

**REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR HEALTH AND ADULT SOCIAL CARE
COUNCILLOR MOHAMMED KHAN****PORTFOLIO CO-ORDINATING DIRECTOR: SALLY McIVOR
DATE: 4 APRIL 2014****ADULT SOCIAL CARE****HOME SUPPORT TECHNOLOGY SHOWCASED AT 'SAFE AND WELL' CONFERENCE**

A 'Safe and Well' conference was held at Ewood Park on 4th March to discuss and showcase the latest technology available to support people who need help to remain independent in their homes. Assistive living technology, also known as telecare and telehealth, promotes the use of devices such as panic buttons, falls detectors and much more. The event brought together manufacturers, local social care staff and residents who use the technology. The latest technology was demonstrated, and attendees discussed the pros and cons of different devices with a view to shaping the local service to best meet the needs of those using it.

PIONEERING TECHNOLOGY TO BOOST ELDERLY CARE

A pilot scheme for new hi-tech equipment is being rolled out in the borough to help staff in residential homes to meet the needs of vulnerable people even quicker and give residents more control over their care. The Council's Safe and Well Programme, working in partnership with BES Healthcare, are currently piloting 'BAM Labs Technology' at Acorn House Care Home in Blackburn. Turning any bed into a 'Smart Bed', the Touch Free Life Care (TLC) sensor mat is placed under a mattress and continuously detects heart rate, breathing rate, motion and presence. It enables caregivers to receive, direct to their computer or mobile devices, health data and alerts about clients in their care. They can also review long term trend data for sleep patterns, resting heart and breathing rate and sleep quality to identify adverse changes in health for early intervention. It is planned that these devices will also be used as part of the reablement programme, and the equipment will be introduced to other residential homes in the borough over the next 12 months.

BETTER CARE FUND

As reported at the Council Forum meeting in January, the first cut of the Better Care Fund plan was submitted to NHS England on 14th February. The Better Care Fund is designed to deliver closer integration between health and social care and provide care and support to people within their own homes and communities, where appropriate, to enable them to live at home for as long as they wish to. We received positive feedback and suggestions from the first submission and have been working closely with key partners to prepare the final submission for 4th April 2014.

GREENWAYS AND FENISCLIFFE BANK PROCUREMENT

Work is well underway to identify a build and construction partner to redevelop the sites of the former Greenways and Feniscliffe Bank residential homes. Plans are being developed to create two new state of the art services for older people that provide the high levels of quality and experience that older people and their families have come to expect.

A number of organisations have expressed an interest to work with the Council in these exciting new developments. Both sites present a real opportunity to focus on intermediate care, outreach support and offer the scope for additional extra care capacity across the borough. Building contracts will be awarded in September 2014 to enable the successful partners to begin work. In the short term both buildings are secured and plans for demolition are under development.

FALLS INTEGRATED STRATEGIC NEEDS ASSESSMENT (ISNA)

One in three people aged over 65, and half of those aged over 80, fall at least once a year. Falls are the commonest cause of death from injury in the over 65s, and many falls result in fractures and / or head injuries. Falls cost the NHS more than £2 billion per year and have a significant impact on people who fall leading to greater social isolation, reduced mobility etc.

Blackburn with Darwen commissions and provides a range of services to help assist with falls prevention, for example the Decent and Safe Homes (DASH) service who undertake home based safety assessments and provide remedial advice and works. However, given the rising older people's population the Blackburn with Darwen 50+ Partnership has started work to develop a Falls (ISNA). This will provide us with detailed information that will help us plan more initiatives together to support people to be safe and well within their own homes and communities. A broad range of partners including NHS, adult social care and housing and representatives of a wide range of community organisations, met on 20th March to begin this important work.

PUBLIC HEALTH

BREAST FEEDING

Breast milk is unique, health protecting and wellbeing promoting. In Blackburn with Darwen, breastfeeding rates are now 73% in the first 48 hours after birth and 38% at 6–8 weeks, compared with 70% and 34% last year.

Public Health have commissioned additional breastfeeding support to raise rates at 6-8weeks even further. Early Years staff from local Children's Centres are providing home peer support visiting and also facilitating four infant feeding support groups across the borough. A 'specialist infant feeding team' work with partners to support mums with more complex feeding challenges and lead on the local UNICEF Baby Friendly Initiative (BFI), which has achieved full accreditation, demonstrating high standards in infant feeding and staff skills and knowledge. Training and staff support is integral to the work of the team, who also facilitate the local 'believing in breastfeeding' award, the 'breastfeeding welcome' scheme, and support the development of a schools toolkit for breastfeeding education in primary schools.

FIT FOR THE FUTURE?

On 26th March the Council, the Clinical Commissioning Group and Age UK held a popular 'Fit for the Future?' event at King George's Hall, promoting to people aged 50+, the full range of services provided by public and third sector organisations in the borough that can help maintain and improve health and wellbeing.

570 attendees engaged with Public Health commissioned providers included Health Trainers offering Health MOTs (including diabetes risk assessment), drugs and alcohol services and Age UK itself promoting cancer awareness. The Adult Services presence included Your Support Your Choice, the Independent Living Service demonstrating a range of telecare devices and home aids and adaptations, the Decent and Safe Homes (DASH) service and Care Network.

CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S EMOTIONAL HEALTH AND WELLBEING

Children and young people with good emotional health and wellbeing are better equipped to cope with life's challenges, be more productive and enjoy good physical health and wellbeing throughout their lives. On 26th March an event at Blackburn Youth Zone brought together children, young people and others to discuss issues around emotional health and wellbeing, and showcased a short film produced by pupils at Blackburn Central High and Crosshill schools. The event was part of a large consultation which has involved speaking to over 200

children and young people through focus groups and interviews. The findings of the consultation will be used to better understand emotional health and guide the planning and development of local services for children and young people.

BAITER SEHAT RECOGNISED NATIONALLY

The Baiter Sehat (Better Health) project commissioned by Public Health and delivered by One Voice has been recognised nationally at the Minister for Public Health's 'Celebrating Public Health' event at the House of Lords on 3 April, to mark the first year of council's new public health responsibilities. Since September 2012, One Voice has been very effectively engaging the local community in addressing important health issues, including: organ donation; diabetes and cardiovascular disease; cancer; mental health and wellbeing; tobacco / shisha use; genetics and inheritance; domestic violence / honour based violence; and drugs and alcohol issues.

ALCOHOL STRATEGY: PREVENTING HARM, IMPROVING OUTCOMES

Whilst we have a large proportion of residents in the borough who do not drink, we experience significant harm from alcohol locally, including the impact it has on crime, health and social services. Alcohol and its harmful consequences has the potential to reach across all agencies, and as such a multi-agency Alcohol Strategy has been developed, with partners including public health, Police, community safety, treatment services, community and voluntary sector, and service user groups. The four strategic priorities are:

- Responsible retailing
- Easier access to support for all who need it
- Ensure everyone is supported to make informed choices about their alcohol use, protecting those most affected.
- Work with communities to reduce alcohol-related crime and make them safer places to live.

The Strategy has undergone wide consultation, it has been presented to various groups and forums and there has been positive media interest. All comments have been collated and the Strategy and action plans have been amended accordingly. The Strategy has been endorsed by the Clinical Commissioning Group, the Police, and the Health and Wellbeing Board and within the Council was discussed at the Executive Board on 10th April.