

REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR ADULT SOCIAL CARE**COUNCILLOR MOHAMMED KHAN****PORTFOLIO CO-ORDINATING
DIRECTOR: SALLY McIVOR****DATE: 7 June 2012****LEARNING DISABILITY INTEGRATION**

People with a learning disability are some of the most vulnerable citizens living in Blackburn with Darwen and many people who have a learning disability may have additional needs i.e. they may have a physical disability and complex health needs. Many people who have a learning disability need support to live in the community and additional support from specialist health professionals in order to ensure that their complex needs are met. In Blackburn with Darwen we have approximately 600 adults who have a learning disability and approximately 400 of them are in receipt of a commissioned package of support via Adult Social Care. At present people with a learning disability are supported by a number of health and social care teams: The Learning Disability Social Work Team, The Learning Disability Community Nurse Team, The Mental Health/ Learning Disability Liaison Team and the Specialist Outreach Nurse Team.

We intend to establish a 'joint team' the first phase of which will be to co-locate the Learning Disability Social Work Team and the Learning Disability Community Nurse Team in the Tower Block. Officers have met with senior managers from the health provider, Lancashire Care Foundation Trust who are responsible for the Learning Disability Community Nurse Team and agreement in principle has been reached to develop integrated learning disability services that will add value to the current offer available to citizens with a Learning Disability in Blackburn with Darwen.

The benefits of this integrated approach include:

- Establishing one team will in turn create one key point of contact for citizens with a learning disability and their families or any other referring agencies.
- There will be greater clarity for citizens and all stakeholders as one 'lead professional' will be named contact on a case by case basis.
- The establishment of single assessment will avoid duplication of work and families/citizens being asked the same questions by different professionals.
- Increased awareness and understanding of individual cases from a multi disciplinary perspective will enhance safeguarding and serve to protect some of our most vulnerable citizens and members of the public from harm.
- Integration will establish a more effective and efficient use of available resources across Health and Social Care ensuring better outcomes for citizens, service commissioners and providers.
- Health and Social care professionals working more closely together sharing knowledge, skills and experience will further enhance supports to citizens with a learning disability.

We will continue to look at opportunities to further develop integrated health and social care support for people with a learning disability in Blackburn with Darwen.

CREATING JOB OPPORTUNITIES THROUGH THE COMMUNITY NETWORKS

Following on from the launch of the Support Planning Network in March 2012, 3 volunteer support planners have now completed the relevant training and are now being mentored by the self directed support team, empowering and supporting citizens to complete their own support plan.

Also following recent joint-working between Job Centre Plus, BwD Self Directed Support service, the Centre for Independent Living and BwD employment agency it has been agreed that the Job Centre plus will supply 7 people for a 3 month work placement with the Self Directed Support team.

These 7 people will complete a training programme and gain work experience that will put them in a good position to gain employment in social care.

They will have the opportunity to register with the newly established Providers of Personal Assistant network, BwD employment agency (who recruit to all in-house provision) and could also be employed by citizens who are seeking to employ a personal assistant directly. Alternatively they could continue to assist people with Support Planning by linking with one of the organisations in the Support Planning Network.

A Care Work Awareness Event is being held on 21/6/2012. This Event is aimed at individuals aged 18-24 yr old who may be thinking about a career in care. A joint stall will be supported by volunteer support planners, peer support group members (employers of PAs), centre for independent living and BwD self directed support team staff who will work in partnership with JCP to promote work placements to interested individuals, share experiences and provide information about the role of being a personal assistant.

CENTRE FOR INDEPENDENT LIVING

During summer of 2011 the Council and partners established a Project Board to oversee the development of the Blackburn with Darwen Centre for Independent Living (CIL).

The CIL will provide information and advice as well as links to a range of community based services and support. It will cater for citizens of all ages and their families who need assistance to remain independent within their local community. The CIL will play an integral role in the delivery of the Personalisation, Think Family, Your Call and other community focused initiatives.

The "pilot" CIL is now operating from the ground floor of Blackburn Central Library. Staff from the Council's Self Directed Support Team, Peer Support Group volunteers and Neighbourhood Services are delivering the initial service offer. Discussions are in progress with Care Network, Age UK, MIND, REMPLOY and other service providers in terms of providing additional input into the project.

9A Town Hall Street, Blackburn (Council owned building) has been identified as suitable premises to provide the expanding CIL service offer. Service users and volunteers will be involved in the design specification for the refurbishment of the premises and subject to statutory consultations it is envisaged that the premises will be open to the public in the autumn 2012.

IN-HOUSE PROVIDER SERVICES UPDATE

Despite recent unprecedented financial challenges across Adult Social Care, BwD Council remains committed to providing high quality services from buildings offering safe and pleasant environments. This commitment is evidenced by the decision to authorise an increase in the Portfolio's capital programme of £733,000 in 2012/13 to ensure that the current in-house day services are able to meet the eligible needs of vulnerable adults with disabilities, frail older adults, of which some have dementia, as well as to provide support and respite to their families.

This investment will ensure in-house services provided from two centres namely Hopwood Court in the Audley ward and Stansfeld Street in the Mill Hill ward will meet the physical and environmental needs of the current service users and allow for future development of direct services, so that all individuals regardless of need will have access to safe, comfortable and pleasant environments, in facilities that provide individualised support, in line with the core principles of the Department and the wishes of all stakeholders. Investment will provide increased building flexibility for improved inside and outdoor activities, multi-sensory equipment and high specification dining facilities.

This capital investment will also go towards resolving a number of key issues being faced by Adult Social Care, in particular with regards to local Demographics, Carers and Personalisation. All major challenges that will be supported by the provision at both centres of a 'Changing Place' toilet facility, The 'Changing Places Consortium' has been campaigning to improve facilities through the installation of Changing Places toilets since 2006. The capital investment will allow BwD to provide facilities that can then be registered through the national register for citizens in their local community to know they can confidently access their local facilities when they are 'out and about', being of benefit to individuals and citizens with high physical support needs living in the local community. The building design will offer the flexibility for the changing places to be available in the evenings and weekends.