

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

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

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Lancashire Changing Futures Programme

A bid led by Blackburn with Darwen Council on behalf of all Lancashire has secured £6.5m of investment from the Changing Future's Fund and National Lottery, to support people with multiple disadvantage. Its aim is to make lasting positive change to the most vulnerable through multi agency, trauma informed approaches facilitated by lived experience navigators and peer mentors.

Navigators will use their experience of the services to help streamline our approach and connect those who will benefit greatest to new Enhanced Service Hubs. The hubs will have an array of service providers with the specialist skills necessary to provide support bespoke responses, as part of a single plan that will be integrated and holistic person centred.

Our target clients are adults experiencing 3 or more of; homelessness, substance issues, mental health issues, domestic abuse and involvement with the criminal justice system concurrently, which we know significantly affects people's ability to improve their circumstance even with our help.

Using an extrapolation of data from both local authorities and partners, we project approximately 1,382 beneficiaries over the life of the programme.

Lancashire Volunteer Partnership (LVP) – APSE Award Finalist

We are delighted to announce LVP has been recognised as a finalist in the APSE Annual Service Awards for "Best Collaborative Working Initiative". The partnership with Lancashire County Council, Blackpool Council, Lancashire Police and NHS Trusts has been acknowledged for its innovative approach to volunteering, working in collaboration to deliver a public sector volunteer offer helping to reduce vulnerability and increase community resilience. During the pandemic the Council and partners were able to respond to the challenges faced and mobilise volunteers to meet the evolving needs of the region, more recently volunteer marshals supported vaccination centres. The Council has over 2,000 volunteers supporting a growing number of services including: libraries, children's centres, community centres, befriending, litter picking, winter gritting etc. For further information on current volunteering roles available please visit: <https://lancsvp.org.uk/> or general queries can be sent to: lyp@blackburn.gov.uk

Covid Community Champions

The Covid Community Champions Programme commissioned projects are now coming to an end. Our partners (led by the Spring North, Care Network and the Strategic Youth Alliance) have delivered focussed projects engaging with the BAME residents, those with a Learning Difficulty and/or Disability & Autism and younger people. They have been involved in helping to myth bust common misconceptions, promoting vaccination uptake and feeding back valuable information on community sentiment. The network meetings will continue

and we are developing ways we can carry on working with our Community Champions in future – securing the future of a network of community members who are committed to supporting messages around the challenges we will face in BwD as we move into the winter and beyond. [Covid Community Champions | Blackburn with Darwen Borough Council](#)

Our Community, Our Future - Small grants

A total of 22 local groups will share around £68,500 of funding from Blackburn with Darwen's social integration programme to take forward projects designed to help make a stronger borough.

Our Community, Our Future grants of up to £2,000 were offered to local groups and organisations with new ideas for projects that would bring people from different backgrounds together. Groups that have plans to expand existing social integration projects were invited to bid for up to £5,000. From projects involving arts, music and sport, to those focused on health and wellbeing, green spaces and the environment – there are opportunities for people of all ages and interests to get involved [Grants awarded for social integration projects | The Shuttle: Blackburn with Darwen Council News](#)

Albion Mill

Building has been complete since August. We have been waiting for the developer to issue formal handover and this has been held up whilst all their certification, warranties and guarantees were in place. Bearing in mind Bardsley the original contractor went into liquidation and subsequently other contractors were brought in to complete the work. This situations always require careful and often legal clearance.

We understand handover will have taken place week commencing 20th Sept. Future tenants will be contacted to ensure they have sufficient opportunity to give notice etc. on their existing accommodation and arrange moves etc. We have all residents ready in groups to ensure we can have sufficient support on the day of the move, effectively slots will be agreed with future residents to help get them settled.

Strategic Commissioning & Finance

Demands on the Care Sector and the Councils Covid response has continued through the summer months and expected to increase over the Winter. Whilst the number of significant outbreaks in care homes has reduced we continue to see incidences of Covid across the sector. Care Homes are continuing with infection prevention control measures to manage incidences of Covid and the Care Sector Response Group continue to provide a response and regular situation reports.

The monitoring and analysis of uptake of vaccinations for both care home residents and staff is critical as we move towards the date for mandated vaccination for care home staff. The 1st dose of the vaccine is required by 16th September and 2nd dose by 11th November. We continue to work with care homes and our health colleagues to ensure as many care workers as possible are vaccinated. We do anticipate that some homes will face significant challenges if they are unable to deploy staff with their homes due to their individual vaccination status.

Covid 19 has had a very significant impact on many of our providers. The market is particularly fragile as some providers are struggling to return to previous occupancy levels which is reducing their ability to be financially sustainable. The Commissioning and Finance team continue to support and work closely with all providers across the sector however the pressure on the social care budget is increasing during this year and will further increase as we begin to review and consult on provider fees for the new financial year.

Health and Care Integration

The two new Integrated Neighbourhood (INT) Team Clinical Co-ordinators have settled into the new roles very well. They have completed their induction plan, built relationships with members of all four Integrated Neighbourhood Teams and are currently managing the significant increase in Integrated Neighbourhood Team referrals. As a result of this, local people and patients are being offered the best possible health, care and community support available to help them be healthy, well and independent in their homes and communities. As part of their role, the Clinical Co-coordinators are developing excellent relationships with GP's and other clinical and non-clinical staff in each of the Blackburn with Darwen GP surgeries. One-to-one fortnightly meetings are now taking place with a nominated GP from each of the practices to help ensure local patients are supported as early as possible to avoid a problem becoming a crisis. This approach is supporting a new piece of work known locally as the neighbourhood accelerator, it's been set up to use population health data much better, increase the involvement of Primary Care in the planning of patients health & care and share the positive difference that's being made.

The Social Prescribing Link Workers continue to support local people in the four neighbourhoods to help identify any unmet social, health and wellbeing needs and ensure local people are carefully navigated through the local services available to support greater health and wellbeing. The Social Prescribing Alliance which now has over 50 members meets on a monthly basis to support the Link Workers to develop awareness of local services and supports, build effective working relationships with other community & wellbeing key partners and help people access the services they need as soon as possible.