

REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR HEALTH AND ADULT SOCIAL CARE COUNCILLOR MOHAMMED KHAN

**PORTFOLIO CO-ORDINATING DIRECTOR: SALLY McIVOR
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ADULT SOCIAL CARE

LEARNING DISABILITIES BIG HEALTH DAY

Blackburn with Darwen Borough Council and NHS Blackburn with Darwen Clinical Commissioning Group gave people with learning disabilities, their families and carers the opportunity to find out about changes in health and social care and how they can get involved. The Big Health Day took place on 16th October at Witton Park City Learning Centre and provided an opportunity for people who have a learning disability, or their family or carer, to come along and learn more about services available in their area. It was also a chance for people to share their health and social experiences around a range of subjects such as accessing public transport or accessing the cinema.

50+ PARTNERSHIP ANNUAL ENGAGEMENT EVENT

The 50+ Partnership held a very successful annual engagement event on 8th October in the Windsor Suite, King George's Hall, Blackburn. Attended by around 100 people (including a good mix of local residents, volunteers and professionals), the focus of the event was on taking personal responsibility for self-care and featured talks and information stands from Diabetes UK, Alzheimer's Society, Action for Hearing Loss and many others. The department showcased some of the fantastic assistive technology it is using to help local people stay more independent for longer.

BETTER CARE FUND (BCF) UPDATE

The new BCF guidance released in July outlined a number of key changes to submission requirements, with a response deadline of 19th September. In response to this the Health and Wellbeing Board held a development session on 9th September to agree the performance funding pot based on local ambitions for reductions in hospital admissions. The reduction target was agreed at 3.5% on trend instead of against national guidance to achieve actual.

The Blackburn with Darwen BCF plan was signed off by the Health and Wellbeing Board and submitted on 19th September. The BCF Plan is centred around 7 key project workstreams, these are:

- Capacity building in the voluntary sector;
- Local co-ordination of dementia services including development of a dementia friendly community;
- Integrated offer across health and local authority for carers;
- Development of integrated locality teams;
- Integrated intermediate care and discharge service;
- Intensive home support;
- Directory of services and care co-ordination.

Since submission the BCF Team has completed the first NHS England assurance checkpoint and received positive feedback. Formal feedback was expected 30th October 2014 which will include the requirement for local areas to develop a timetable for addressing any outstanding issues and actions within 14 days.

SHOREY BANK OLDER PEOPLE'S HOUSING

Developers attended a pre-planning meeting on 17th September and a public consultation event was held at Willow Gardens, Darwen on 3rd October. This event was well attended with interest in the rental apartments and bungalows for sale. A planning application is expected to be submitted over the next few months with a start on-site planned for May 2015. The build programme will take 18 months for the full scheme.

PUBLIC HEALTH

HALTING THE MEASLES OUTBREAK

Immunisation remains one of the most cost-effective public health interventions. One of the first actions when the Council took over its new health responsibilities in April 2013 was to launch a campaign to halt the spread of a major measles outbreak across parts of the North West. As a result of the successful MMR catch-up programme, there have been no confirmed cases of measles infection in Blackburn with Darwen since June 2013, compared with 11 in the preceding 15 months.

WORKING EFFECTIVELY TO REDUCE INEQUALITIES

On 15 September the Inquiry on Health Equity for the north of England published its 'Due North' report and action plan to reduce health inequalities within the north and between the north and the rest of England.

Blackburn with Darwen, despite its demographic challenges and under-funding, has actually improved life expectancy faster than the English average between 2001-2011 and has outperformed healthier / wealthier southern local authorities. It has improved life expectancy by 3.2 years in that 10 years, placing Blackburn with Darwen in the top performing 25% of northern local authorities for life expectancy improvement over these ten years – showing that we have generated more 'added value' to resident health outcomes than most wealthier boroughs who have been both in a better position to do so and been much better funded to do so by central government over that time.

CONTROLLING THE HARMFUL EFFECTS OF TOBACCO

Tobacco Free Lancashire, an alliance of over 50 organisations dedicated to reducing the harms associated with tobacco, has drawn up a tobacco control strategy which has now been formally adopted by Blackburn with Darwen Council health leadership.

Work with local young people has resulted in a short film 'The truth behind the smoke' on the harmful effects of shisha smoking, now available at: <http://theshuttle.org.uk/new-short-film-gives-truth-behind-smoke/>

Throughout October smokers in Blackburn with Darwen were urged to take part in 'Stoptober' the annual national mass 28-day quit attempt, which was supported by a host of local activities to complement the year-round Stop Smoking services the Council now commissions.

HEALTHY FOOD GOES FROM STRENGTH TO STRENGTH

A total of 89 local catering businesses have now achieved the Recipe4Health award for offering healthier food choices, the latest being honoured at a presentation event in September.

This public health response to the borough's high levels of heart disease, child and adult obesity, diabetes and poor children's dental health, recognises the standard of food sold and served in premises, including smaller portion options, healthier cooking methods, food labelling, waste management and reduction, reduced fat and salt content.

COUNCIL STAFF FLU VACCINATIONS

The Council offers a seasonal flu vaccination programme for 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. Staff with their own health problems who are invited by their GP practice are encouraged to be vaccinated there.

This year the programme has been made easier to plan, deliver and monitor, using the Council's electronic booking system. The planned sessions ran from 13th - 24th October, and 159 employees received the vaccine. Further sessions will take place in mid-November aimed at staff in priority roles who haven't yet been vaccinated.