

REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR NEIGHBOURHOODS AND PREVENTION

**COUNCILLOR
ARSHID MAHMOOD**

**PORTFOLIO CO-ORDINATING
DIRECTOR:
SAYYED OSMAN
DATE: JULY 2017**

Neighbourhoods

ESiF Bid 2016 - Strengthening Communities

A Public and Voluntary Sector partnership programme to boost volunteering across Lancashire is being led by BwD. Using an asset based approach the programme provides those furthest from the labour market with meaningful volunteering opportunities and puts them on a pathway towards work. It builds personal resilience to give individuals long term solutions to worklessness which, in turn, will keep them out of costly statutory interventions.

Delivery partners are Blackburn with Darwen Borough Council, Lancashire County Council, Blackpool Council, Police, BwD CVS, LACVS and One Lancashire.

The value of European funding for the programme is £1.2 million with an additional £800,000 in match funding from partners. BwDC has contributed £286,500 of the match funding and 50% of delivery will take place in the Borough. Approval for the project was received in May 2017 and subject to satisfactory contract negotiations delivery will commence in June 2017 through to December 2019.

Lancashire Volunteer Partnership in Blackburn with Darwen

Funded through the Police Innovation Fund the programme supports vulnerable people across the county by engaging and offering public sector volunteering opportunities. It is already operating successfully in Lancashire where 2121 volunteers currently support a range of council services including Adult Social Care, Children's Centres and Neighbourhood Services. The programme provides a central resource to recruit, promote and manage public sector volunteers with a system to track and monitor progress (Better Impact)

LVP is now being rolled out in BwD and a Community Connector has been seconded to the Constabulary to lead this work and co-ordinate the activity of the 995 volunteers currently operating regularly in BwD. Directors have also agreed a campaign to recruit new volunteers with a focus on prevention and stepdown in Adult Services. This will begin in September 2017. For a flavour

of the opportunities available follow the link www.lancsvp.org.uk

DCLG Communities Fund – we have been successful in obtaining £70,000 from DCLG as part of their Communities Fund Programme. Project “Connecting Communities” is supporting 54 Local Authority led Community projects aimed at delivering solutions to entrenched social issues. Our project in BwD will focus on prevention and step down from Transforming Lives. The fund will support the work we are developing with our Community Connectors and aim to expand the role beyond our neighbourhood staff to other public sector and voluntary sector partners. Led by Emma Coster, key partners are CVS and the voluntary organisation, “Locality” who will act as critical friend and give both strategic and operational support.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/multi-million-pound-boost-for-community-led-services>

DCLG funded Talk English Volunteer Project

Phase 3 of the Talk English project has successfully been completed with targets and outcomes exceeded at the end of March 2017. Further DCLG funding has been confirmed for Phase 4 of the Project which will run from April 2017 to March 2018 with 313 learners taking part in:

- 13 ESOL (English for Speakers of Other Languages) classes
- 25 Volunteer ESOL teachers to be recruited, trained and supported
- 13 Talk English activities to be held of which 3 are to run for a minimum of 20 weeks.

Brian Mercer Trust Fund

£40K has been secured from the fund for a small grants pot for BwD community groups to access with the remit of boosting their capacity to recruit and support volunteers. £10K of the fund is to be earmarked for equipment which groups may need to support their activity.

East Lancashire Hospital’s NHS Trust STAR Awards 2017 Volunteer of the Year Award

Carol James, a Macmillan Community Cancer Information and Support Volunteer has scooped a **prestigious** accolade at the **East Lancashire Hospital’s NHS Trust Star Awards 2017**. Carol was awarded the **Volunteer of the Year Award** for her supportive work at the Macmillan Information Point at Burnley General Hospital.

Since joining the East Lancashire and Blackburn with Darwen Macmillan Community Cancer Information and Support Service, Carol has excelled and supported the establishment of volunteer service delivery at Burnley General Hospital Information Point.

BwD Wellbeing Service – NICE (National Institute for Health and Care Excellence) Shared Learning Awards 2017

The Wellbeing Service is the single point of access for all referrals from either professionals (health and wider) or individuals who may require some support or intervention on a wide range of health issues.

We were selected as 1 of only 4 Shared Learning Award finalists from over 70

entries from organisations across the NHS, Local Authorities, and the health and social sectors more widely.

The NICE Shared Learning Awards celebrate the best examples of NICE guidance being used to improve standards of care and create innovative, effective local programs.

We got the opportunity to showcase and present our work at the NICE Annual Conference in Liverpool and demonstrate how we used NICE Guideline PH6 Behaviour change: general approaches to influence how the service was developed and is delivered.

Community Safety Service

Road Safety:

Blackburn with Darwen's Road Safety Plan 2017-20 is set to be formally launched on Monday 17th July at Blackburn Fire Station. The plan sets out the borough's priorities, and current and proposed action over the next three years. In light of several high profile road safety incidents in 2016 a significant focus has been placed on further innovation and investment across our enforcement, education and engineering programmes. The plan is our commitments as a partner of the Pennine Road Safety Partnership, the body through which Road Safety Activity is co-ordinated and chaired by Lancashire Fire and Rescue Service. Through the actions outlined the council and its partners are confident we will see further reductions in accidents and injuries on BwD and East Lancashire's roads.

Crime and Ant-Social Behaviour:

Blackburn Business Against Crime was the recipient of a national award for partnership working at the prestigious national business crime conference for its work with Blackburn with Darwen Borough Council in supporting vulnerable individuals within the town centre. The work which balanced bespoke support to meet underlying needs of individuals as well as necessary activity to support the local town centre to prosper. The partnership was praised for bridging the often difficult balance between protecting and supporting adults with complex needs who can have a detrimental impact on trade when their actions are anti-social. The award, received by Ronnie O'Keefe on behalf of Blackburn Business Against Crime is one of several the revitalised town centre has received in recent months.

Housing

The new Selective Landlord Licensing scheme for Darwen has been approved and designated. Licence applications from private landlords are being processed and fees are coming in. We are planning pro-active engagement with landlords to ensure they comply with licence requirements and conditions and bring properties up to the required condition and service

standards as needed.

The Council has prosecuted a landlord failure to carry out repairs required under an Improvement Notice. The work required included general repairs, providing heating in the bathroom, remedying penetrating dampness, replacing glazing to boarded up windows and the back door, repairing the electric shower etc. The repairs had been outstanding since the tenant moved in. The defendant was found guilty in his absence and fined £4753. At the same time as he was served with the Improvement Notice the owner was also served with a remedial notice to install a carbon monoxide detector and smoke detectors. He failed to do so and following installation of them by the Council he was sent a Penalty Charge Notice. Generally landlords comply with Improvement Notices, but the case acts as a warning of the penalty for not doing so.

A bid has been made to government to sustain the Council's support for temporary accommodation and English language tuition and training for asylum seekers and refugees. Recent cuts in mainstream government funding have put pressures on these services.