

**REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR NEIGHBOURHOODS & PREVENTION  
COUNCILLOR SHAUKAT HUSSAIN**

**PORTFOLIO CO-ORDINATING  
DIRECTOR: SAYYED OSMAN  
DATE: 4<sup>th</sup> October 2018**

### **CAREERS SERVICE INSPECTION**

The Council's National Careers Service (NCS) received glowing feedback from their Matrix Inspection in August. Matrix is the national quality standard for all Careers Information, Advice and Guidance (IAG) services. The NCS team has held the standard for many years but this year teamed up with the Council's New Directions Service to achieve a whole council award.

The Inspector praised the vision, culture and delivery of the work and particularly noted partnership working as a key factor in its success: *"much energy goes into nurturing relevant partners and networks to support the ongoing needs of clients."*

The inspector spoke to customers and reported that *"feedback from NCS customers was entirely positive and cited outcomes such as increased confidence, self-belief and the ability to mix within a group."* Advisors were praised for their *"wealth of experience and expertise which is recognised by managers, clients and partners. Staff are considered to be highly knowledgeable and responsive to issues raised and go above and beyond expectations to deliver the service."*

### **ADULT LEARNING IN THE COMMUNITY**

The latest Adult Learning brochure (September-December) is now available and has been uploaded to the Council website and found [here](#). Courses run at a variety of venues with the aim of helping adults improve their work prospects and wellbeing.

### **MENTAL HEALTH FIRST AID (MHFA)**

The Adult Learning Service now has three tutors qualified to teach the Mental Health First Aid Course. Developed by MHFA England, this two day course qualifies learners as mental health first aiders. Learners get a deep understanding of what mental health is and the factors that can affect wellbeing. The course teaches practical skills to spot the signs of mental illness and gives learners the confidence to step in and support a person who needs assistance. It doesn't teach how to be a therapist but can teach how to listen, reassure and respond, even in a crisis and can even potentially stop a crisis from happening. The course will be delivered in the community and is suitable for anyone who wishes to develop a practical understanding of mental health. It is delivered over 3 days and on completion learners receive a Mental Health First Aider certificate.

## **DOMESTIC ABUSE UPDATE**

Blackburn with Darwen Council, alongside partners from across the region, has submitted two significant bids which if successful will support our work in protecting victims of domestic abuse. The first; to the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government, will support those from Blackburn with Darwen in refuge to be able to move into their own accommodation with additional outreach support, increasing our ability to support more local people.

The second submitted in partnership with the Office of the Police & Crime Commissioner to the Home Office, will allow us to further support schools, provide specialist support in adolescent to parent abuse cases, and provide additional resources for cases where children social care are engaged. We expect to hear the outcome of both bids by the end of October 2018.

## **OLDER DRIVER ROAD SAFETY EVENT**

Blackburn with Darwen Council hosted an older driver road safety event on the 1st October on behalf of Pennine & Lancashire Road Safety Partnerships. As part of their 'driving safer for longer' campaign the event covered health, prescribed medication, public transport developments, car safety checks, and safer driving amongst their themes.