

## REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR ADULTS SOCIAL CARE & HEALTH

**COUNCILLOR MUSTAFA DESAI**

**PORTFOLIO CO-ORDINATING  
CHIEF OFFICERS: Strategic Director  
of Adults and Health  
Thursday, 28 July 2022**

### **Adult Learning and Employment Support: Multiply**

Multiply is a national Government initiative, funded over 3 years, to support the development of numeracy skills across the Borough using a variety of innovative approaches. Allocation for Blackburn with Darwen is £851,021.36 covering a period from September 2022 until March 2025.

Multiply was agreed as the first priority of the UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF). In addition to UKSPF, it also supports the wider aims of Lancashire's Local Skills Improvement Plan, recognising that people who improve their numeracy skills are more likely to be in employment, have higher wages, and better wellbeing.

Gaining a maths qualification at Level 2 (GCSE Grades A\*-C) or equivalent also unlocks the door to progress to higher levels of free training to secure a skilled job in the local economy. Improved numeracy also matters to businesses right across the country – small and big. Businesses that develop their employees' numeracy skills can boost productivity, increase profits, and improve employee retention. This will support the Levelling Up mission to ensure that by 2030, the number of people successfully completing high-quality skills training will have significantly increased in every area of the United Kingdom

### **Strategic Commissioning, ASC Finance and Performance**

The care sector is slowly recovering from the Covid Pandemic however, the market remains fragile as some providers are struggling to return to previous occupancy levels and have ongoing challenges to recruit and retain to a full care workforce.

Provider fee levels for 2022/23 have now been agreed and implemented, and work is underway with our providers to engage them through provider forums to begin our work on the Fair Cost of Care exercise and development of our Market Sustainability plans. This is the first step towards the Governments Social Care reforms which include the Fair Cost of Care and Market Sustainability Plans, implementation of Section 18(3) of the Care Act which means new Commissioning brokerage responsibilities for self funders, and Charging reforms. The Council's Fair Cost for Care returns and Market Sustainability Plans are to be submitted to DHSC by 14<sup>th</sup> October 2022 and must outline how the local authority plans to manage the care market and move towards a sustainable rate for care provision within their local geography.

The Governments Charging reforms include a cap on care costs of £86,000 which limits the amount that individuals might contribute towards their care, and a new more generous means test for the assessment of an individuals contribution to their care both of which will increase the cost of care to Local Authorities. The charging reforms are currently scheduled for implementation by October 2023 and present the Council with significant challenge in terms of assessing the impact on our Medium term Financial Plan and implementation of new systems and processes.

### **Adult Social Care**

The department has initiated planning for substantial social care transformations including the intended CQC Inspection of Adult Services, Liberty Protection Safeguards (LPS) and the Market Sustainability and Fair Cost of Care reforms. These streams of

work represent significant changes to legislation and operational practices which will require consideration of workforce, policy, finance and commissioning.

Regarding CQC, a new assurance framework will be utilised by CQC to assess the performance of Adult Social Care departments. Implementation of the framework will begin in April 2023. Work within the department is already underway to ensure that we as a Local Authority are inspection ready. A working group has been established and an action plan has been drawn up outlining key inspection areas.

Liberty Protection Safeguards (LPS) will replace the existing statutory legislation concerning Deprivation of Liberty Safeguards (Dols) which authorises the care and/or treatment arrangements of individuals who lack mental capacity to consent. The department has contributed to the government consultation in collaboration with wider ADASS colleagues; details of which are expected late in the year. Work regarding workforce modelling and operational changes has been initiated including our colleagues from children's services.

Following assent of the Health and Care Act (2022) the Lancashire and South Integrated Care System (ICS) and the Integrated Care Board (ICB) have been formally established as new statutory bodies on 1 July 2022. The ICB replaces the eight clinical commissioning groups across Lancashire and South Cumbria, including Blackburn with Darwen CCG. The department continues to influence the development of the ICB, who in late July will meet to look at the plans and priorities of the ICB and make a decision on place boundaries.

Since the opening of Albion Mill in November 2021 we have seen a steady up take of the Extra Care apartments with people moving in on a regular basis. The allocation of apartments has been gradual to ensure that the individual's needs are met. The Intermediate Care service within Albion Mill continues to offer person centred, community based, short term intermediate care to people who either are at risk of a hospital admission or to aid a timely discharge from an acute hospital setting with the aim of returning to independent living. To date we have seen a number of people who have successfully received rehabilitation services and returned home to live independently.

In collaboration with health, a 2-hour unplanned crisis response service was launched in March 2022. The pathway provides assessment, treatment and social care support (within 2 hours) to individuals in their own homes who are experiencing a health or social care crisis and who might otherwise be admitted into hospital. The aspiration to develop virtual wards within the community will enhance this offer, allowing individuals to get the care they need at home, safely and conveniently, rather than being in hospital.

Adult Social Care, including Specialist Services (Learning Disability & Autism, Mental Health and the Emergency Duty Team) have continued to see a high level of demand in terms of referrals into services. The increased demand is reflected in the number and complexity of the requests for statutory Social Care assessments and also the processes to safeguard vulnerable adults, including statutory safeguarding investigations, applications to the Court of Protection and the management of Corporate Appointeeship. There is ongoing work within neighbourhood teams to participate in the development of integrated care across the borough to promote best outcomes for residents and efficient working across agencies. The longstanding integration in the Community Mental Health Team is now underpinned by a formal

Memorandum of Understanding with Lancashire and South Cumbria NHS Foundation Trust.

### **Health and Care Integration**

To support the continued integration across Adult Social Care, NHS Community Health Services and the VCFSE, monthly integration briefing sessions for Adult Social care staff members have now commenced. The first session attracted over 65 staff members from a wide range of social care roles. Plans are now underway to establish a monthly schedule for the next 6 months focusing on key topics including social prescribing, integrated neighbourhood teams and supporting people with alcohol and substance misuse.

To build on the excellent working relationships that are in place across the four Integrated Neighbourhood Teams, the INT members have started to meet in person on a quarterly basis. The Social Prescribing Alliance has also followed a similar approach by meeting in person on alternate months. The move to in person meetings provides the opportunity for neighbourhood staff to strengthen their professional working relationships, foster peer support and identify joint solutions for individual complex cases.

As part of the work supporting the Mental Health Transformation across BwD, monthly meetings are now underway with the Integration and Neighbourhood Leads, the Community Mental Health Hub Clinical Lead and Neighbourhood Managers. This new partnership will help drive forward the alignment across Integrated Neighbourhood Teams, Social Prescribing and the Community Mental Health pathways to help local people and patients receive the best joined up mental health, social care and wellbeing support available.