

# **REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR HEALTH & ADULT SOCIAL CARE**

**COUNCILLOR MUSTAFA DESAI**

**PORTFOLIO CO-ORDINATING DIRECTOR:  
SAYYED OSMAN (ADULT SOCIAL CARE & PREVENTION)**

**DATE: July 2020**

**People: A good quality of life for all our residents**

## **SAFE RESUMPTION OF DAY SUPPORT AND SHORT BREAKS**

Planned Day Services and Short Breaks at St Aidans and within Shared Lives, were amongst the services temporarily halted at the outset of the pandemic.

Although, day support for families and carers who are keyworkers continued, as did emergency day support and respite to prevent carer breakdown at home. In addition, Shared Lives matching continued where it was possible to conduct meetings virtually.

Plans are now underway to resume much of the pre Covid transformation work for Specialist Day Services, Shared Lives and Short Breaks, with particular attention being attributed to the relevant Government and Public Health guidance. This will require a degree of additional conversion to ensure all services are safe and effective.

During Covid, a decision was made to handover Stansfeld Centre to Primary Care in support of their planning of safe, clinical health practices following Government guidelines to reduce the spread of infection to patients of BwD. This has provided an opportunity to commence the necessary adaptations to Hopwood Court to ensure that the estate is fit for purpose for those service users with the greatest need. This work remains ongoing with a likely open date of September.

A new Framework and Guidance Document is in preparation for the resumption of such services, which will ensure that a consistent approach is taken across the borough. Consultation with all partners, service users, their families/Cares and Shared Lives Carers is currently taking place to ascertain their views about the introduction of safe services and subsequent analysis will take place to ensure that we offer a variety of safe support offers within peoples own homes, around the community and within the safe opening of estates.

## **ADULT SOCIAL CARE NEIGHBOURHOODS TEAMS**

The Adult Social Care Neighbourhood teams have continued to fulfil our statutory responsibilities, despite significant restrictions on movement and face-to-face contact. Assessment, review and commissioned packages of care have been achieved following government and corporate advice in respect of social distancing and PPE. Teams have embraced digital techniques of maintaining communication and relationships with our residents, partners and each other to deliver support.

The Neighbourhood teams remain co-located with health colleagues and partnership working continues to champion joined up care; our integrated neighbourhood teams have continued to meet virtually to ensure service delivery. Our occupational therapy and the Disabled Facilities Grant offer will recommence as shielding and social distancing restrictions ease allowing building work to get underway.

Team members have demonstrated flexibility and resilience and supported each other to adapt to remote working. Departmental wellbeing initiatives have been promoted and teams have remained connected via department quizzes, raising monies for local charities and partaking in virtual team coffee mornings. There continues to be a sense of camaraderie and responsibility to deliver care and support despite significant changes to working practice.

## **STRATEGIC COMMISSIONING**

We have worked closely with the Regulated Care, Domiciliary Care and supported living sector to support them throughout COVID19. This includes payment of additional funding to promote Infection Prevention and Control (IPC).

There has been close, almost daily liaison to provide information, guidance and support. This includes additional training, support from quality assurance team and IPC nurses.

Throughout we have ensured that PPE is available and have supported the distribution of stock from the Government's emergency supply and from supplies we have purchased through the Local Resilience Forum.

The council has worked closely with Pennine Lancashire Clinical Commissioning Group and the NHS Acute Trust to ensure that we have a well co-ordinated testing process. Whilst having sufficient testing kits and capacity was an initial challenge things have improved.

We have also worked closely with Lancashire County Council to use consistent tracking information to ensure that we have up to date situation reports for the Care sector.

There continues to be a focus on ensuring the Care sector remains supported and viable.

## **VULNERABLE GROUPS**

Whilst we have seen an emphasis on the over 70's and Shielding categories the council has also focused on other vulnerable groups from a social care perspective. These include homeless single adults, mental health, learning disability and autism groups.

The council has used a similar approach to the regulated care sector to ensure that all vulnerable groups are given the best support possible

In particular the Government has required councils to rehouse homeless people temporarily in hotels and to focus on resettling these people into more permanent accommodation. Whilst some of these Government schemes have now ended we continue to see a high demand from single homeless people.

As we come out of lockdown mental health and emotional wellbeing is an area of work that is in high demand. Many people have not coped with the long lockdown period and are feeling anxious about the easing of lockdown, whilst others have started to display symptoms suggesting underlying mental and emotional health issues.

The council works closely with Lancashire MIND and other voluntary groups to provide ongoing support to our communities. There has been a tremendous effort through the Help HUB and as we move towards easing lockdown, the HUB will concentrate more on wellbeing rather than food.