

## **REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR HEALTH & ADULT SOCIAL CARE COUNCILLOR MUSTAFA DESAI**

**PORTFOLIO CO-ORDINATING DIRECTORS:  
SAYYED OSMAN (ADULT SOCIAL CARE & PREVENTION)**

**DATE: 3<sup>rd</sup> October 2019**

### **BLACKBURN WITH DARWEN ADULT LEARNING – RECOVERY COLLEGE**

Blackburn with Darwen Adult Learning developed the Positive Minds programme to help people improve their emotional wellbeing whilst learning something new and mixing with others. The courses are delivered by tutors experienced in mental health and take place in community venues providing learners the opportunity to practice ways to cope and feel better. A number of self-sustaining groups have evolved following attendance at one of these courses.

A Lancashire wide initiative to establish a Recovery College was piloted in Chorley and Preston in 2018 and this has now been established in Blackburn with Darwen as part of the roll out across East Lancashire. The overall aim is to build resilient communities with informed and proactive citizens who are better able to manage and control their own health and wellbeing, particularly in relation to mental wellbeing.

The programme develops skills and tools to empower people to take control of their own wellbeing and eventually use their own experiences and skills to help others on their recovery journey. This results in a service which is co-produced and co-delivered by people with lived experience of particular health challenges in collaboration with professionals.

### **OUR COMMUNITY OUR FUTURE GRANTS**

Over the summer, the social integration programme team were busy promoting Our Community, Our Future grants. Funded through Ministry of Housing, Community & Local Government monies as part of the borough's social integration work, these small grants of up to £2,000 aim to support local groups and organisations which have ideas for neighbourhood projects to bring together people from different backgrounds.

A communications campaign ran during August and early September to share news of the funding – including local press and radio, regular social media updates, adverts on digital screens, and posters in community venues. A briefing for all elected members helped to kick-start the campaign. The Engagement & Integration Officers, part of the social integration programme team, provided support to those groups that needed it, to pull together their applications for funding.

In total, 120 separate enquiries were received, resulting in 79 applications across all wards of the borough. A grants panel evaluated the applications and the successful groups are being advised of the positive outcome. Those groups who have not been successful are being offered advice on why they weren't granted funding and how they may strengthen their funding bids in the future, or an alternative source of funding for which they may be eligible to apply.

The social integration programme team feel confident that the projects to be funded through Our Community, Our Future grants will support the aims of the programme – to break down barriers between people from different backgrounds and get them working together for the

good of the borough. Each project will be paired with another in a different ward to support one another and share learning throughout the lifetime of their projects.

## **NEIGHBOURHOODS AND INTEGRATION**

Integration of our Adult Social care teams continues apace, with our Darwen neighbourhood team successfully co-located and collaborating daily with our health colleagues at Darwen Health Centre. Similarly, the West neighbourhood team is now co-located and integrated with the District nursing team at Barbara Castle Way. Work continues to co-locate our North/East neighbourhood team where it is envisioned co-location will be achieved by the end of October. Briefings have been arranged to further the documentation and reporting of the excellent work the neighbourhood teams undertake each day. The neighbourhood teams have hosted a number of meet and greets, including Board members and Directors of the 'LIFT Board' (who are responsible for Barbara Castle Way Health Centre and Darwen Health Centre) and our elected members. The neighbourhood teams are excited and proud to demonstrate the great collaborative work they are undertaking each day.

## **ADULT SOCIAL CARE – PRINCIPAL SOCIAL WORKER**

HR Workforce Development, Legal and Adult Social Care have worked closely together through a robust planned programme of development activities to upskill Social Workers and provide opportunities for progression and development for wider Social Care workers. A suite of legal training courses have been commissioned and delivered to Adult Social Care employees this year as part of a planned intervention to both upskill and support our workforce. Programmes include Court of Protection and Ordinary Residence S117. Blackburn with Darwen have also helped shape a new three-year programme that has enabled a number of our committed and experienced social care staff to take up the opportunity to undertake a social work degree. This is a work based programme, with a robust selection process which has enabled support for 3 members of our Adults social care staff onto the course in 2019, with a further 2 members of staff commencing in January 2020. We have also collaborated with Lancashire County Council, UCLan and Lancaster University to develop the Teaching Partnership and implement a plan of support/retention for social workers throughout all stages of their careers. The increase in the number of social work students and practice educators within Adult Services has been positive.

## **HATE CRIME AWARENESS WEEK (OCTOBER 12<sup>th</sup>– 19<sup>th</sup>)**

Hate Crime Awareness Week is a national campaign that encourages local authorities, key partners and communities to tackle hate crime in their areas. The week, which will run from the 12<sup>th</sup> of October until the 19<sup>th</sup>, is organised by [nationalhcaw.uk](http://nationalhcaw.uk) and will involve a week of activities and events as a means of raising awareness of hate crime and promoting avenues through which hate crime can be reported – as the underreporting of hate crime has been a national area of concern. Any criminal offence can be classified as a hate crime if hostility and prejudice based on disability, race, religion, transgender identity, sexual orientation or other personal characteristics are a factor. During Hate Crime Awareness Week, Blackburn with Darwen Borough Council will be supporting the NationalHCAW by providing two in-house awareness-raising sessions for staff alongside a series of public-facing events delivered with partners, including the Constabulary. The sessions will explore the current context of hate crime in a safe and structured way, whilst also providing attendees with information regarding support and reporting strategies for those who may have been affected.