

REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR NEIGHBOURHOODS, HOUSING AND CUSTOMER SERVICES

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**PORTFOLIO CO-ORDINATING
DIRECTOR: SAYYED OSMAN
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TROUBLED FAMILIES PROGRAMME UPDATE - Outcomes up to August 2014 for the programme indicate 60% achieved (279) against the overall 3 year target of 465 families. The second delivery of the Level 4 Award in Work with Parents (Intense Support for Families with Multiple and Complex Needs) begins on 10 September and will be delivered to 25 participants from across the public sector, including staff from Children's services, Sustainable Neighbourhoods, Youth Justice service, Police Community Support Officers, Adult services and the voluntary sector.

NATIONAL CAREERS SERVICE CONTRACT UPDATE - The current National Careers Service contract has now been confirmed as renewed with a new prime contractor for a period of 18 months, commencing 1st October 2014. The contract introduces a range of new requirements, including a payments by results method of funding and challenging targets.

SHOREY BANK OLDER PERSONS HOUSING - The Council is pleased to report positive progress on this scheme. We anticipate a start on site in the summer of 2015.

ROE LEE REDEVELOPMENT - The master planning/scoping exercise undertaken by Capita Symonds has now been concluded. The draft report will be considered by the project stakeholders to agree phasing and deliverability of various housing sites in the area.

EMPTY PROPERTIES CLUSTERS PROJECT -The 14 empty homes on Queen Street in Darwen (previously owned by the Council) have now been fully refurbished by TVH and let for affordable rent. A further 3 properties on Harwood Street are nearing completion and will also be let through the BwithUs scheme. TVH have agreed purchase prices on a further 5 empty properties in central Darwen.

TRADING STANDARDS ENFORCEMENT - The Consumer Protection Team is leading on an initiative to disrupt the supply of novel psychoactive substances (NPS - formally known as legal highs) in the Borough and are working with the police and colleagues in Public Health to educate retailers who sell this product. This initiative forms part of a wider strategy on NPS which is currently under development by colleagues in Public Health.