

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

CARE BILL

The Care Bill has now completed its passage through Parliament, and was enacted as the Care Act 2014 during May 2014. The new Care Act marks the most significant transformation in social care law in over 60 years and replaces multiple strands of social care legislation with a single unified legal framework. Key elements include a new cap of £72,000 on eligible care costs from April 2016 onwards, and universal access to 'deferred payment' agreements. A Care Bill project group now meets monthly in the Council to drive forward work across the Adults and Finance departments, with links to others as required. At a regional level, a North West Care Bill Task and Finish group is now tackling a number of the major issues which affect all North West councils, starting with identification of the number of 'self-funders' in each Council area: people who – as the £72,000 care cap approaches – are likely to come to us for assessment and potentially support for the first time. By October 2014 the new Care Act regulations and guidance will be published by the Government in draft form for consultation, which will be followed by intensive work locally on all aspects of the new Care Act ahead of implementation from April 2015 onwards.

AGENCY HELP LINK SCHEME

A key priority for the work of the Executive Member is prevention and early intervention. A new multi-agency scheme aimed at older people who have long term health conditions or who are at risk of loneliness or social isolation was launched on 23rd April 2014. The scheme has been developed by the 50+ Partnership and involves a range of agencies working across the borough. The scheme aims to ensure a joined up approach to service delivery where there are a number of agencies involved with an individual resident. The scheme operates via a multi-agency referral form which is processed by the Your Support Your Choice Service to determine what services are required by the customer. Your Support Your Service staff will contact the customer direct to confirm their requirements and then arrange for the relevant provider/s to visit.

Key partners signed up to the scheme include: BwD Carers Service, BwD Age UK, Care Network, Lancs Fire & Rescue Service, Community Nursing Service, Advocacy Focus, DASH Service, Advice for All, BwD Health & Wellbeing Service and Action on Hearing Loss.

INTEGRATED CONTINUING HEALTH CARE ARRANGEMENTS

A social worker has been co-located within the Pennine Locality Continuing Health Care Team as a means to promote a more integrated way of working. The team is based at Walshaw House (Nelson) and will bring together colleagues across general nursing, mental health nursing and social care. This opportunity will last for an initial period of 6 months and will focus on supporting multi-disciplinary needs assessment, decision making and care planning. It is anticipated that working in a more integrated way will improve communication between health and social care, streamline processes and result in better outcomes for service users. An evaluation of this 6 month project will support the development of longer term arrangements.

HOPWOOD COURT

Work at Hopwood Court to build the new extension and remodel existing areas of the building was sanctioned by the Executive Member in 2013 and has been completed recently. The

building reopened to service users in May. The improvements have provided more group and meeting rooms, fully equipped disabled bathrooms, a training kitchen and a therapy room. Landscaping work is now being completed so that the outside facilities can be used during the coming summer months.

Discussions are taking place with a range of partners to agree the further development of a variety of activities which will be available from the hub, a number of one off projects are also starting, which includes a gardening project to develop growing areas and agree a tribute to Councillor Dorothy Walsh which will be placed in the garden.

Service users and visitors have been very positive about the improvements which have been made.

PUBLIC HEALTH

DEMENTIA FRIENDS

Dementia is a major health concern. There are estimated to be over 665,000 people currently living with dementia in England and an estimated 21 million people who have a close friend or family member affected by dementia. In Blackburn with Darwen, there were 1,251 people known to be living with dementia in 2010 with that figure estimated to rise to 1,326 by 2015, with many more currently undiagnosed. The number of people living with dementia is set to rise as the population is ageing.

Blackburn with Darwen Council and the 50+ Partnership are supporting the new Public Health England and Alzheimer's Society 'Dementia Friends' campaign, to help develop an understanding of dementia and assist those local people living with the condition. Public Health has also been successful in attracting funding for a Lancaster University researcher to study dementia in the local South Asian community; the work has now started and will inform service planning and help ensure needs are met.

NICE IN LOCAL GOVERNMENT

The National Institute for Health & Care Excellence (NICE) has supported public health some years. From April 2013, its remit has expanded to include responsibility for developing guidance and quality standards in social care. The Public Health team has been working to develop a systematic approach across the Council and linking with local partners, which they were invited to present at the national NICE conference in May. Ensuring the organisation makes the most of the support offered through NICE when commissioning and delivering relevant services, will help to ensure that services are evidence based, safe, effective and deliver value for money.

HEALTHWATCH

Healthwatch Blackburn with Darwen CIC (Community Interest Company) became an incorporated social enterprise on 1st February 2014, chaired by Sir Bill Taylor, to work on behalf of our residents and communities as an advocate for health and social care. Healthwatch has gained a lot from the support of the Carers Federation during the first year of development, but the new social enterprise is now independent and will be delivering Healthwatch under the Grant Funding Agreement from the Council.

Between January and March the local Healthwatch Transitions team has been working with Healthwatch England and the Local Government Association to produce a reflective audit

toolkit to help local Healthwatch organisations across the country to assess how Healthwatch is doing in their area. The resulting questionnaire and a DVD film about the process, which featured Sir Bill Taylor, Cllr Mohammed Khan and Joe Slater the Chair of Blackburn with Darwen CCG, was launched in April by Healthwatch England and the LGA in a series of regional workshops.

PUBLIC HEALTH RESPONSIBILITY PASSES THE YEAR MARK FOR LOCAL AUTHORITY

A year has now passed since full responsibility for public health transferred from the NHS to local government. £1 million was invested during 2013/14 in services across the Council to tackle issues ranging from preventing falls and increasing use of parks and open spaces to increasing employment and education opportunities for young people and work to crack down on sales of alcohol to people who are underage.

Key achievements during the first year have included: Weekly family health drop in sessions and vitamin D distribution in children's centres; investment in the Decent and Safe Homes (DASH) service to help falls prevention - including assessments and handyperson jobs; tackling loneliness and isolation through Good Neighbours projects and creating employment as a result of funding support from the Council's Assistance to Industry programme. Those efforts have been recognised by the Local Government Association who have used the Council as a national case study in a new report on the transition of public health to local authorities. Praise also came in a report by think tank The King's Fund in December last year which noted the Council's 'strong, innovative partnership between its public health team and the rest of the authority'.