

REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR NEIGHBOURHOODS AND PREVENTION

COUNCILLOR
ARSHID MAHMOOD

PORTFOLIO CO-ORDINATING
DIRECTOR:
SAYYED OSMAN
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NEIGHBOURHOODS

Positive Minds Community Mental Health Project

In the last two years the Adult Learning service has been funded through the Department for Education to pilot delivery of courses to support people with mental health issues, including anxiety and depression, to help them improve their wellbeing and minimise their conditions from escalating to the need for higher level health care intervention. The significant impact of the positive benefits after the first year of the project was highly commended, enabling further funding for research-specific work in year two. Whilst external funding support ended in July 2017, the success of this approach means that the Adult Learning Service will continue to deliver programmes within their mainstream health and wellbeing programmes. Further information about the work of Positive Minds is available on the project's website at http://mhfe.org.uk/content/Blackburn_Darwen_Phase-2-clmh-research

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) We are currently recruiting for Community Support befriending volunteers to regularly support individuals to achieve positive goals and to promote their independence. Please share the link below to anyone who may be interested in applying:
<https://lancsvp.org.uk/opportunities/blackburn-darwen-community-support-volunteer/>

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. The first round of funding closed in September and over 26 local groups submitted applications. A further funding round will open early 2018.

McMillan Service

The Macmillan Information Service has formally achieved the Macmillan Quality Assurance Standard for the provision of information and support to customers. Set up in January 2015, the valuable service provides cancer information and advice. It's testament to the hard work of the two staff employed on the project that they have achieved the standard in a relatively

short space of time. Macmillan Solutions Volunteers help with day-to-day tasks like shopping, being a listening ear, help with money matters, eg the Macmillan Grant, going along to a new group or activity – all with the aim of supporting people affected by cancer, family and friends to get on with their lives and regain some control.

Adult Learning Courses Sept-Dec 2017

The latest programme of courses is out now and you can view online on the website www.bwdlearning.org. Courses run at a variety of venues with the aim of helping adults improve their work prospects and wellbeing.

Dementia Friends Training

Tutor, Lynette Bannister has been formally recognised by the Alzheimer's Society for training Dementia Friends in Blackburn with Darwen. Given an initial target of 100 Lynette has created 405 Dementia Friends, all of whom have learned more about dementia and the many ways they can help those suffering from it.

HOUSING

Selective Landlord Licensing

The new Selective Landlord Licensing scheme for Darwen has been approved and designated. The larger designated area means that many more private rented properties are involved, bringing in many more licence applications, which created significantly increased workload during this period. Landlords are given ample opportunities to submit licence applications and those not doing so will be prosecuted.

Migration Fund

The Controlling Migration Fund bid was successful. Engagement with the voluntary sector to deliver the English language tuition, and procurement of additional temporary accommodation is now under way. The funding will help sustain our engagement with and monitoring of the governments new asylum seeker accommodation and support contract (the contract held by SERCO is being retendered).

Warm Homes Fund

A bid has been made to government under the Warm Homes Fund to deliver more first time central heating targeted at those in fuel poverty. As with the previous Central Heating Fund this would be delivered under 'CHiL' (Cosy Homes in Lancashire) for all Lancashire Local Authorities with Blackburn with Darwen as the lead Authority. Outcome will be known at the end of October.

COMMUNITY SAFETY

Domestic Abuse

A pilot to work differently with adults and families with complex need to include domestic abuse is underway as part of our response to the high level of demand on our safeguarding services. Through an integrated team of social workers and partner staff to include members from our commissioned

service providers in mental health, domestic abuse and substance misuse, we will be working with a number of test cases for an initial 6 months to compare this new approach against existing practice.

Anti-Social Behaviour

Our annual 'Brightsparx' multi-agency plan to reduce the risk of ASB around Halloween and Bonfire Night is being finalised with partners. Historically a high point for ASB complaints, the plan which involves key contributions from Lancashire Fire and Rescue and Lancashire Constabulary alongside a number of the council's services has a series of preventative measures supported by an operational plan throughout the end of October and beginning of November.