

REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR ADULT SERVICES & PREVENTION

COUNCILLOR MUSTAFA DESAI

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

DATE: January 2020

People: A good quality of life for all our residents

1. OLDER PERSON'S CHAMPION – UPDATE FROM COUNCILLOR FLOYD

As part of the Portfolio Management the Executive Member has delegated key roles to his Assistant Executive Members. In this Council Forum we are updating on activity undertaken by Cllr Jackie Floyd as Older Persons Champion.

Supporting the delivery of key strategic priorities of the Age Well Partnership (Part of the life course supporting the Start Well, Live Well, Age Well strategy under the Health and Wellbeing Board's remit). Some key highlights below.

1.1 United Nations International Older Persons Day:

The council has been supporting this event each year with organisations working to promote awareness for the betterment of services and quality of life for older people. Working with Age UK, Council's ReFresh Team, Care Network, Adult Learning Team and Adult Social Care an event was organised at the Library to promote active ageing. Key messages were about promoting independence through keeping active, both physically and mentally. We have also promoted support to combat loneliness and Isolation, promoting an Age Friendly society, access to leisure and fitness, including dancing as a fun way of staying fit.

1.2 Promoting Dementia Awareness and Dementia friends:

We have a commitment to promote greater awareness of Dementia. This has been delivered by our Adult Learning Service, Dementia Alliance and Age UK. Recently Blackburn's Red Watch Fire Service Team attended Dementia Friends training in December and became the final firefighting team in Blackburn to embrace a dementia friendly approach. Plans are in place to roll out the training to firefighters in Darwen. Our Adult Learning Team have now trained 805 Dementia Friends contributing to a much wider understanding of Dementia across the Borough in support of our campaign with Dementia Alliance and Age UK.

18 of BwD councillors became Dementia Friends in October 2019. The course covers information about what causes dementia, different types of dementia and the strategies that can be used to help reduce stress and confusion when interacting with a person with dementia. Our Ambition is to have all elected Members trained in 2020.

1.3 Red Bag Scheme:

The red bag scheme working with Keep Blackburn Tidy and Keep Darwen Tidy isn't just about litter picking and the environment. One of the key outcomes is to have active people participating at all ages. This helps break down the divide between generations and promotes more neighbourliness, including greater awareness of neighbours who may be lonely and isolated or may need a bit of support from time to time. This could be with small jobs, help in the garden, or just simply being a good neighbour. In 2020 we want more of our residents/communities to help us in making the Borough more environmentally and Age Friendly place.

DEVELOPING OUR VOLUNTARY SECTOR PARTNERSHIP

As part of our ambition to develop prevention at scale we have re-organised how we will engage with the Voluntary Sector. We have created a dedicated Community Support Unit (CSU) supported by Adult Services, Public Health and the Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG.) The CSU will be working to join up and improve outcomes across a wide range of prevention services. It will develop our Partnership with the VCFS, to improve co-ordination of services with the aim to generate better health outcomes for our residents. It will support commissioned services in the Voluntary, Community and Faith Sector (VCFS) including Age UK BwD, Care Network, Child Action North West, Lancashire Women, Carers Service and the 180 Project.

Part of the challenge we have faced in recent years is the reduction of available funding to the work we commission in the VCFS sector. The new approach aims to create the strength in Partnership to plan over 3 to 5 years. Create business plans and seek opportunities to improve funding/income. Given increasing emphasis on leveraging resource a key part of the CSU's work will be to work alongside the VCFS Partners to identify and bid for external funding.

OUR COMMUNITY, OUR FUTURE PROGRAMME

The social integration programme is on track to reach its target for the number of people engaging with Our Community, Our Future in Year 2. For the number of groups engaging with the programme, we have already exceeded that target, in part down to the Our Community, Our Future grants, and the work of the Engagement & Integration Officers.

Since the allocation of grant funding to 26 projects in September, we're starting to see a real impact across communities. A wide variety of organisations are leading activities to support our communities and bring them together – through arts, sport, wellbeing, and so much more. Over Christmas, we supported a number of organisations hosting events and activities to bring people together at a time of year that can be difficult for many.

This month a new website will be launched, with information about classes delivered by a range of ESOL providers in Blackburn with Darwen. Learning English Together aims to make it easier for learners to get assessed, then find a class at the right level, in a venue that suits them, and with shorter waiting times.

Also during January, Our Community, Our Future board members, partners and local transport providers will take part in a workshop to look in detail at the data and intelligence gathered so far as part of our Community Routes transport project. The aim is to work together to begin to come up with some innovative solutions to help people to better connect to places of work and leisure.

ADULT SOCIAL CARE

The Greater Lancashire Teaching Partnership was created in April 2018 with DfE funding agreed to the end of March 2020. The Teaching Partnership involves Blackburn with Darwen Borough Council, Lancashire County Council and Blackpool Council collaborating together with UCLAN and Lancaster University in order to implement a plan of support and retention for social workers from student stage right through to senior management level. Increase in the number of social work (SW) students and practice educators within Adult Services has been positive.

The main areas of focus in Blackburn with Darwen are as follows:

- **Recruitment** (SW apprentices; SW student placements and support; SW Practice Educator training and support; induction)
- **Retention** (induction; Assessed and Supported Year in Employment (ASYE) Support; CPD opportunities; specialist training input)
- **Career progression** (SW Practice Educator training and support)
- **National Standards** (Practice Educator Professional Standards; HCPC /Social Work England; Knowledge and Skills Statements)
- **Quality** (SW Learner support; Practice Educators; SW practitioners input to University Curriculum)
- **Income generation** (SW Student placement and ASYE's)
- **Social Work Learners** (SW Students; ASYE's; SW Apprentices)
- **Partnerships** (Joint working / Sharing learning)

There has been a significant growth in the numbers of students, practice educators and Assessed and Supported Year in Employment (ASYE). This demonstrates the positive impact of the role of the Practice Development Worker (PDW) which has been instrumental in supporting, working with and improving the experiences of students, ASYE, apprenticeships, Practice Educators and the wider adult social care workforce.

Along with other partners, Blackburn with Darwen has now to consider the sustainability of this activity in order to maintain reputation, meet inspection quality targets and respond to forthcoming social work national requirements and challenges. We are in the process of exploring a number of options through our senior management governance structure.

PREVENTING YOUTH CRIME AND VIOLENCE FUNDING SUCCESS

Blackburn with Darwen has been successful in applying to the Youth Endowment Fund on behalf of the borough and Pennine Lancashire partners receiving £343,000 funding. The scheme called 'Pause 4 Thought' was 1 of only 22 proposals funded from over 450 applications nationally. Its primary aim is to use a Cognitive Behaviour Therapy and a Trauma Informed Approach to manage and mitigate the risk factors associated with crime, allowing young people to build on coping mechanisms reducing the risk of making a bad decision impulsively. The pilot will run until September 2021 and is subject to external evaluation.

COLD WEATHER HOMELESSNESS FUNDING SUCCESS.

Blackburn with Darwen has been successful in applying to the government's Cold Weather Fund, in support of those at risk or currently homeless during the winter months. The £49k fund will allow for overnight accommodation during cold weather, with particular emphasis on assisting entrenched rough sleepers who have been excluded from accommodation previously. This includes exclusions because of substance misuse, violence toward staff or other service users and challenges with mental health within the accommodations making sure that in all circumstances everyone has a choice to not sleep outside. The funding will be used to provide additional security and enhance the current navigator service, were two members of staff will work through the evening to direct people to the service. All those adults identified will, be offered warm drinks, food and shower facilities at the overnight provision. The additional service and security operates 7 days a week through to March 2020.

