

REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR HEALTH AND ADULT SOCIAL CARE

COUNCILLOR MOHAMMED KHAN

**PORTFOLIO CO-ORDINATING
DIRECTOR: SALLY McIVOR
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YOUR SUPPORT YOUR CHOICE SERVICE – UPDATE

The new Your Support Your Choice Service is now open at 9A Town Hall Street, Blackburn. The service is being delivered through a partnership agreement between Lancashire MIND and Care Network. The service provides information, advice and advocacy on a range of health and social care issues and links to a range of community based services and support. It caters for citizens of all ages who need assistance to remain independent within their community.

Lancashire Mind in partnership with Care Network supported by Adult Services are also developing The Accessible Self Care Project (ASC Project). The aim of the project is to improve the long-term care and support of people across Blackburn with Darwen, the project will create two unique community roles to reduce inappropriate use of statutory health and social care services.

INTERNAL SAFEGUARDING REVIEW

An internal review of adult safeguarding took place between the 6th and 8th March. The focus of the review was to gain feedback from staff within the Local Authority and Health agencies about our local safeguarding arrangements. A number of 'Key Lines of Enquiry' helped the review team to determine areas of good practice and strengths, and also to identify areas for further consideration.

The three days proved to be extremely productive and will result in a safeguarding action plan being developed and a 'task and finish' group established to drive forward the findings. A snapshot of the positive feedback received includes:

- Some effective approaches to safeguarding (particularly the specialist safeguarding team)
- A strong commitment and focus by staff
- Good training opportunities
- Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH) developments

Areas for consideration include:

- Improving communications
- Reviewing safeguarding policy and procedures
- Developing a safeguarding Quality Assurance Framework
- Strengthening service user voice

Employees' views are also being sought to help strengthen the safeguarding arrangements in Blackburn with Darwen.

IN-HOUSE CARE HOME CLOSURE PROGRAMME

Following the decision of Finance Council on 4th March 2013 to approve the closure of the Council's four in-house residential care homes, continued consultation and planning is well underway. The home closure programme, phased over a potential two year timeline, aims to ensure that residents and family carers are supported to find alternative services of equal or greater quality. Clearly, moving older people to alternative care settings requires sensitive and careful discussions, care planning and an open and honest approach with residents, family carers and partners. A range of consultation and engagement sessions have been held to provide information on next steps, local market developments and provide an opportunity to explore issues and concerns.

There is clear evidence that where these processes are carefully managed then health and well-being outcomes can be maintained and supported. Using a recent study commissioned by the Association of Directors of Adult Social Services from Birmingham University, an agreed Home Closure Protocol is being used to ensure best practice e.g. enabling groups of friends to move together. Further consultation and information sessions will continue to be held with dedicated social work and independent advocacy support being provided to residents and families.

INTEGRATED COMMISSIONING

Plans to bring together a single commissioning and procurement team that will oversee children's, adults and public health services are progressing. The children's commissioning and procurement team will move over to the town hall tower block in May 2013 to co-locate with the existing adults team. In addition to this there will be a small number of new posts created to allow for the commissioning and procurement of public health services, which come over to the Council from the beginning of April. The new service will allow us to better join up health and social care services and make greater cash efficiencies from the combined commissioning spend

HEALTH AND WELLBEING BOARD

As a result of the Health and Social Care Act 2012, Health and Wellbeing Boards become statutory partnership boards at first tier Local Government level from 1st April 2013.

Blackburn with Darwen Health and Wellbeing Board is now well placed to start this new phase of its life. In readiness for its new statutory role the Board has:

- Delivered and published its Integrated (Joint) Strategic Needs Assessment and Health and Wellbeing Strategy in November 2012. (www.blackburn.gov.uk or www.bwdgpnet.org.uk)
- Undertaken member training and development and established a clear work programme.

- Developed an outline Action Plan to implement its 5 key Programme areas and appointed thematic leads to take forward delivery of these plans during 2013/14.

PUBLIC HEALTH TRANSITION

The 'transition phase' of moving the Specialist Public Health Directorate and the NHS public health and prevention services from the NHS to Council management has been successfully completed on 31/3/13.

From 1 April 2013 these services are now the responsibility of the Council. The Department of Health Public Health Grant awarded to BwD Borough Council in January has provided a sound basis for future progress in public health across the Borough.

The Council has inherited a number of public health contracts from the Care Trust Plus which will be managed in 2013/14 as specified by the NHS. However, during 2013/14, these contracts will be reviewed and recommendations made for service improvements, increased efficiency and re-profiling in line with the new priorities established within the Blackburn with Darwen Health and Wellbeing Strategy.