

REPORT OF THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL

COUNCILLOR MOHAMMED KHAN

Date: 25th January 2018

Sport England place pilot

As members will be aware, Blackburn with Darwen Council, on behalf of Pennine Lancashire, successfully bid for funding from Sports England to trail-blaze new ways of transforming sport and activity. We are one of 12 areas which will receive funding to create innovative partnerships that make it easier for people to access sport and physical activity.

Pennine Lancashire's priority group will be almost 40,000 people with depression or anxiety and stress. This group is more likely to have other long term conditions as well as other challenges so supporting them to get active and involved in sport will make a big difference to their lives.

This is really good news for Blackburn with Darwen and the wider area. The funding will help us come up with some really innovative and long lasting solutions. Working closely with Sport England the formulation of the detailed long term delivery plan will inform grant funding and how it can be best used across Pennine Lancashire.

This success is also a tangible example of what we can achieve by working together. The bid judges praised the strong ties that exist between local government, the NHS and community and voluntary sector seen through the work being done by the Together A Healthier Future programme.

Digital Health Schools Programme

An exciting new digital programme for schools combining health apps with the national curriculum has launched at two Blackburn schools. St Thomas's Centre on Lambeth Street and Witton Park Academy will now join schools from across Lancashire participating in the 'Digital Healthy Schools' scheme.

The programme teaches pupils to think about how mobile apps can help them manage their health. It is being funded by the Healthier Lancashire and South Cumbria Sustainability and Transformation Partnership (STP) and being delivered by Organisation for the Review of Care and Health Applications (ORCHA).

I am delighted pupils in our borough will benefit from this programme. Helping students engage with technology to manage their health is something that will be important for their future wellbeing.

Health and Care

As members will be aware, the draft Pennine Plan has been published for people to have their say. I have circulated a draft and an executive summary and there is an easy read version on the programme's website.

It's really important that residents get the chance to have their say on this plan so I would be grateful if members could continue to highlight it as well as taking time to share their views.

If you have any queries about the programme please contact the programme director Dionne.standbridge@nhs.net

You can also send your questions and queries to me and I will make sure they are received by the programme. More details can be found at: www.togetherahealthierfuture.org.uk

Good neighbour awards

Thank you to all members who have submitted nominations for this year's Good Neighbour Awards, which is one of our key Your Call events we hold each year.

As you know, the awards help celebrate all the people in the borough who go the extra mile to make Blackburn with Darwen a better place.

We have had over 100 nominations from all across the borough, which is the most ever received. Each nomination is heart-warming and they all confirm that the borough is one of the friendliest and most neighbourly areas in the country.

I was really pleased with the number of partners who signed up to support the awards such as MGS Technical Plastics, Blackburn with Darwen CCG, Capita, McDonald's and Blackburn Rovers. As well as our media partners the Lancashire Telegraph.

I look forward to celebrating all the nominees at the awards evening on 15th February at King George's Hall.

Holocaust Memorial Day

Holocaust Memorial Day is a day to remember all the victims of genocide, oppression and torture and to honour survivors. The commemoration will take place on Monday 29th January 2018, 1.30pm at Blackburn Town Hall.

The event is a partnership effort, with contributions on the day from BwD Council, the Interfaith Forum and schools from across the Borough.

The day commemorates all those who were affected by the Holocaust, in which millions lost their lives. The ceremony will act as a point of remembrance for more recent genocides such as those in Cambodia, Bosnia, Rwanda and Darfur.

The day will also give us time to reflect on shameful periods in the history of the modern world, including the Rohingya crisis in Myanmar (formerly Burma).

The theme for 2018 will be exploring how language has been used in the past and how it is used in the present day.

Elected Members and residents are invited to attend. For more information, please contact Democratic Services.

Fairerpower Red Rose Energy partnership

Fairerpower Red Rose was formally launched in Blackburn with Darwen on 19th December. Residents of the Borough now have access to a competitively priced, customer focused energy service that may help them to save money on their energy bills. The Fairerpower site is: <http://fairerpower.co.uk/red-rose/> and the offer should also now be appearing on energy price comparison web sites.

Since the launch, the scheme has since been publicised in the Lancashire Telegraph, The Shuttle and Team Talk. Partners, including BwD CVS, Care Network and the Healthy Living Centre, have all been introduced to Fairerpower Red Rose and, in the New Year, the Fairerpower Commissioning Manager will give presentations about Fairerpower Red Rose to these organisations and their partners to spread the message.

The Council will also continue to publicise Fairerpower Red Rose and encourage residents to compare prices and switch energy provider where this will save them money.

Ward profiles and data

A training session has been scheduled for 28th February, 6pm in the Council Chamber, which will cover some of the key sources of data and statistics available to Members, as well as the new ward profiles for the 17 new wards. I would urge all members to attend.