

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

**PORTFOLIO CO-ORDINATING DIRECTORS:
MARK WARREN (ADULTS SOCIAL CARE AND HEALTH)
DATE: Thursday 6th October 2022**

PEOPLE: A good quality of life for all our residents;

Adult Social Care

The Adult Social Care department continues to prepare for substantial changes to the legislation and delivery of adult social care, including: the CQC Inspection of Adult Services; Liberty Protection Safeguards (LPS) and the Market Sustainability and Fair Cost of Care reforms. To date, these significant changes have required continual consideration of our workforce, policy, and commissioning arrangements. Internally, work to prepare for these reforms includes the identification and recruitment of a project team, exploring and commissioning digital solutions and benchmarking our current offer. The department continues to seek innovative and efficient ways of implementing these changes, through submissions at regional/national forums and consultations.

Following the formal establishment of the Lancashire and South Integrated Care System (ICS) and the Integrated Care Board (ICB), Blackburn with Darwen has been confirmed as a Place Based Partnership. Claire Richardson has been appointed as the Director of Health and Care Integration for Blackburn with Darwen, with responsibility for bringing together organisations and groups that provide services, to better support the health and wellbeing of our residents. This appointment will consolidate the ongoing work within Integrated Neighbourhood Teams across the borough to promote best outcomes for our residents. Claire will start in role in the late autumn.

The draft Primary Care Neighbourhood (PCN) workplan was shared during a successful face to face development session with all system partners, including elected members. Each PCN has since initiated planning workshops to outline health and care priorities around mental health, obesity, learning disability, oral health and cancer needs within the Borough.

Operationally, Adult Social Care continues to see a high level of demand in terms of referrals into service and increased complexity. Our interventions include Social Care assessments, statutory safeguarding investigations, applications to the Court of Protection and the management of Corporate Appointeeships. A strength based approach to demand management strategies ensures that we continually meet our statutory responsibilities and promote access to VCFS and social prescribing opportunities.

Strategic Commissioning, Finance and Performance

Our Quality and Engagement Team have been visiting our Residential and Nursing care settings. They have been undertaking courtesy visits with all of our commissioned providers to check in with them as they recover from the impact of the Covid pandemic. We recognise the challenges faced by Residential and Nursing providers and are offering support and advice around a whole range of issues, including infection prevention control, staffing, energy costs and insurance. We have been refreshing our Quality Assurance Scheme

which sets out the high standards of care we expect from providers and how the Quality and Engagement Team will ensure those standards are being reached. The team will also be keen to highlight, share and celebrate good practice via regular communication and a series of Provider Engagement Forums.

The Council's Fair Cost for Care (FCoC) exercise is well underway and nearing completion. Levels of participation from Providers across the borough is on a par with other regional Local Authorities and the results are currently being reviewed and analysed to assess the impact on sustainable rates going forwards. This, alongside the Market Sustainability Plan will outline how the Local Authority plans to support the care market over the coming years as we ensure sufficient and high quality provision of care for our residents.

National Careers Service

The Adult Learning and Employment Support team have been successful in securing a further two year contract for the provision of the National Careers Service Community Based Provision across Blackburn with Darwen. The new contract will take effect 1st October 2022 with a value of £226,844 each year and safeguards existing provision.

The National Careers Service provides impartial information, advice and guidance to help people make decisions on learning, training and work. This funding ensures people and communities across the borough continue to receive this important support to improve their work prospects and wellbeing. The National Careers Service will work with over 2500 people each year, ensuring job or learning outcomes will be achieved by at least 45% of those who engage.

The contracting authority is the Secretary of State for Education, acting through the Education and Skills Funding Agency (ESFA). The ESFA is an executive agency of the Department for Education accountable for funding education and skills for children, young people and adults.