

## **REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR HEALTH AND ADULT SOCIAL CARE COUNCILLOR MUSTAFA DESAI**

**PORTFOLIO CO-ORDINATING DIRECTOR: STEVE TINGLE  
DATE: 16<sup>th</sup> JULY 2015**

### **ADULT SOCIAL CARE**

#### **‘A BETTER WORKING DEPARTMENT’ UPDATE**

New legislation in the form of the Care Act 2014 came into force on 1<sup>st</sup> April 2015. This new legislation places a greater emphasis on local authorities to promote independence and support early intervention and prevention. In order to achieve this, we have been working closely with a partner organisation to enhance the adult social care offer in the borough through a programme called ‘A Better Working Department’.

The key principles of ‘A Better Working Department’ are to ensure the delivery of the right support at the right time to achieve greater independence for all. As part of the programme we have placed a greater emphasis on the following six key areas of business: demand management; reablement; telecare; pathway to placement; promoting independence reviews; and service delivery. Through targeted interventions we are working in conjunction with people and their families to promote independent living and improved health and wellbeing. We are also changing our ways of working to make the best use of our available resources and deliver improvements across the care pathway.

Achievements to date include more people benefiting from reablement and telecare, less people requiring residential care and more people being supported to live independently in their own homes.

#### **NEW CARE HOME AT INFIRMARY SITE UPDATE**

The build of the new care home at the old infirmary site is underway. This state of the art 60-bed home that specialises in dementia support is due to open to residents in early 2017. The project is a partnership between the appointed builder, Community Integrated Care as the care provider and the Council. The next stage of consultation with local residents and potential users of the service will begin in autumn.

#### **SHOREY BANK EXTRA CARE HOUSING SCHEME UPDATE**

Work will start on the new Shorey Bank extra care housing scheme in Darwen at the end of June. The scheme will be managed by Twin Valley Homes, part of the Together Housing Group. The scheme will provide one- and two-bedroomed apartments and two-bedroomed bungalows for rent. It is anticipated that the scheme will be completed by spring 2017.

#### **FORMAL LAUNCH OF HOPWOOD COURT PARTNERSHIP WITH AGE UK**

An event was held on Friday 12<sup>th</sup> June at Hopwood Court to mark the beginning of a new model of partnership working in day care services for older people. Day care services previously provided by Age UK from Spring Bank Court and Apna Ghar, as well as some Council day services for older people, are now being provided from one location at Hopwood Court in Blackburn. The teams have been working jointly for 4 months and the service has amalgamated very well and service users are enjoying using the new service and facilities.

As part of the event a plaque was unveiled dedicated to the memory of Cllr Dorothy Walsh, who worked hard for older people in her role as Councillor and Older People’s Champion.

An official opening event for Hopwood Court is being planned for August. The team are now building links with the local community, starting with residents from Kinross Walk, in order to

improve neighbourhood partnership working and involve local residents. These are new and exciting times for Hopwood Court as it develops its services for the future and becomes a resource for use by all the community.

## **HEALTH**

### **ALCOHOL RELATED HARMS - BLACKBURN WITH DARWEN SHOWS IMPROVEMENT**

Across the country, alcohol is the biggest cause of death in people of working age, as well as much long term ill health and social misery. The multi-agency Blackburn with Darwen Alcohol Strategy has been in place for a year and the national Alcohol Profiles published in June show some welcome signs of improvement. The reduction in alcohol related hospital admissions shows that the steps being taken to control alcohol related harm for residents is delivering improvements *and* reducing hospital demand. Alcohol related deaths also show very significant improvements, with local alcohol-specific deaths in men almost closing the gap with England, and in women is now actually lower than England.

To help tackle the indicator for which BwD remains amongst the worst in the country – ‘claimants on out of work benefits due to alcoholism’, the newly commissioned Drugs and Alcohol service will provide both ‘Assertive Outreach’ from localities and neighbourhood centres and better support, including housing, employment and training, and volunteers to provide longer term help with alcohol recovery skills.

### **SEXUAL HEALTH CO-LOCATION**

The project has now been completed to bring together the Genito-Urinary Medicine (GUM) service, provided by East Lancashire Hospitals NHS Trust, and the Contraception and Sexual Health (CaSH) service, provided by Lancashire Care NHS Foundation Trust, into a high quality, integrated new service at the Barbara Castle Way Health Centre which is simpler and easier for patients to access.

### **FALLSTOP CAMPAIGN / SOCIAL MEDIA ETC.**

Reducing accidents among people aged 65+ was highlighted as a priority in the multi-agency Blackburn with Darwen Accident Prevention strategy that was agreed in autumn 2014. Falls in this age group is a leading cause of loss of independence and even death. The risk of falls for older people is higher in those with a long term condition, such as diabetes or heart disease, taking four or more different medicines, or with sight or hearing difficulties.

The integrated strategic needs assessment found that the majority of falls take place in the home, but that many people are particularly worried about falling in public, and also highlighted a lack of awareness of services that can help prevent falls.

The FALLSTOP! Campaign which ran in the early spring aimed to raise awareness of simple steps people can take to stay on their feet and carry on doing the activities they enjoy as they get older. It received extremely positive feedback from professionals and the public, and resulted in a rise in the number of referrals into the Wellbeing Service for falls prevention. The campaign has also been well received on social media and has grown the audience of older people, who can be targeted more directly in future campaigns.

### **HEALTH AND WELLBEING LGA PEER CHALLENGE**

In March, the Health and Wellbeing Board invited a peer Challenge Team to visit the borough. This was a timely opportunity to reflect on the effectiveness of local efforts to improve health and wellbeing, and consider what more we can do to ensure the best outcomes for local

people, as the Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy is currently being refreshed, and significant steps taken to develop more integrated ways of working.

The detailed findings of the review were sent to the Chair of the Health and Wellbeing Board and Chief Executive of the Council. The team were impressed with the way the longstanding relationships and strong partnerships in the borough are working to improve the health and wellbeing of the population and the incredible energy, ambition and pace demonstrated to address the significant challenges we face. A number of areas for further development and action were identified, which were considered at a Board workshop on 9th June, and an implementation plan drafted, to take forward the review's recommendations.