

REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR HOUSING NEIGHBOURHOODS AND CUSTOMER SERVICES

CLLR JAN – VIRMANI

**PORTFOLIO CO-ORDINATING
DIRECTOR: SAYYED OSMAN
DATE: 21 APRIL 2016**

NATIONAL CAREERS SERVICE – FUNDING EXTENSION CONFIRMED

The National Careers Service team (IAG) has received confirmation from the prime contractor (Economic Solutions Manchester) of their intention to continue contracting with Blackburn with Darwen Borough Council from 1st April 2016 to 31st March 2017.

The National Careers Service team will continue to deliver a high quality, flexible information, advice and guidance service in relation to the skills and employability needs of both individuals and businesses. The service is offered to anyone aged 19+ (18 if claiming JSA) who lives, works, studies or travels to the borough. In particular those furthest from employment who may need more support to help access jobs.

PHASE 2 - TROUBLED FAMILY PROGRAMME

Eligibility criteria for the programme has been expanded whilst retaining a focus on families with multiple, high cost problems. Families must meet at least 2 of the 6 expanded criteria to enter the programme. Performance is evidenced through our BwD outcomes Plan, which has been co-produced and agreed with internal and external partners. Targets have been increased and funding per family has fallen. DCLG expect us:

- To achieve significant and sustained progress with 1580 families over 5 year period April 2015 – March 2020.
- To engage with 348 Families in the first year of the programme, April 2015 – March 2016
- To integrate and transform local public services.

471 families have been worked with since April 2015 and 112 have achieved 2 or more outcomes to date.

TOBACCO ENFORCEMENT

Trading Standards staff supported Environmental Health Officers during a raid on a shisha house in the Borough, and seized around 20kg of illicit shisha tobacco. This is part of our multi-agency partnership work to disrupt and enforce on illegal activity.

Officers also undertook the first under age checks for e-cigs, following the introduction of new legislation in October 2015. Of 11 premises checked, 5 sold to under age volunteers. These results weren't unexpected, and an advisory approach has been taken with the sellers; enforcement action will of course follow if they fail again.

Finally, checks for the sale of tobacco to under 18's are continuing; in the latest operation in January, 10 premises were tested by a young volunteer; only one sold, and has been issued with a caution.