

## **REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR HEALTH & ADULT SOCIAL CARE COUNCILLOR BRIAN TAYLOR**

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DOMINIC HARRISON (HEALTH)  
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### **HEALTH**

#### **WORLD HEALTH ORGANISATION (WHO) – BLACKBURN WITH DARWEN IS AN 'INSPIRATIONAL EXAMPLE'**

Blackburn with Darwen's approach to creating resilient and supportive communities by supporting social movements for health has been singled out as an 'inspirational example' of good practice by the European Office of the World Health Organisation (WHO) and is included in a recently published Compendium, alongside case studies from other countries.

The WHO say "This Compendium provides inspirational examples of building resilience at individual, community and system levels. It describes the innovative, on-the-ground actions taken by 13 countries to create supportive environments for strengthening resilience and its link to health and well-being outcomes. The Compendium covers a wide range of topics such as the role of resilience-building in addressing human rights, health inequities, and environmental hazards and threats."

The Blackburn with Darwen case study written by two members of the Public Health Team shows how these approaches to improving health and wellbeing have been adopted locally in relation to Drugs and Alcohol Services and to preventing Adverse Childhood Experiences. The approaches involve all local public services in working differently with communities to support their own resilience and wellbeing and are seen by WHO as an international example of best practice in public health.

Health 2020: Priority Area 4: Creating Supportive Environments and resilient Communities'  
<http://www.euro.who.int/en/publications/abstracts/health-2020-priority-area-four-creating-supportive-environments-and-resilient-communities.-a-compendium-of-inspirational-examples-2018> (BwD case study pages 92-98.)

#### **ADULT SMOKING CONTINUES TO FALL**

Locally, smoking remains one of the biggest causes of preventable death, disability and health inequalities. However, data released in July by Public Health England show that the rates of adults smoking in Blackburn with Darwen dropped from 27.1% in 2011 to 16.7% in 2017, putting the borough on a par with the North West average of 16.1%. The Council and local partners, including Blackburn with Darwen CCG, have worked together to deliver the local Tobacco Control Policy, including local initiatives around smokefree homes, cars and outdoor spaces, lobbying for plain tobacco packaging, and regularly backing national campaigns such as Stoptober and No Smoking Day.

#### **TEENAGE PREGNANCIES CONTINUE TO FALL**

Teenage pregnancy can mean poorer health outcomes and reduced life chances for both mother and baby. In 1998, the year the national Teenage Pregnancy Strategy was launched, the borough had 169 under-18 conceptions, well above the national average. Data released in August 2018 shows that the annual number of under-18 conceptions in Blackburn with Darwen fell to a new low in 2016 of just 59 and is now below the English average. This is very good news for young people in the Borough and reflects the success of both strategy and services provided for children and young people. It has been achieved by establishing a preventative approach to the issue across the Council, education system, voluntary and community sector, NHS and young people themselves.

## **PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICES PERFORMANCE**

In summer 2018, Public Health England (PHE) published their second annual Local Authority Public Health Outcomes 'league table' which they refer to as a 'dashboard'. The dashboard compares each English upper-tier local authority to its 'similarly deprived comparator group' on 8 key themes that reflect the effectiveness of local authority Public Health services. The dashboard was established to give PHE some objective measure of how effectively the Public Health Grant is being used by local authorities. The analysis shows that when Blackburn with Darwen is compared with its similarly deprived peers, it ranks in the first or second quartile of performance (i.e. top 50% in our group) for 7 out of 8 themes and is in the third quartile for the remaining theme.

## **ADULT SOCIAL CARE**

### **RIVERSIDE HEIGHTS**

As part of our strategy to prevent older people from entering long-term residential care, the department has a programme in place of developing housing with care, providing people with their own independent accommodation and front door, but with care available when needed.

Riverside Heights is our latest extra care provision offering 85 independent living apartments for people over 55. The scheme, which is now operational, is delivered through a partnership with Together Housing and Willowbrook Homecare. Tenants are already benefitting from specially designed flexible and responsive wrap around care arrangements. This means that as well as planned care and wellbeing support, there is a 24 hour onsite care response to emergency alarm calls and telecare equipment.

### **LEARNING DISABILITY SERVICE USER BECOMES A VOLUNTEER**

The Learning Disability Service continues to make a positive impact on the lives of service users. One such example is of a 20 year old man who finished college earlier this year and at the time he and his family were concerned about next steps.

A referral was made into the Transforming Lives panel and as a result a Community Connector was allocated to support the young man into voluntary work at his local community centre. He is enjoying gaining greater independence and building friendships by volunteering once a week in the centre and getting involved in a Bootstrap gardening project.

To build up to this stage, telecare was put in place to address the young man's support needs as he would often leave the house in the early hours of the morning, and a sensor was provided to monitor seizures. To support Mum in her caring role, respite at St Aidan's was introduced and this enabled the young man to become more independent as he was spending time away from the family home. A direct payments budget enabled day time support from the My Step Up Farm Project and 4 hours Personal Assistant support per month.

### **DISCHARGE TO ASSESS PATHWAY CASE STUDY**

Adult Social Care has introduced a number of new care pathways for discharging patients, enabling them to return home quickly and safely following their period of hospitalisation. An example of the success of these pathways can be seen in the following case study:

A female service user who had spent time within the acute Royal Blackburn Hospital was discharged through the new Continuing Health Care (CHC) 'Discharge To Assess' pathway, and this enabled her to continue her recovery at Acorn House care home. The place was funded by the Clinical Commissioning Group who have partnership agreements with a number of homes within the area. Ordinarily, the CHC checklist would have been undertaken on the ward which may have delayed discharge, however a joint screening process was carried out between the service user and her family, the Hospital Team Social Worker, and a Complex Case Manager within the East Lancashire Health Trust. All agreed that this pathway would promote recovery, support independence and avoid delay.

Support from the local authority continued at Acorn House to address recurrent health issues and to build the confidence of the service user and the whole family about how they would manage at home. The Reablement team, social workers and Integrated Neighbourhood Teams Community Connectors all worked with the family. Four reablement visits per day were provided and discharge home was achieved within 6 weeks of leaving hospital, with a lifeline pendant provided to give the family further reassurance and support.

## **10 YEARS OF THE REABLEMENT SERVICE**

On 31<sup>st</sup> August the Reablement Team proudly celebrated it's 10 year anniversary. The team supports people to regain their independence after a period of illness, disability or loss of confidence. The team currently has 54 members of staff, of which 50% have been with the team from day 1!

Since 2008, 4,756 people have accessed the service, with 2,297 (48%) leaving independent of services whilst another 787 (17%) left with a reduced package of care.