

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

DATE: JUNE 2016

ADULT SOCIAL CARE

DISABLEDGO SERVICE

The provision of comprehensive access information enables people of all ages to confidently access venues and services, building personal resilience and independence. This in turn leads to disabled people accessing and contributing to their own communities and being in a position to improve their own health and wellbeing.

DisabledGo is working in partnership with the Council to provide an access guide to 500 venues covering Blackburn and Darwen. DisabledGo will provide information on all sorts of venues such as: shops, restaurants, leisure centres, hotels, parks, museums, resource centres and many more. From a visitor perspective the service will provide information for all the borough's cultural and leisure venues and accessibility information for key events. Two community engagement events were held on 8th June in Blackburn and Darwen to gather residents' views on which venues should be included in the access guide. The guide will be available online later this year at www.disabledgo.com

EACHSTEP BLACKBURN OPENING

The new Eachstep Blackburn care home for adults with dementia was officially opened by Neil Matthewman (Chief Executive, Community Integrated Care) and Councillor Mohammed Khan on 19th May. The event was well attended with representation from the individuals and families of the three local people who each floor is named after and local agencies such as Blackburn College and One Voice. Guests were provided with a tour of the building and were given the opportunity to see the numerous facilities for residents, including a cinema, garden area, numerous lounge and quiet rooms as well as the facilities in each en-suite bedroom. The overall impression was very positive and the acknowledgement of the heritage of the site and the importance to Blackburn and Darwen was noted. In addition guests were offered tasters of the meals which will be available and saw the catering arrangements which will focus on each person's preference of how they choose their meals and dine, rather than a formal dining room arrangement. The first people to live in the home moved in at the beginning of June.

LEARNING DISABILITY SERVICES REVIEW

We have an ageing learning disabled population many of whom were previously resettled into the community in the early 1990s. Most of these people moved into ordinary houses in the community and would typically share a property with a number of other people with a learning disability. As these people and their properties have got older their needs and circumstances have changed and in some cases people have moved on. This is one of the reasons we are currently undertaking a review of the services on offer for people with a learning disability and their families. We are working closely with our current housing providers to review the suitability of existing tenancies to ensure they are fit for purpose. The number of people we support with a learning disability is gradually increasing and we have more young adults who require a wider range of housing options. We are also working closely with support providers to look at the best way to meet current and emerging needs in the most cost effective manner whilst maintaining quality services. In addition, we continue to explore opportunities to use assistive technology to promote increased independence.

HEALTH

REDUCING ALCOHOL HEALTH HARMS

The Alcohol Strategy for the borough has been in place since 2014 and multi-agency action continues to reduce the local health impact. Recent data from Public Health England has shown a welcome drop in deaths attributable to alcohol in Blackburn with Darwen over the past ten years, with the borough's latest rate of 11.7 per 100,000 people, the lowest in the North West and on a par with the national average.

The Council therefore backs new national guidelines on alcohol consumption, which recommends that no more than 14 units a week are consumed by either men or women, and that the unit intake should be spread over 3 days or more, with several alcohol-free days per week. The guidelines also advise that it is safest not to consume any alcohol when pregnant.

The new guidelines follow another successful Dry January campaign in Blackburn with Darwen. Promoted by the Council and partner organisations including VOICE and substance misuse provider Inspire, almost 500 local people signed up, with many more participating 'unofficially'.

SMOKEFREE AND PLAIN PACKAGING

Smoking remains the biggest single cause of preventable death, illness and disability. In an effort to reduce exposure of children and non-smokers to tobacco smoke, local smokers are being urged to make their homes smokefree in an initiative which follows on from the installation of smokefree signage at play areas in public parks, school playgrounds and Children's Centres in the borough. May 2016 also saw a welcome change in the law, which requires any tobacco on sale in the UK to start to be sold in plain green packaging with dramatic visual health warnings. The legal change follows a North West campaign run by Healthier Futures, which was supported by public health partners including the Council.

WORKWELL WORKPLACE WELLBEING PROGRAMME

A person's work environment has a huge impact on their health and wellbeing. Combining work environment change with healthy lifestyle interventions increases the likelihood of employees adopting healthy behaviours, contributing to a range of health and economic benefits for employees, employers and wider society

WorkWell is our local public health funded Workplace Wellbeing Programme, which supports the development of health and wellbeing opportunities in workplaces across the borough. This includes help to become accredited against the nationally recognised Public Health England Workplace Wellbeing Charter.

Access Ability CIC are celebrating being the first organisation in Blackburn with Darwen to achieve the Workplace Wellbeing Charter having been supported through the process by WorkWell. Access Ability have shown a strong commitment to the wellbeing of their workforce and in recognition of their success have now been asked to share their experience and expertise with other workplaces hoping to gain the award. A further 10 local workplaces are currently set to gain Charter status with support from WorkWell and this figure looks set to grow as more and more businesses see the benefits of a healthy and happy workforce.