

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

**PORTFOLIO CO-ORDINATING DIRECTORS:  
DOMINIC HARRISON (HEALTH)  
SAYYED OSMAN (ADULT SOCIAL CARE)  
DATE: 24<sup>th</sup> January 2019**

### **HEALTH**

#### **HEALTH & WELLBEING STRATEGY 2018-2021**

The Blackburn with Darwen Health and Wellbeing Board has recently published a new Health and Wellbeing Strategy covering the period 2018 – 2021, which sets out the overarching plan through which the public, private, community and voluntary sectors, as well as residents, will work together to improve health and wellbeing for local people. The Strategy will inform and influence commissioning decisions across local services to make a real impact upon the wider determinants of health. It also recognises the new “place-based partnership” model to deliver integrated prevention, health and care services within our four neighbourhoods in Blackburn with Darwen.

The new strategy continues to take a life-course approach, aiming to increase life chances for residents of Blackburn with Darwen, by improving health and wellbeing: creating healthy places, reducing health inequalities and giving all people the opportunity to Start Well, Live Well and Age Well. Through consultation with partners the Health and Wellbeing Board has identified 3 main cross-cutting themes for the new strategy. These are:

- Poverty
- Vulnerable people
- Mental health and wellbeing

#### **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 shows 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 Clinical Commissioning Group (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.

#### **MENTAL WELLBEING AND SUICIDE PREVENTION**

A well-attended public vigil marking World Suicide Prevention Day took place outside Blackburn Town Hall on Monday September 10, organised and supported by Senior Council leaders and dedicated members of the long standing Suicide Prevention Group. A 40 second silence was observed to signify that one person dies from suicide somewhere in the world every 40 seconds. The event marked the launch of a year-long programme of activities, training opportunities and awareness raising across the borough. The campaign aims to get more people talking about mental health and thoughts of suicide, to encourage people who are struggling, to seek help to overcome life’s difficulties, and to not suffer alone in silence.

As part of this mental wellbeing programme, the Overview and Scrutiny Committee for People has focussed on adolescent mental health, to explore current support for young people and their families. A Scrutiny task and finish group has produced a set of recommendations on children’s emotional health and mental wellbeing to ensure sustained partnership efforts to further improve outcomes for all our children and young people.

## **BREASTFEEDING FRIENDLY BOROUGH**

Being breast fed is an important factor in babies getting 'the best start in life' and in November a breastfeeding friendly borough campaign was launched in Blackburn with Darwen. Locally, an impressive 75% of new mum's start breastfeeding, and it is hoped that the campaign will increase the length of time mothers choose to continue to breastfeed, which evidence demonstrates can improve health outcomes for both mother and baby, for years to come.

The commitment made as part of becoming a breastfeeding friendly borough includes supporting local businesses and public transport partners to provide environments where mums feel encouraged to breastfeed if they want to, working with leisure centres, restaurants and shopping centres to welcome breastfeeding mums, providing access to a network of local mums who can provide peer support, encouragement and advice to new breastfeeding mums and encouraging the general public to be supportive in any of these environments.

## **ADULT SOCIAL CARE**

### **CORNERSTONE LAID AT £12.5M BLACKBURN EXTRA CARE FACILITY**

Council and NHS representatives celebrated progress on Blackburn's newest healthcare infrastructure by laying the cornerstone on 12<sup>th</sup> September.

The £12.5m Albion Mill Extra Care facility is being developed by specialist developer Verum Victum Healthcare and provide 109 beds, including 50 extra care apartments, 31 en-suite rooms for intermediate care, 24 dementia apartments and 4 rehabilitation apartments. The project offers the potential to improve the quality of life for our older people and help maintain independence. The project is the first time in the borough that a range of services for older and infirm people will be brought together on one site.

Communal areas will be created including a dining room, TV lounge, library, hair salon, gym, consulting rooms, kitchen and staff accommodation and the facility is scheduled for completion in early 2020.

### **NATIONAL BETTER CARE FUND TEAM VISIT**

The Council welcomed members from the national Better Care Fund (BCF) team in October and shared how local people have benefitted from development with Integrated Care.

The BCF is a pooled budget between the Council and the Blackburn with Darwen Clinical Commissioning Group to fund posts and commission services within the integrated neighbourhood offer. Integrated working between social care, health and the voluntary sector leads to more effective working with streamlined and joined up services for people in need of support.

The visitors met with the Home First Team, which provides wrap around care and assessment to enable people to be discharged from hospital as soon as possible, and the West Integrated Neighbourhood Team based at Barbara Castle Way Health Centre. The two teams comprise of a mix of social care, health and voluntary sector staff including social workers, district nurses, review officers, reablement officers, occupational therapists, physiotherapists and support workers.

## **SOCIAL WORK APPRENTICESHIP SCHEME**

The new Social Work Apprenticeship scheme will launch in 2019 and Blackburn with Darwen will be one of the leading authorities to embed this new route to becoming a qualified Social Worker. This is a national programme to improve the retention of social workers within the profession, and provide an additional means of development and training to staff who are interested in pursuing a long term career in social work.

Five applicants from across Adults Services and Children's Services have been successful in securing places and will now embark on a three year apprenticeship programme spending 20% of their time at university and 80% in on-the-job training. Upon successful completion the apprentices will gain a BA Degree in Social Work through the University of Central Lancashire.

## **GREATER LANCASHIRE TEACHING PARTNERSHIP**

Adult Services has strengthened its commitment to the Greater Lancashire Teaching Partnership by appointing a Practice Development Worker. The post has been created to support the department to meet the goals of the Teaching Partnership by March 2020 which includes increasing the number of students benefitting from a statutory placement, supporting and developing the practice educator role and improving the retention of newly qualified social workers. The role will also improve the quality of training for social workers, staff development and service delivery.