

REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR NEIGHBOURHOODS & PREVENTION

**COUNCILLOR
ARSHID MAHMOOD**

**PORTFOLIO CO-ORDINATING DIRECTOR:
SAYYED OSMAN**

DATE: 22 March 2018

KEEPING OUR ROADS SAFER

A 'Senior Road Users' event supported by the Road Safety Partnership took place at Ewood Park on 14th March. The constabulary, fire service and local authority were amongst a range of agencies, voluntary groups and charities in attendance to collectively offer advice and guidance on everything from basic vehicle advice to safety on public transport. The event promoted the benefits of the 'drive safely for longer' course available to all drivers over 60 who are resident in the area and want some support to keep them safe on the road.

COUNTERING EXTREMISM & TERRORISM

Over 100 people from public and voluntary sector agencies across Blackburn with Darwen attended sessions hosted by the Council's Community Coordinator Rebecca Ramsay on 'Extreme Right Wing Awareness'. The sessions were delivered by former members of far-right organisations who began to question their motives and beliefs and gave first hand insights into the way in which people can be drawn into such groups and how this can be mitigated.

The Building a Stronger Britain Together Fund opened for a third window in the early part of this year and the Community Coordinator supported local groups to submit applications for projects up to £50,000 which directly counter extremism.

Over a hundred delegates from educational establishments in the borough attended a Prevent Education Conference hosted by Blackburn with Darwen Borough Council at Ewood Park on 25th January. Speakers included Lancashire Police, the Department for Education and Ofsted alongside emotional first-hand accounts from Figan Murray, whose son Martin was killed in the Manchester attack and Michael Evans whose brother was killed fighting for Al-Shabab.

HOUSING & VULNERABLE ADULTS

The new Homeless Reduction Act will come into force on 3rd April 2018 as part of the biggest change to homelessness legislation since 1996 with the prevention of homelessness becoming a statutory duty on every Local Authority. Work is well underway with preparations for the new Act and we are confident that Blackburn with Darwen will be Homeless Reduction Act compliant from day one.

HOUSING STANDARDS UPDATE

The government has confirmed that licensing for all 'Houses in Multiple Occupation' occupied by 5 or more persons will be extended from April 2018. Banning orders for landlords who commit the most serious offences will also be introduced and issued by the First Tier Tribunal. These will last for a minimum of 12 months and will not be retrospective. There will also be a national database of rogue landlords which local authorities can view and this will include landlords with banning orders and landlords who have committed other offences as set out in the regulations.

From April 2018 the Domestic Private Rented Sector Minimum Energy Efficiency Standards will apply to all new tenancies. The Energy Performance Rating of each domestic privately rented property must be at a minimum of level E and from April 2020 this will apply to all (new and existing) tenancies. There is also an aspiration that the minimum level will reach level C by 2030.

There is currently a consultation on amendments to these regulations to reduce the exemptions available to landlords from April 2019.

HIGHERCROFT ADVERSE CHILDHOOD EXPERIENCES (ACE) MOVEMENT

Led by the East Neighbourhood Transforming Lives Team, partners in Highercroft came together to develop an awareness of Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) and learn about their impact on health-harming behaviours and diseases in adulthood. The team wanted to better understand the longer term impact of ACEs and how to prepare to be an ACE informed community. The awareness session was well attended and included representatives from Healthy Living, Health Visitors, School Nurses, St James's Church, three local primary schools, Pupil Well-being Officers, Newground, Roman Road Health Centre and Care Network Hub.

Partners reported recognising the benefits of services working together in an ACE informed way. Following the session a Highercroft ACE network was created which will continue to meet to share good practice and support each other. The network plans to look for funding opportunities to further develop the work. The East and Darwen Transforming Lives teams are exploring the possibility of similar events in their neighbourhoods.

STRENGTHENING COMMUNITIES, VOLUNTEERING IN LANCASHIRE (SCVL)

Led by the Council and delivered in partnership with Adult Learning teams and CVSs across Lancashire, the 'Strengthening Communities, Volunteering in Lancashire (SCVL)' project works with those furthest away from the labour market with the aim of moving them closer. CVS Key Workers provide one to one intensive support to address barriers and provide access to appropriate training and volunteering opportunities to give participants relevant work skills and experience. The project, funded by the European Social Fund until at least December 2019, will support 726 people from across Lancashire. Since starting the project in June 2017, 101 Blackburn with Darwen participants have received support (56 men and 45 women) and of these 29 people are from BME communities and 63 people have a disability.

If you would like more information please contact the SCVL Programme Manager Lorraine Collings lorraine.collings@blackburn.gov.uk 01254 585593 @SCVLancs

LANCASHIRE VOLUNTEER PARTNERSHIP UPDATE

Since the Lancashire Volunteer Partnership recruitment campaign for volunteers in September 2017 there has been an increase of 129 volunteers working across the council.

Service	No of volunteers 16/17	New Volunteers	Total volunteers 17/18	No of volunteers signed up
Children's Centres	42	1	43	1
Community Support		11	11	11
Environment	110	30	140	63
Highways	53	39	92	57
Health & Wellbeing	90	17	107	30
Libraries	90	17	107	19
Museum	3		3	
Neighbourhoods and Learning	33	6	39	24
Young People's Service	4	8	12	12
Youth Justice	7		7	1
Totals	432	129	561	218*

*191 volunteers signed up, 27 volunteers carry out more than one role.

For more information about Lancashire Volunteer Partnership and all the opportunities visit the website: <https://lancsvp.org.uk/>