

REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR HEALTH AND ADULT SOCIAL CARE COUNCILLOR MOHAMMED KHAN

PORTFOLIO CO-ORDINATING DIRECTOR: SALLY McIVOR

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ADULT SOCIAL CARE

HOPWOOD COURT

Work has started on improving one of Blackburn with Darwen Council's day care centres after an application was approved by the planning committee. A building extension, new conservatory, additional group rooms and specialised bathing facilities are just some of the improvements being planned to Hopwood Court. The improvements were pledged after residents, who are among the most vulnerable in Blackburn with Darwen, and their families who use it said they really valued the facility. The Department has found the means to invest funds in this facility despite the tough financial times we have faced and the limited amount of available, precisely because it is used by some of the borough's most vulnerable residents and that we are also seeking to create a local centre that can be used and enjoyed by other local residents

SHARED LIVES

The Shared lives service held a very successful open day on 14th August to showcase its work and recognise the invaluable contribution of its growing number of carers (now standing at 51, a very large increase over the past 18 months). Shared lives provide both long and short term care to frail and disabled adults as well as, increasingly, personalised daytime support. It provides excellent outcomes for people placed with families and generally at a much lower cost than alternative kinds of provision for people who need round the clock care and support.

DISABILITY HATE CRIME PEER SUPPORT GROUP

A new Disability Hate Crime Peer Support Group is due to officially launch on 18th September 2013. The group known as 'Resolve' meet on a weekly basis at the Your Support Your Choice service. The group, which is made up of volunteers, have prepared an action plan for 2013-2014 and aim to focus their work in the following areas:

- Improving the confidence of victims and raising public awareness about the need to report incidents of disability hate crime;
- Support and inform the development of effective, accessible ways to report hate crime;
- Informing victims about the support services available and how to access them;
- Providing advice on how to keep yourself safe;
- Providing practical advice and someone to talk to - 'experts by experience'.

ASSISTIVE TECHNOLOGY PROGRAMME UPDATE

The Assistive Technology Programme has recently adopted its own logo and brand named the "Safe and Well" Programme. The rebrand has come at a time when a number of new schemes have just been launched across the Borough.

The Council has funded the launch of Telecare in 9 residential and nursing homes for an initial period of 18 months. The main purpose of this is to reduce falls and improve health and wellbeing through alternative and innovative interventions. The installation of equipment is currently underway. It is hoped that Telehealth will also be used in the coming months, as well as other new equipment that is currently entering the market.

The Council is also working with 3 voluntary sector providers to provide an 18 month pilot project using Telecare solutions. The programme is initially providing funding for around 200 users per annum to be equipped with basic Telecare equipment. The main aim is to support people that do not meet the Council's FACS (Fair Access to Care) criteria.

This pioneering project will aim to support early intervention and prevention by working with people early on before their conditions become critical, as well as reducing admissions to hospital or residential/nursing care.

The prototypes will be evaluated independently in conjunction with Blackburn College. All of the work will help support and shape the Council's future commissioning strategy in relation to assistive technology.

PUBLIC HEALTH

HEALTH CHECKS

In September Public Health England published the first quarterly Health Checks figures since this became a Council public health responsibility. 624 health checks were offered to residents in Blackburn with Darwen between April and June 2013. Of those health checks offered, 356 were taken up – a figure of 57% which was higher than across England where the average uptake was 48% for the same period. In Blackburn with Darwen, Health Checks are open to people aged between 35 and 74 who have not already been diagnosed with heart disease, kidney disease or diabetes. Health Checks are an important way of identifying underlying risk factors for these conditions, and even the diseases themselves, at an early stage before they cause symptoms. Health Checks are delivered in a wide range of community settings, including work places, through a partnership between Council Services and health provider Quintiles, and also in GP practices.

STOP SMOKING

Smoking remains the number one cause of preventable death and ill health in Blackburn with Darwen. The Stop Smoking service is now a Council responsibility and provides free evidence based stop smoking advice and support including nicotine replacement and related therapies. The service is currently provided in a range of community settings including: Pharmacies, GP Surgeries, Hospitals and health centres. Between April and June 2013 the local service helped 667 smokers to stop. Helping people to stop smoking is just one part of the efforts to control tobacco associated harms including reducing the number of young people who take up smoking and protecting people from second hand smoke. Tobacco control is supported by a range of local and national campaigns including STOPTOBER – which is a national campaign urging people to make October their month to quit. We also work in close partnership across the county and the region to develop tobacco control policy and to lobby on tobacco control issues – for example via the Tobacco Free Lancashire Alliance, which Cllr Mohammed Khan will co-chair with elected members from the other two Lancashire authorities.

KEOGH REVIEW

In July the report of the Keogh review into East Lancashire Hospitals NHS Trust was published. Blackburn with Darwen Public Health department has played a leading role in interpreting the often complex data which led to, and has flowed from, the inclusion of local trust in the Keogh Mortality Review. The department is continuing to work with partners to develop an evidence-based response to the recommendations of the Keogh Review team. At the beginning of September the Council hosted a workshop for a group of members (drawn specifically from the Health and Wellbeing Board, Health Overview and Scrutiny and Healthwatch) to examine the local implications of the Keogh Report on East Lancashire Hospitals NHS Trust.

ACTIONS AND OUTCOMES ON THE WIDER DETERMINANTS OF HEALTH

Agreement has now been reached with Council Directors on the actions and outcomes on the wider determinants of health that they and their Departments will deliver between now and the end of March 2015. A process has been put in place by the corporate performance team to ensure that delivery and accountability are assured.

RECIPE 4 HEALTH HEALTHY CATERING AWARDS

A Recipe 4 Health Healthy Catering Award ceremony was held in July to congratulate and recognise the commitment of 13 catering providers and their staff to improving young children and family's nutrition. All of the borough's Children's Centres, and staff from both private and local authority run nurseries achieved Silver or Gold awards for improving the nutritional quality of food served. Public Health worked in partnership with the Public Protection team, who delivered the Recipe 4 Health scheme with the support of volunteers supported by Blackburn with Darwen Healthy Living.