took up the role in late June and an interim appointment of the Independent Chair for the Adult Board has been made. Both Adult and Children's Boards are also moving toward increased joint working through the merging of the training sub-groups. This joint working arrangement will maximise efficiency and minimise duplication of the work required. A training co-ordinator to work across both Boards and facilitate this approach is in post from 1 August 2015.

Working with 'The Challenge'

Blackpool Centre for Independent Living (BCIL) on Whitegate Drive has fostered a working relationship with "The Challenge" and Making Space. "The Challenge" is a UK charity dedicated to building a more integrated society, working on a local level to bring people together from all ages, ethnicities and walks of life, connecting communities and building trust. BCIL has hosted an event bringing together existing user groups at BCIL and students

working with The Challenge to create a new flag logo for the Centre, helping people with a variety of support needs to work together to create and “sell” their ideas. It was a great success for all involved and the groups are already planning more projects for the future.

Boil Water Notice across Lancashire

The recent Boiled Water Notice across parts of Lancashire was because of the contamination of the water supply with *Cryptosporidium*. This issue has now been dealt with by United Utilities. During the course of the incident and to ensure an appropriate and timely response to the contamination, Blackpool Council through its Director of Public Health took over the chairing of the Lancashire Resilience Forum (LRF) Strategic Co-ordinating Group. This group coordinated the response and also ensured appropriate scrutiny and oversight of the United Utilities response. Through its Media Manager, Blackpool Council also took over the chairmanship of the LRF’s Strategic Media Advisory Cell to ensure that appropriate messages were being delivered to the public of Lancashire. The boiled water advice has now been lifted by United Utilities across the whole of Lancashire and all customers can now use their water supply as normal for all activities including drinking, food preparation and brushing your teeth.

Emergency Response Group skills sharing

Blackpool Council is working collaboratively with Blackburn with Darwen Council and Lancashire County Council to support skills sharing for the Emergency Response Group (ERG). The ERG are volunteers who give up their time to ensure that the Council is able to provide a robust response to support people evacuated from their homes or in need of regular information, in the event of a major emergency, such as a large fire or flood, as part of our statutory responsibilities under the Civil Contingencies Act. The three authorities are working together to ensure that training is consistent, effective, and engaging, and that staff are supported to gain and retain the skills they need to provide the right response in times of need.

Anchorsholme Park

The £80m investment by United Utilities in Anchorsholme Park, which will see new pumping, storm water tanks and sewage overflow pipes in to deep water, is well underway. Ultimately the aim is to improve sea water quality and is part of a major investment programme across the Fylde Coast. Public consultation has been extensive and in particular, a new Master Plan for Anchorsholme Park has been developed with a huge number of local people involved. This will be invested through reinstatement works, with Community and Environmental Services aiming to secure additional funding to enhance the scheme.

Leisure Partnership

A new leisure partnership with Better Start has created new opportunities within each community for the transition of early years to upskill local parents to become leaders. The partnership identifies local residents and parents from the community to provide training and qualifications to increase their confidence in engaging children to participate in active recreation within the parks and local community facilities. The scheme has engaged 5,190 people during September 2014 – July 2015.

Blackpool Pride

This event was held on the weekend of 13 and 14 June. The event attracted over 8,000 people this year and has progressively grown over recent years and is now a key event in the tourism calendar, celebrating diversity with top class entertainment.

We are now working on an exciting opportunity to link this work into a transnational European partnership sharing good practice in promoting LGBT equality.