

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

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HEALTH

TIME TO CHANGE EMPLOYER PLEDGE

1 in 4 British workers are affected by conditions like anxiety, depression and stress every year and mental ill-health is the leading cause of sickness absence in the UK, costing an average of £1,035 per employee per year.

In February, the Council signed up to the Time To Change Employers Pledge in support of staff mental wellbeing. Time To Change is a campaign which encourages employees to talk about their mental health which can make a real difference to sickness absence rates, presenteeism levels, staff wellbeing and productivity.

By signing the Employers Pledge the authority has demonstrated a commitment to change how people think and act about mental health in the workplace and make sure that employees who are facing mental health problems feel supported. It is hoped it will also act as a catalyst for other employers in the Borough to sign the pledge and improve staff wellbeing further.

DIGITAL PUBLIC HEALTH

There has been important progress for two major Digital Public Health projects:-
The Connected Healthy Communities 'Passive Sensors' project has received support from the Lancashire Digital Health Board and is included in the Lancashire and South Cumbria Sustainability and Transformation Partnerships (STP) Investment Portfolio for NHS England Digital investment for 2018/20. The partnership with East Lancashire Health Trust (ELHT); Lancaster University, and a number of key third sector partners, plans to implement low cost passive sensors for vulnerable older adults and develop decision dashboards for relatives/carers and Integrated Neighbourhood Health and Care Teams, starting with 6 months of co-designed development in Higher Croft and Edgworth.

A Community Assets Register and Social Prescribing partnership with the Council for Voluntary Service (CVS), Care Network, Age UK and the Wellbeing Service is developing a combined database of multi-agency assets. These will be integrated and delivered back to neighbourhood integrated teams and individual professionals through web based and SMART phone apps to help identify appropriate neighbourhood provision to meet individual need. The project was one of four shortlisted at the recent National iNetwork awards.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION PREVENTION AT SCALE

The Pennine Lancashire Transformation Programme has been chosen by the Local Government Association (LGA) to pilot 'Prevention at Scale', starting in Blackburn with Darwen from April. Working with the Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG), GP practices and staff, we aim to increase the benefit to citizens aged 40-74 of having an NHS Health Check, through increased referrals to and take-up of the National Diabetes Prevention Programme and the Council Wellbeing Service.

With around 5,000 NHS Health Checks undertaken each year in the Borough, this is a great opportunity to shift the focus towards non-clinical interventions, to maximise wider health,

wellbeing and social benefits and reduce future demand on General Practice and other NHS services.

CANCER SCREENING

Some of Blackburn with Darwen's poor cancer outcomes could undoubtedly be improved by higher uptake of the three national cancer screening programmes: breast and cervix for women and bowel for both men and women. While NHS England commissions cancer screening, the council's public health role is to support and challenge delivery arrangements, in order to improve local outcomes.

During national cervical cancer prevention week (22nd -28th January), social media promoted #25ItsTime, a Pennine Lancashire initiative we have developed with the CCGs, GP practices and NHS England, to increase uptake by women who are invited for their first smear test, and who are least likely to attend.

We have also worked with the Lancashire Bowel Screening programme to successfully pilot 'call for a kit clinics' in local practices with the lowest uptake, and are working with the new Patient Navigator for the East Lancashire Breast Screening Programme to identify similar opportunities to increase uptake.

ADULT SOCIAL CARE

CARE NETWORK HUB

Following on from the launch of the Care Network Hub in December, a community social work representative is now based in the hub one day per month. The benefit of this approach is that customers can speak to a social worker in person rather than by telephone, if they prefer. Customers can also pre book appointments with the social worker or walk into the hub to have a face to face discussion and receive advice. The social worker also provides support to hub staff with social work related queries. The plan is for this support to grow as the type and number of queries received are analysed.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENTS

A new approach to promote referrals for support from community connectors, volunteers and transforming lives has started with the Reablement, Home First and Reviews teams. Neighbourhood Locality Managers have been linked to these integrated teams who meet weekly to discuss potential and actual cases. Initial indicators are that this is working well.

FINANCIAL ABUSE CAMPAIGN

Financial abuse is the third highest category of abuse affecting adults with care and support needs both in Blackburn with Darwen and across England. In November, BBC Radio Lancashire broadcasted a feature on financial abuse and a local resident who had been a victim of financial abuse spoke about how it had impacted on her and her family. She also shared her experience of the support she had received from the Adults Safeguarding Team and the Safeguarding Development Manager informed listeners about the prevalence and impact of financial abuse locally.

Following the show a number of listeners completed an on-line survey about their experiences of financial abuse and the Pan Lancashire financial Abuse Group will use the feedback to influence policies and direction.

SHARED LIVES

The Shared Lives scheme continues to grow with five more carers approved to support vulnerable adults in the home of the carer. The scheme enables care and support to be provided in a different setting to the family home or the supported accommodation in which the vulnerable adult usually lives. There are currently 21 long term carers with 2 of these offering day support and respite care as well. A further 4 carers provide a mix of day support and respite.

As part of the ongoing awareness campaign to promote the benefits of Shared Lives and recruit more carers, the service is exploring social media opportunities.

HOME FIRST SERVICE

Home First is a community-based service that provides assessment and interventions to people identified by hospital trusted assessors. The 'discharge to assess' model is used to support faster recovery from illness, support timely discharge from hospital and maximise independent living. Early qualitative and quantitative data shows that the team is supporting hospital flow and enhancing lives.