

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

DATE: 6th OCTOBER 2016

ADULT SOCIAL CARE

SHOREY BANK SOD CUTTING

Work has now started on the new Shorey Bank housing scheme, with ground being officially broken at a sod cutting ceremony on 19th August by Cllr Khan, Jake Berry MP and Kevin Ruth from Together Housing Group.

The new £12.4m social care development will provide high quality care and increased services and accommodation for older people in Blackburn with Darwen. The 119-home development will include a 'Housing with Care' scheme comprising of 85 self-contained apartments, with on-site facilities including a residents' lounge, restaurant, hair and beauty salon and secluded gardens. The Housing with Care scheme will be available for people 50 years and over who have an assessed need for care. The scheme will be complemented by 34 two-bedroom bungalows also being built on the site for people over 50 years of age.

Staff from right across the Council – from Housing to Adult Social Care, Planning, Finance, Legal and Communications – have been involved in the project, working together and in partnership with the Together Housing Group and Keepmoat on its delivery. The development will be completed in spring 2018.

LANCASHIRE MIND – FACING UP PROJECT

Lancashire Mind's Facing Up project aims to increase the mental wellbeing of men in Blackburn with Darwen. The project provides safe environments for men to talk about their feelings and find out ways to improve their mental wellbeing. Facing Up received 5 years' funding from the National Lottery Reaching Communities Programme in October 2013.

The project is aimed at any man above the age of 16 regardless of situation. The project is run by a full time project coordinator and a team of passionate and dedicated volunteers. Half way through the project, Facing Up has reached over 2500 men in Blackburn with Darwen.

Facing Up's funded delivery continues until October 2018 and there are many ideas for future work to continue to tackle men's mental health and challenge stigma including targeting workplaces, outdoor 'eco therapy' and a Facing Up club where men who access the service can become champions of men's mental health and disseminate the tools they have learnt. To ensure a lasting impact of Facing Up the future work will focus on continuing to develop volunteers and Offload groups so they become sustainable beyond the funded project and exploring how to embed Facing Up's tools within partner organisations.

HEALTH

JUST WHAT THE DOCTOR ORDERED

Two Public Health funded programmes that encourage local people to turn their lives around by helping others have been recognised nationally. The Local Government Association has singled out Volunteering on Prescription, which engages people with mild to moderate mental health conditions, and Fast 4wd, which involves people in recovery from drug and alcohol addiction and volunteers from the wider community, in a national best practice guide to social prescribing 'Just What the Doctor Ordered'.

Individuals are supported to become volunteers in areas that interest them, then pass on their advice and experience to others going through the tough situations they themselves have overcome. In Blackburn with Darwen, the guide explains, volunteering has been chosen as the focus for social prescribing in the belief it leads to more long-term benefits than other activities.

Social prescribing is a priority of developing health and social care work across the whole of Pennine Lancashire. In 2015, 92 people across the two programmes received training and 179 were engaged by the service. A total of 18,935 volunteer hours were generated, equal to £187,935 in monetary terms from £70,000 funding.

DIGITAL HEALTH

State-of-the-art digital treatment and recovery programmes are now available for local people dealing with substance misuse or mental ill health.

Blackburn with Darwen Council and GO2 / Inspire integrated drug and alcohol prevention and recovery services for people aged under 25 and over 25 respectively, has launched Breaking Free Online. Access cards for Breaking Free Online, and information about the wide range of drug and alcohol interventions locally are available from GO2 / Inspire on 01254 495014.

The 'Big White Wall' is available 24/7 to provide online peer and professional mental health and wellbeing support to local people aged over 16. 95% of users have reported feeling better as a result and 73% shared something for the first time. A short film is available with more information at: <http://www.bigwhitewall.com/landing-pages/videohowitworks.aspx>

SEXUAL HEALTH IMPROVEMENT

New data reveals continuing improvement to the sexual health of Blackburn with Darwen residents, including:

- rates of syphilis and gonorrhoea among the lowest in the country.
- further reduction in teenage pregnancy rates, making Blackburn with Darwen one of the most improved authorities since records began in 1998.

Lancashire Care Foundation Trust (LCFT) won the sexual health services contract for Blackburn with Darwen from April 2016, which includes provision of advice, information and treatment of sexually transmitted infections (STIs) and contraception. The model of delivery also promotes healthy relationships, improved sexual and general health, with positive emotional wellbeing as a normal expectation for people of all ages. Advocacy and social care support are provided by a sub-contracted arrangement with Healthier Living to ensure support for those who live with diagnosed HIV. LCFT also oversee a contract with Brook, the young people's sexual health and wellbeing charity, to provide specific support for young people.