

REPORT OF THE LEAD MEMBER FOR ADULTS & PREVENTION

COUNCILLOR MUSTAFA DESAI

**PORTFOLIO CO-ORDINATING
CHIEF OFFICERS: MARK WARREN**

MEETING DATE: 20TH JULY 2023

Build happier, healthier and safer communities

Annual Adult Learner Awards

The annual Adult Learner Awards took place on the 27th June 2023 at Bank Top Neighbourhood Learning Centre. The awards celebrate the achievements of adult learners attending courses with Blackburn with Darwen's Adult Learning Service. The Deputy Mayor, Cllr Sylvia Liddle, attended the event to present 17 awards, including a new award for 2022-2023, the Volunteer Award. Achievements of the individual learners, chosen from over 2,500 people attending courses this year, included the successful achievement of a range of programmes and qualifications supporting learners on their own development journeys. Several award winners have found employment as a result of the courses they have undertaken, some within the Adult Learning team! Regardless of the subject matter, the positive impact on their own health and wellbeing was clear to see and hear as every winner came up to collect their well-deserved award. Many described the fear they felt when taking their first steps on their learning journey, but also the pride and self-confidence they experienced from their achievements. Courses delivered by the service cover a broad range of curriculum areas including Family Learning, Employability, Health and Wellbeing, Learning Difficulties and Disabilities, English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL), Mental Health and Resilience, ICT & Digital, Maths and English.

Integrated Care

The integration of health, care and community services remains high on the Council's priorities to help improve care and support for our residents. Following the establishment of the Lancashire and South Cumbria Integrated Care Board in July last year, the local authority is working closely with our partners in the NHS to further develop our integrated working and we have jointly established a Blackburn with Darwen Place Based Partnership for health and care. This Partnership will act as the key vehicle to allow us to plan and deliver services together, so we are more able to respond to resident's needs and improve their health outcomes and experiences. The Partnership, chaired by Councillor Desai in his role as Executive Member for Adult Health and Care, involves the council, health commissioners (the Integrated Care Board) and providers such as the voluntary, community, faith and social enterprise sector (VCFSE), GPs, the hospital trust and community health providers.

The Partnership's priority areas of focus and transformation in 2023/24 are:

- Continuing to deliver high quality, integrated services in our neighbourhoods
- Transforming community-based health services, such as district nurses and therapy teams, to make sure they work as close as possible with GPs, social workers and VCFSE organisations, to provide the best care for people
- Improving the quality of our care sector
- Working with our communities to explore how they can improve their health and wellbeing and shape our service delivery

- Delivering specific activities to ensure our residents can Start Well, Live Well, Age Well and Die Well – aligned to the Joint Local Health and Wellbeing Strategy

As part of this, work has now commenced to review the current integrated neighbourhood arrangements and consider our local ambition for how the existing neighbourhood model can be developed. The neighbourhood workforce are being asked for their views on what the model needs to look like in the future. This is to help ensure even more local people and patients are supported as best as possible. A number of briefing sessions have taken place which over 100 valued and experienced neighbourhood practitioners attended. The next steps of the review include an anonymous survey and a series of focus groups which are being facilitated by a number of peers from other areas. The key findings from the survey and focus groups will be summarised and presented to the Place Based Board to inform the model going forward.

Adult Safeguarding

Within the department, a new structure for the staffing of the operational Safeguarding team, with a shared management function for Safeguarding and DOLS, and increased leadership capacity, has been agreed and implementation begun. This will support Social Workers across the department to undertake Safeguarding enquiries, with oversight and assurance for these processes remaining the responsibility of the specialist team. A review of referral processes into the Safeguarding team was undertaken by the council's Transformation Team. This has resulted in a number of recommendations to improve the management of referrals and safeguarding concerns. These recommendations will be implemented alongside our adult's business plan, peer feedback and upcoming developments of the Mosaic system. In terms of the Adult Safeguarding Board and business unit, these structures have been scrutinised, resulting in changes to the Board and its business unit, in order to ensure ongoing compliance with all statutory obligations. The SAB will return to a place based board for Blackburn with Darwen, with its vision, priorities and business plan now agreed by partners.

Commissioning

Work is underway to refresh and further develop our strategic commissioning plans. Overtime this work will include all commissioned services across adults, public health and children's services. Initial priorities are unpaid carers, ageing well and specialist services (including mental health and learning disabilities). This work is being aligned with the delivery of the council's corporate priorities and strategic intentions. This work will help the council to understand if services are value for money and if our investments are maximising outcomes for our population. The plans will support us to commission sustainable models of care. Although this work is focused primarily on services which are commissioned by the council, where appropriate, the work is also acknowledging the interdependencies with health commissioned services.