

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

**DATE: SEPTEMBER 2015**

## **ADULT SOCIAL CARE**

### **NEW CARE HOME AT FORMER GREENWAYS SITE, DARWEN**

Planning permission is about to be sought for the new care home at the former Greenways site in Darwen. This state of the art 60-bed home is intended to be a specialist site for short term, rehabilitation stays, with some specialist dementia services. The project is a partnership between the appointed builder, Community Integrated Care as the care provider, the Council and the CCG. The next stage of consultation with local residents and potential users of the service will begin in autumn.

### **PEER REVIEW OF ADULT SAFEGUARDING**

A peer review of the Council's adult safeguarding took place from 30<sup>th</sup> June to 2<sup>nd</sup> July 2015, involving a team of six reviewers drawn from other Councils in the Northwest. The review focussed on the local strategic approach to adult safeguarding, including the working of strategic bodies such as the Local Safeguarding Adults Board. It also considered how the Council ensures effective safeguarding practice in commissioned services, and reviewed the consistency of approach and quality of decision-making in frontline social work practice.

Key areas of strength identified by the peer review team included: a strong vision and effective strategic leadership of the safeguarding agenda; an effective, robust and well-regarded specialist safeguarding team; a very strong commissioning team with clear outcome-based processes; and strong partnership working at all levels.

Key messages for further development included: that the voice of the service user needs to become more embedded and that the safeguarding agenda needs to be owned by the wider social care staff groups. An action plan has been drawn up to address the findings, which is being implemented alongside the department's business plan and has been submitted to ADASS as part of the regional approach to sector-led improvement.

### **INTEGRATED LOCALITY TEAMS**

The development of Integrated Locality Teams across health and social care continues to see a range of practitioners working more closely together as a means to offer a more responsive and joined up service to the residents of Blackburn with Darwen. Integrated Locality Teams are being developed in line with Better Care Fund objectives which include a commitment to reduce unnecessary admissions to hospital and residential care and a drive to provide individuals with a single case manager able to oversee all of their care needs.

There are four localities across Blackburn with Darwen – East, West, North and Darwen – which have been established based on the boundaries covered by groups of GP practices. Each locality brings together GPs, social workers, community nursing teams, rehabilitation workers, practice nurses and other practitioners from across the sector, to enable integrated care planning and improved customer experience. This way of working will particularly benefit people with a mix of health and social care needs who have previously had to work with multiple organisations, for example older people with long term health conditions and social care needs. Shared assessment and care planning processes will result in people being asked to describe their needs only once, prevent delays associated with referring across organisations and help ensure that the right support is available within local communities.

Working in a more integrated way also includes a commitment to early intervention and promoting independence which includes helping people to understand how they can take better care of themselves and manage their own health conditions, with the support of family and friends. The following video produced by the Council provides further information on Integrated Locality Teams: [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RPCJFyfV\\_il&feature=youtu.be](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RPCJFyfV_il&feature=youtu.be)

### **CARE ACT UPDATE**

All relevant front line practitioners have received Care Act 2014 awareness raising training and have undertaken accredited modular training. We also have ongoing training and development events both locally and regionally that practitioners have access to.

The new cap on care costs was due to be introduced in April 2016, but the Government has decided to delay implementation until April 2020. The £72,000 cap was due to be introduced as part of the second phase of the Care Act. The Government has said that the delay will allow time to be taken to ensure that everyone is ready to introduce the new system and to look at what more can be done to support people with the costs of care.

### **HEALTH**

#### **DEMENTIA AWARENESS WEEK FRIENDS**

With more people living longer, the number of people who develop dementia in later life is increasing, a trend which is set to continue for the foreseeable future. Improving the quality of life of people living with dementia is a local priority.

The national Dementia Friends campaign launched by Public Health England and the Alzheimer's Society in May 2014 is supported by the Council, including our own Dementia Champion, Cllr Taylor, and the Blackburn with Darwen Age Well Partnership. People can become Dementia Friends, either by attending a brief training session or by watching an interactive video online, to increase their understanding of the condition and how they can help make daily life better for people in their community who have, or may have, dementia. Figures show that between September 2014 and June 2015 the number of Dementia Friends in Blackburn with Darwen rose from 471 to 2,656. The Blackburn with Darwen Dementia Action Alliance helps local organisations, businesses and groups to take steps to be more supportive of people with dementia and helps co-ordinate developments in local health, care and other services. Further information is available here:

[http://www.dementiaaction.org.uk/local\\_alliances/9324\\_blackburn\\_with\\_darwen\\_dementia\\_action\\_alliance](http://www.dementiaaction.org.uk/local_alliances/9324_blackburn_with_darwen_dementia_action_alliance)

#### **DRY JANUARY NATIONAL RECOGNITION**

Figures released by Alcohol Concern and Public Health England in July revealed that a record 689 local people signed up to the 2015 Dry January campaign, giving Blackburn with Darwen the highest number of people in the UK, per 1,000 of the population – second only to the City of London.

Dry January will take place again in 2016 and aim to start new conversations about alcohol and give people a different perspective on their use of it and the risk of drinking on a regular basis. It is a chance to ditch the hangover, lose weight, save money, and for people to make a real difference to their lives.

#### **PUBLIC HEALTH ANNUAL REPORT AWARD**

The production of an annual report on the health and wellbeing of residents is a statutory requirement of the Director of Public Health role. Blackburn with Darwen's 2014 public health

annual report has been commended at a national level, being handed third place in the Association of Directors of Public Health's yearly annual report competition. It was praised for its innovation and use of digital media, which is in the form of an interactive PDF looking at health and wellbeing for local residents across the Life Course - Start Well, Live Well and Age Well.

Entitled 'The Voice of the People', the views of residents are at the forefront, with videos and interactive diagrams designed to be used by community groups, residents and members of the Health and Wellbeing Board to promote discussions about health and wellbeing in Blackburn with Darwen.

### **CARDIACSMART AND LIFE SAVER REGIONAL AWARDS**

The work undertaken to install new defibrillators in Council buildings and outside, for the benefit of both staff and public, as well as training and awareness raising, gained regional recognition in June when the Council received a NW Ambulance CardiacSmart Gold award and two outstanding Council staff received Life Saver awards for successfully resuscitating two individuals following cardiac arrest.

### **STOP THE SUPPLY ALCOHOL CAMPAIGN**

'Alcohol can damage your child's future' is the stark message of a local campaign launched in July to highlight the dangers of parents giving alcohol to their young teenage children, and urges them to 'Stop the Supply' of alcohol to children aged 13-16, highlighting various ways in which it can damage a young person's future.

The awareness and attitudes of parents from across the borough towards giving alcohol to their children were used to inform the campaign's design, which is a follow up to 2014's 'Totally Wasted' campaign, a short film produced to highlight how, if you're young, alcohol can ruin more than just your profile – it can mess with your life. Both campaigns aim to prevent alcohol related harm within the local community and ensure the safety and well-being of young people.