

## 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, 26 January 2023

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

#### **Winter Planning and Resilience**

Winter planning has been a necessary and critical part of our business planning in recent months. This includes setting out our business continuity arrangements to support the management of major areas of risk during what is typically a pressured season of the year. This year's planning has taken into consideration the continued challenges and pressures across the health and social care sector in relation to the COVID-19 pandemic and seasonal Flu. It has been further complicated by the challenges brought about by workforce shortages, cost of living crisis and national strike activity, all of which have impacted upon the health and social care sector. This significant planning and the measures put in place has enabled business as usual activity to continue within adult social care whilst supporting unprecedented hospital pressures.

Measures to support winter resilience have included identifying and securing resources to enable additional discharge from hospital settings, for example, block purchasing residential and nursing provision and increasing capacity to provide domiciliary care within people's own homes. This activity has been further aided by facilitating additional capacity within homelessness accommodation and opportunities via the household support grant.

#### **Adult Social Care Reforms**

With respect to Adult Social Care Reform, preparation for the CQC Inspection of Adult Services, continues. Key officers are linked into national and regional networks and forums, sharing assurance preparation activity and best practice. Recruitment activity continues as a means to identify a dedicated project team, although this has been highly challenging, alongside exploring and commissioning digital solutions and benchmarking our current offer. Early in the New Year, assurance activity will focus on self-assessment and informal peer review, as a means to evidence our strengths and identify areas for consideration.

Some other aspects of Adult Social Care Reforms, have been paused by Central Government, specifically Charging Reforms. The associated funding for these aspects of the Reforms has been included within the broader social care grant allocations to Local Authorities. These are currently being worked through locally.

#### **Service Developments**

A recent analysis of our statutory Safeguarding Adults Board partnership arrangements has identified opportunities for improvement with respect to accountability and business planning. An interim Independent Chair, Dr Henri Giller has since been appointed to ensure that the Board drives forward areas for improvement. Similarly the Local Government Association (LGA) has agreed to facilitate a focussed review of the operation of the Board and the effectiveness of operational safeguarding arrangements.

We are pleased to welcome Claire Richardson as Director of Health and Care Integration and Place Leader for Blackburn with Darwen. Claire will help drive forward

our plans for the Placed Based Integration of health, care and community services and is a key link into ICB governance arrangements.

We have recently secured agreement to upgrade our electronic client record system, Mosiac to the latest version and to move system operations into the Cloud to enhance functionality and resilience. We also have agreement to introduce a Provider market management system, PAMMS, and a Provider fee negotiation toolkit, Care Cubed. All of this will help us manage the Care Market and meet our duties with respect to Social Care Reforms. These digital improvements will also help us improve and modernise our interactions and communications with both Providers and residents of the Borough.

### **Staff Engagement**

Our staff engagement and communication strategies continue to develop. Mark Warren, Strategic Director, now completes a weekly video blog which is circulated to all staff members and which details significant departmental matters from across the last 7 days. The leadership team have also committed to quarterly face to face engagement sessions, open to all. These will include key messages, Question and Answer sessions and specific themes relevant to the department and all of our teams. The next face to face engagement session is scheduled for Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> January at King Georges Hall.

### **Adult Learning**

The Multiply initiative was launched in the Borough at our 'Games Fest' event at King George's Hall in November. This event brought together all delivery partners to showcase and demonstrate their offer using a wide range of interactive and engaging activities. The focus of Games Fest was to show how we use numbers in our everyday life, but also how games can be a fun way of learning more about numbers.

Games Fest included a whole range of activities, such as UNO, bingo, dominoes, Play Your Cards Right and a Virtual Reality Carnival game as well as many other number related games. The aim being to encourage families to develop and improve their numeracy skills together. As part of the event, attendees were given a variety of goodies that can support them on their maths journey, including a tape measure, calculator, times tables fridge magnet, pen and notepad, as well as a travel mug to bring to classes.

Transport was offered to people attending from Darwen, although this offer was not taken up. However, a second event, Games Fest 2, will take place at Darwen Leisure Centre on Wednesday, 1<sup>st</sup> February 2023.