

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, 23 March 2023

PEOPLE: Build happier, healthier and safer communities;

Adult Social Care Reform

In preparation for Adult Social care reform, including the CQC Inspection of Adult Services, a number of significant work streams and peer challenge events have been arranged. On the 2nd March 2023, colleagues from Tameside will visit to undertake a case file review to ensure that the department is meeting its statutory responsibilities, demonstrated through practice in case files. Similarly, a challenge day has been arranged with peers across a number of local authorities on 6th March 2023, whereby the department will showcase our ongoing transformation activities and be challenged in respect of our CQC inspection assurance and preparedness.

Safeguarding Adults Board

A review of our statutory Safeguarding Adults Board partnership arrangements and operational activity is underway, whereby the Local Government Association (LGA) has facilitated a number of discussions with interested partners and operational staff. This will contribute to a detailed consideration of governance, assurance and operational activity, which will influence significant transformation.

Corporate Apprenticeship Event

Staff from across adult social care attended a busy and successful corporate apprenticeship event on 22nd February 2023. This was an opportunity to promote and celebrate the Social Work profession to our potential workforce of the future. This coming year, four corporate apprentices, with access to a fully funded social work degree, will begin training within the department. These apprenticeships will complement our overarching workforce development opportunities and our actions to address challenges with recruitment and retention.

Disability Information Day

Staff from across adult social care will be supporting the 12th annual Disability Information Day on 2nd March 2023 at King Georges Hall. There will be a designated Transition/Preparing for Adulthood section whereby staff from adult services will be available to provide information and advice to young people and their parents/carers regarding support on their journey to adulthood.

Managing the winter period

The winter period has been very challenging in many respects but the measures we put in place were on the whole very successful. As a result we encountered no delays in supporting timely discharges from hospital and had sufficient community and bed based capacity to support our residents with assessed care and support needs.

Jobs & Skills Fair

The Jobs & Skills Fair was set up in collaboration with our internal Employment and Skills support services, including Adult Learning, National Careers Service and More Positive Together and took place at King George's Hall, Tuesday, 28 February, 10am – 3pm. Focusing on adults in the Borough, the event complemented the annual 'Blackburn

is Hiring' event which targets Year 10 and Year 11 students and is coordinated by the New Directions team. The Jobs & Skills Fair pulled together services within the council as well as external employers. The DWP supported this event by contacting and recruiting a number of employers and informing their customers about the event and how it can support them.

There were a wide range of employers there on the day to talk about the vacancies they currently have and/or what may be coming up. There was also a series of workshops designed to help people understand how to make sure they are ready to apply for jobs, including CV workshops, interview skills and a range of other employability and employment-related topics.

People also had the opportunity to talk to Advisers about their next steps if they were not sure of their options, or if they needed support in finding job. Individuals also received help to apply for live vacancies on the day.

The event was very well attended and was very successful in linking many individuals to employment opportunities.

Primary Care Neighbourhood (PCN) Health and Wellbeing Days

Both Darwen PCN and North PCN Health Days will take place during March and will provide an excellent opportunity for local people to hear about the range of services and activities available in their areas to help them stay healthy and well. Overall, around 25 health, care, wellbeing and voluntary sector partners will come together to offer information and advice to residents. On the day, there will be the opportunity for people to take part in activities, workshops and to undergo health checks and health screening.

The North PCN Health and Wellbeing Day is taking place on Saturday 11th March, 10am-2pm at Bangor Street Community Centre, Blackburn.

The Darwen PCN Health and Wellbeing Week is being held from Monday 13th to Saturday 18th March, 9am - 4pm at the Darwen Market Hall & Annex. An immunisation & screening clinic is also being offered at Darwen Health Centre on Saturday 18th March 8:30 - 5:00pm.

Adult Care Provider Fees

A full review of all Adult care provider fees has been undertaken to ensure we set sustainable rates for care we commission.

As part of our engagement around the fee setting process we have arranged a number of provider forums to discuss the proposals and to encourage feedback. The forums proved to be very successful and interactive.

Options considered recognised the rising costs of inflation on food & utilities, National Living Wage and Real Living Wage, as well as the wider challenges within our local care market and the outcome of the Fair Cost of Care exercise.

All these factors have been taken into account alongside the issue of affordability and the 2023/24 provider uplifts have been recommended in line with the current Medium Term Financial Plan detailed at Finance Council on 27th February 2023.

