

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

COUNCILLOR

PORTFOLIO CO-ORDINATING  
CHIEF OFFICERS: Strategic Director  
of Adults and Health  
Thursday, 5 October 2023

## Build happier, healthier and safer communities

### Adult Learning and Multiply

As the end of the academic year for 2022-23 approaches, Adult Learning has supported over 2600 adult learners in the borough to build the skills and knowledge for career development and progression. Examples include aspects such as ICT and employability skills, courses aimed at improving health and wellbeing, gaining skills to support their children or to develop English language skills to participate more fully in daily life in their communities. The service has continued to grow its accredited offer and delivered longer, more substantial programmes that resulted in an increase in the Adult Education Budget (AEB) income received from £164,985 in 2021-22 to £220,100 in 2022-23 (33% increase in funding).

The service is also accountable for the coordination and delivery of the borough-wide multiply initiative, a government funded initiative to help people improve their numeracy skills. The service has been working with a range of local partners to provide free courses and workshops to help adults build confidence and skills in using numeracy and Maths in their daily lives. In the first year of the collaborative programme of partners working with the council engaged 804 learners to attend short courses with 61 progressing to achieving a numeracy accreditation. From April 2023 to present date, the programme remains on course to achieve all targets with 364 enrolments of which 87 are working towards a qualification.

### Commissioning

Work to further develop our strategic commissioning plans is well underway with initial priorities and programmes of work being undertaken for carers services, ageing well and specialist services. Initial work is focused on Council commissions and is being aligned with the delivery of the council's corporate priorities and strategic intentions and the department's business plan objectives. The interdependencies with health commissioned services is recognised and our plans will be extended to become integrated Health and Social care commissioning plans as the ICB develops. A significant part of this work will enable the council to commission services which deliver on the right outcomes for our population whilst being value for money and delivering efficiencies. Plans are being progressed to fundamentally review a number of commissions for Extra Care Housing schemes, Mental Health and Learning disability schemes.

Provider forums are scheduled through the year with the next forums taking place in September and October. These particular forums will support the beginning of our engagement with the care market to agree provider fee uplifts for 2024/2025. The Government have recently announced additional Market Sustainability and Improvement Fund: Workforce for 2023/24 and 2024/25. This additional grant must be allocated in full to adult social care and is intended to provide funds to meet pressures and make improvements in adult social care capacity and services, namely:

- increase fee rates paid to adult social care providers, particularly as we continue to prepare for the implementation of charging reform
- increase adult social care workforce capacity and retention
- reduce adult social care waiting times

The Council's additional allocation of £1.1m must be spent in these areas and the local authority is required to demonstrate improvements via reported metrics and returns.

Preparations for winter pressures are also underway. Planning is in progress across our Health and social care systems including the utilisation of discharge funds allocated to the council and ICB via the Better Care Fund.

## **Integrated Care**

To support the continued integration of social, health and community care across the East, North and Darwen Primary Care Neighbourhoods, members of the integrated neighbourhood workforce development group have worked collaboratively to develop, deliver and evaluate a new half day integrated care induction for the BwD neighbourhood workforce. Sessions have started to be delivered and so far, 35 integrated neighbourhood staff members have completed the induction and offered feedback.

Attendees on the day included Adult Social Care staff, Mental Health practitioners, Red Rose Recovery Navigators, Social Prescribing Link workers, NHS Community Physical Health Clinicians, NHS Associate Psychological Practitioners, Age UK BwD officers, Spark Recovery Collaborative Practitioners, Early Help Children's Service Team Managers.

The key themes for the content have included:

- A sense of place, what makes BwD special and unique?
- Creating and cultivating a one team approach for the benefit of local people
- How we engage and know the communities we serve
- Ways to foster integrated leadership principles
- Promote coaching principles for inspiration and healthy mind-set shifts
- An overview about our shared health, care, community & wellbeing commitment
- Key approaches that helps build trusted relationships

Plans are now underway to roll out the induction throughout the year.

## **Adult Social Care**

The Principal Social Worker Annual report 22/23 has been finalised which highlights the development and training activity that has been undertaken within the social work teams during 22/23. We successfully supported our apprentices, students, newly qualified and qualified social workers within teams to achieve qualification whilst simultaneously retaining and supporting students into their first professional role within social work.

Social workers from within the department have engaged with the National Institute for Health and Care research (NIHCR) Practitioner Research Project in collaboration with the University of Central Lancashire (UCLAN). The social workers presented projects on 'Alcoholism and Mental Capacity' and 'Learning Disability and Digital Usage'. The 6 month project, with facilitation from UCLAN, had an emphasis on improving practice within the department.

Lyn Romeo, Chief Social Worker visited Blackburn with Darwen at the start of August, to meet with the Social Care Teams. Lyn commented on the positivity of the staff group and the evident passion for supporting local residents. The Chief Social Worker for Adults works alongside the Chief Social Worker for Children and Families, forming the Government's Office of the Chief Social Worker. Lyn met with various teams across Adult Social Care whereby our transformation, coproduction and assurance activity was shared. The day ended with a presentation from Lyn considering workforce wellbeing and resilience and improvement and innovation.