

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

DATE: 3rd DECEMBER 2015

ADULT SOCIAL CARE

ADULT SOCIAL CARE SERVICES EXCEL IN KEY OUTCOME MEASURES

The annual Department of Health User Survey for adult social care was undertaken by the Customer Care team between October 2014 and April 2015, with questionnaires sent out to a representative sample of service users. The results are now available, benchmarked against all NW authorities and the England average.

The results for Blackburn with Darwen were extremely positive across all six areas of user focus. The collated survey results feed into the national Adult Social Care Outcomes Framework (Ascof) scores for 2014/15, and Blackburn with Darwen's results in Ascof were the highest of all 23 NW authorities for all 6 of the survey outcomes. Against some measures we are the highest in England and Wales, which is a huge achievement against a backdrop of large scale funding reductions. The results were as follows:

- Ascof 1a: Social Care-related quality of life: 20.4 - (NW avg: 19.2; England avg: 19.1) (this is a composite score based on the rating of sub-questions, not a %)
- Ascof 1B: proportion of people who use services who have control over their daily lives: 87% - (NW avg: 78.1%; England avg: 77.5%)
- Ascof 3a: Overall satisfaction of people who use services with their care and support: 72.7% - (NW avg: 66.8%; England avg: 64.9%)
- Ascof 3d: Proportion of people who use services and carers who find it easy to find information about services: 82.4% - (NW avg: 74.6%; England avg: 74.7%)
- Ascof 4a: proportion of people who use services who feel safe: 78.4% - (NW avg: 70%; England avg: 68.7%)
- Ascof 4b: proportion of people who use services who say that those services have made them feel safe and secure: 96.8% - (NW average: 84.5%; England avg: 85%)

CARE ACT UPDATE

The fifth national stocktake of progress towards Care Act implementation has been submitted to the Local Government Association. The responses from individual Local Authorities will be collated to provide an overview of progress, key areas for future development and any areas of concern including the delay on future funding reforms and the impact of the Comprehensive Spending Review on local authority services.

Regional workshops and additional training opportunities are being held over the coming months to assist programme leads and frontline managers in the continued development of care and support planning. The Local Government Association has recently published an excellent guide to the key principles and duties of the Care Act and how to determine how well the Care Act is embedded in local authorities. The guide, titled 'Must knows: successfully embedding the Care Act 2014' is available to download via the following link:

HEALTH

TACKLING HARMFUL LEGAL HIGHS

The Council is taking a proactive approach to raising awareness and reducing the harms of the growing nationwide issue of 'New Psychoactive Substances' (NPS), often referred to as 'legal' or 'harmful highs'. NPS can be just as powerful as illegal drugs, with some young people becoming seriously ill after using them whilst others have got involved in anti-social behaviour, crime and family disputes.

An animation has been produced in partnership with two young people from the borough who wanted to share their negative experiences of using these substances, in order to deter others from doing the same. The animation can be watched here :

<http://www.youtube.com/c/BlackburnwithDarwenPublicHealth>.

The Council also worked with a Blackburn College student to design a leaflet entitled 'The Truth Behind the Packaging' which was used to support the launch. There has been some very positive feedback from the public health community and Blackburn with Darwen has been approached by other areas who would also like to use the animation.

BEST START IN LIFE

Health Visitors are a key element of the public health workforce to support delivery of the Health and Wellbeing Strategy's 'Start Well' strand. Health Visitors lead the early years elements of the Healthy Child Programme in partnership with other health and social care colleagues, who, by working with families during the crucial early years of a child's life, can have a profound impact on the lifelong health and wellbeing of young children.

In October the final stage in the transition of new public health responsibilities to the Local Authority took place, when the Council took over control of the commissioning of universal health services for children aged 0-5 years, including the health visitor service, which is hosted locally by Lancashire Care Foundation Trust.

COUNCIL STAFF FLU VACCINATIONS HIT NEW HEIGHTS

Flu can be a really serious illness for some. Those at greater risk include people aged 65 or over, pregnant women, and those with health conditions such as severe asthma, chest or heart complaints and diabetes.

The Council offers a seasonal flu vaccination programme for all staff in order to protect vulnerable service users from potential infection, and to reduce staff sickness absence, enhancing the resilience of key frontline services. Both outcomes will directly benefit residents.

This year, staff coming forward for vaccination were given specific appointments, and those unable to attend received a voucher for vaccination at a convenient pharmacy. These measures appear to have significantly boosted numbers and extra sessions have also been arranged.