

REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR ADULT SERVICES & PREVENTION COUNCILLOR MUSTAFA DESAI

**PORTFOLIO CO-ORDINATING DIRECTORS:
SAYYED OSMAN (ADULT SOCIAL CARE & PREVENTION)
DATE: 18th July 2019**

ADULT SOCIAL CARE

HOME FIRST TEAM CARE QUALITY COMMISSION (CQC) INSPECTION

The innovative Blackburn with Darwen Home First service has been praised following a Care Quality Commission inspection.

Home First is a community-based service that provides support for adults in their own home. The service aims to support recovery from illness, safer and timely discharge from hospital, and maximise independent living.

The team, which works very closely with local hospital trusts, is made up of different professionals and includes therapists, social workers and care workers.

The report highlights the teams' motivation and clear commitment to provide dignified and compassionate support with consistently good outcomes for service users.

GRAND OPENING FOR RIVERSIDE HEIGHTS IN DARWEN

A new specialised housing with care development in Darwen celebrated its grand opening in June.

Riverside Heights enables older people to continue to live independently in the comfort of a safe and secure environment. It has 85 stylish self-contained apartments available to rent, with a range of additional facilities including a residents' lounge, restaurant, hair and beauty salon and secluded gardens.

A number of employees from across the Council worked hard to take the scheme from a vision to reality. In particular, members of the development team, commissioning and social work teams in partnership with Together Housing and ENGIE enabled the creation of this fabulous new facility.

HEALTH AND SOCIAL CARE INTEGRATED TEAM LOCATION

The final two integrated team co-locations are in progress and are due to be completed by the end of August 2019. Having Adult Social care and Health teams co-located is an important commitment to delivering integrated and collaborative services for better outcomes.

The north team have now moved into the Everybody Centre. As soon as all IT is in place at Shadsworth Children's Centre the east team move will be completed by the end of August. As well as core office facilities there is also capacity for wider integrated neighbourhood colleagues to work in an agile way from these offices.

The final moves mark the department's commitment to working across and within neighbourhoods. Co – location provides a total of four office bases which will be key for

further integration with health, community and the Voluntary Community & Faith Sector partners.

HOUSING NEEDS

Demand on services to support the most vulnerable people with complex needs remains significant and continues to increase. In all cases the council ensures it meets its statutory obligations to secure accommodation. We have a street triage service that engages people on the street or who are sleeping rough. Sadly, despite our efforts we still see people choosing to beg on the street and refusing to engage with services that can help them often as a result of mental health needs and or addiction. We cannot force people to take the offer of support.

In the last year this has led to higher numbers of deaths associated with people classified as homeless. The interpretation of 'homeless' comes from Office of National statistics considering people living in houses in multiple occupation (HMO) or bedsits as 'homeless' as the accommodation should only be used for temporary housing and not as a permanent abode. In the borough we have a disproportionately high number of HMOs. This continues to attract demand.

The council is actively updating its vulnerable person strategy and is also working with the 'Making Every Adult Matter' coalition supported by Homeless Link, Clinks and Mind amongst others who are working as a collective voice.

We are pleased to report that Blackburn with Darwen have been successful in leading a Pennine Lancashire bid to the Ministry of Housing Communities and Local Government as part of their Rapid Rehousing Pathway Initiative. The £139,000 awarded will fund four 'Navigators' to work across Pennine Lancashire, two of which will be based in Blackburn, one in Hyndburn and one in Burnley. These Navigators will work with rough sleepers and beggars expanding our offer of support for people to move off the street and into secure accommodation. The twelve-month project will enhance our ability to link the most vulnerable into appropriate services to address their health, wellbeing, substance issues and lack of suitable accommodation. Navigators will also address those who have no connection with the borough and will look to safely relocate them back to an area where they have support.

SOCIAL INTEGRATION

A new team of Engagement and Integration Officers have taken up their posts with the wider Our Community, Our Future Team. The focus of the new team is;

- Capacity building in the voluntary sector, including the development of new voluntary groups, organisations and activities, as an infrastructure to support local social integration. Building on the leadership which exists within the Blackburn with Darwen community.
- Connecting and supporting other elements of the Our Community, Our Future programme including general programme promotion, recruiting to other activities across the programme and identifying potential innovation/good practice that would lend itself to upscaling.

The Engagement and Integration Officers will be deeply embedded within the community, forming relationships with individuals, local volunteer led organisations, schools, faith organisations and other civic society organisations. This will place them in an ideal position to both understand the social integration situation for the community (including evidence of tensions) and the organisations that are strongly positioned to support social integration. It is essential that this team engage with 'difficult to reach' members of the community and

particularly those who have increasingly negative perceptions of other cultural, religious and ethnic groups.

Engagement and Integration Officers will cover North and West Blackburn working from Little Harwood Children's Centre and Bank Top Neighbourhood Learning Centre, East Blackburn from Daisyfield Youth Centre and in Darwen.

NATIONAL CAREERS SERVICE TEAM – MENTORING CIRCLES

Following the successful delivery of mentoring circles in the 20 Race Disparity Challenge areas the Minister for Employment announced an expansion and offer of mentoring circles to all young people aged 16-24 in England, Wales and Scotland on 17th January 2019.

Partnering Blackburn Job Centre Plus and representing the council as a large employer, the National Career Service Team arranged an exciting 3-week programme for 12 young unemployed people. The programme aimed to inspire as well as educate about the wider opportunities and career choices on offer and started with a local quiz. HR provided input on what employers look for in their employees, an apprentice told their story and there was a guided walking tour of the Town Centre where it was explained how the developments happened over many years of planning and co-ordination. Weeks 2 and 3 followed with classroom sessions on maintaining well-being and positive mental attitudes, and planning next steps.

Representation from the National Careers Service, HR, an apprentice, reception staff, Adult Learning and the Town Centre team all contributed to the success of this programme and re-iterated the national message, 'the importance of mentoring in achieving diversity of workforce cannot be underestimated. Young people who have access to a strong network of mentors and corporate sponsors who nurture their professional development are most likely to further their career.'