

CABINET MEMBER FOR ADULT SOCIAL CARE – COUNCILLOR NEAL BROOKES

Portfolio areas of responsibility:

- Adult provider services including Commissioned services for adults
- Adult social care assessment and support
- Adult respite, day services, Care at Home, supported living and residential services
- Adult safeguarding
- Reablement and intermediate care
- Health integration including funding and services delivery
- Regulated care sector/ inspection/ quality monitoring
- Adult mental health, learning disability, frail older people and physical disability services

Introduction

The cabinet member will present the report to Council and report on any key issues.

Theme 1 - Active into Autumn Event

Following the success of the Blackpool Place-Based Partnership event “Spring into Spring” in March 2023, the partnership, in conjunction with Public Health colleagues, followed this with a larger scale marketplace event in September 2023, “Active into Autumn”.

Active into Autumn is a fantastic example of partnership working across Blackpool, demonstrating how to listen to and how to work with our communities. The purpose of the event was to encourage people to get out and about and connect to their communities. It showcased the many great activities and support available across the town, including health and fitness activities, educational classes, volunteering and job opportunities.

The event had a strong presence from over fifty voluntary, community and social enterprise and statutory organisations in Blackpool, supporting the full spectrum of needs and demonstrating practical partnership working in action. One of the main benefits of bringing a diverse group together is the relationships made and knowledge shared. For example, a GP was made aware of a locally run service which is able to collect residents and take them to their GP appointments and is now promoting this to colleagues. Similarly plans were considered to advertise a local dental service on the radio. This service is available to parents of children aged 4 and under where they can gain access to dental services for their children.

The event provided a great opportunity for organisations to network and make their own connections to better support Blackpool residents. It was wonderful and inspiring to see so many organisations together under one roof and to hear about the abundance of activities and

support which is available to the local community. Blackpool Place-based Partnership plan to host both events again in 2024.

Theme 2 - Equipment Recycling

As the newly formed regional Integrated Care Board takes shape, there are plans to move towards a more joined up model to commission certain goods and services, such as an end-to-end equipment service. Representatives from Blackpool, Blackburn and Darwen, South Cumbria Councils and Lancashire and South Cumbria Integrated Care Board are exploring the possibility of designing a joint scope and service specification. If there is sufficient appetite, an Integrated Care Board-led partnership would be formed to lead the development and procurement exercise. This work is in its infancy and if a partnership is formed, then it is anticipated this work would take a minimum of 2-3 years to complete and implement a new Integrated Care Board wide equipment service offer.

Meanwhile, Blackpool is developing an interim equipment solution to bridge the gap until details of the potential wider procurement strategy becomes known. The interim solution will include break clauses so the Council can join any with any future Integrated Care Board wide solutions at a future date and allows us to continue to recycle equipment in line with our 2030 carbon emissions target. For some years there has been a recycling service of high value specialist equipment but there was nothing in place for the high volume lower cost aids to daily living until 2021, when work took place with Enveco and the equipment supplier Liveasy to pilot a 'Return to Reuse' scheme. People are encouraged to return any unused items of equipment to the Household Waste Recycling Centre and these items are collected weekly for decontamination, repair and re-issuing. In the first six months of this year, 707 pieces of recycled equipment have been re-issued instead of a new item.

Theme 3 - Adult Carers' Strategy Update

A five-year Adult Carers' Strategy and associated action plan has been presented at the Adult Social Care and Health Scrutiny Committee, with an action work plan in place. Regular quarterly update meetings will take place at Adult Social Care Senior Management Team meetings to ensure progress. The monthly staff carers group, Care to Chat, continues to meet on a regular basis, with engagement taking place to develop a best practice guidance document. A review of the carer awareness training held on iPool is also underway. Monthly update meetings continue to be held with Blackpool Carers Centre, who are assigned as lead on a number of the actions in the Adult Carers Strategy.

General questions / comments

Councillors will have the opportunity to raise questions / comments on any matter in the Cabinet Member's portfolio.