

COUNTY COUNCIL MEETING – 20 MAY 2016

Statement from: Councillor Mrs P A Bradwell, Deputy Leader and Executive Councillor for Adult Care and Health Services, Children's Services

CHILDREN'S SERVICES

White Paper – Educational Excellence Everywhere

As you may be aware the Government's White Paper, Educational Excellence Everywhere, was launched in March 2016. The paper made a number of recommendations to deliver educational excellence at every school and many of these proposals were welcomed by myself and the sector as we believe that the investment and reforms in teacher training and developing education leaders for the future as well as the proposals for a fairer funding system will improve our education system in the County. Specifically, we welcome the continued drive to a sector led model of school improvement and we are well placed to deliver this ambition through the recently launched Lincolnshire Learning Partnership which I refer to later in my statement.

However, I know that colleagues do not support forced academisation and consider that forcing schools to become academies raises serious questions around local needs and accountability. There is no evidence that academies perform better than council maintained schools and we had serious reservations about academisation as a panacea for poor performance.

We all agree that where a school is failing, there is no question that action must be taken – but converting every school, regardless of performance, to an academy will not tackle those issues and will have much farther reaching consequences. Schools value the option to become academies and the support they receive from their local councils to do so where they believe this is in the best interests of their students and communities. Forcing the change upon every school goes against, in many cases, what parents and teachers want and we consider this to be undemocratic.

It is also worth noting that there would have been a large financial implication for local authorities at a time when communities are already suffering the impact of significant budget cuts. We need to concentrate on the quality of education and a school's ability to deliver the best results for children, rather than on its legal status.

Parents, communities and governors have a basic right to participate in the discussions that should ultimately determine the model of schooling available to them. In Lincolnshire this has resulted in a rich and varied choice for parents and carers and more than 87% of our schools being judged Good or Outstanding by Ofsted. The proposed removal of parent governors would have further weakened vital local voices in our schools.

I have written to the Secretary of State, Nicky Morgan, to make my views clear and we are also working with the LGA and the CCN to collectively express our concern

over forced academisation. I am very pleased to report that the Secretary of State has responded positively to our concerns and has recently announced a review of these proposals. We await further details, but in the meantime we will positively engage with the Government to help shape proposals which are more relevant and suitable for local education.

Adoption

As part of the Government's Action Plan for adoption in England, all local authorities are issued with scorecards to measure how quickly they place children for adoption. The scorecards ensure that local authorities' planning and decision making is rigorous and focused upon minimising delay for this vulnerable group of children. Scorecards also provide an opportunity for local authorities to learn, reflect and bring about improvement in their adoption services.

The latest scorecard was published on 29 March 2016, covering the performance of local authorities between April 2014 and March 2015. In response to Lincolnshire's high performance in adoption, Edward Timpson, Minister of State for Children and Families wrote to the Council on 30 March 2016, offering his congratulations. Extract of his comments are below:

“As you are aware, 2015 Adoption Scorecards have now been published. I would like to congratulate Lincolnshire on the strong improvements made to adoption timeliness in 2014-15.

I note that you have met the Government's threshold for the time taken to place children with their adoptive families. In doing so, you have reduced the time children wait between entering care and being placed. You have also reduced the time between gaining a placement order and matching children with their adoptive family. I also note that Ofsted recently judged your adoption services as “Outstanding.”

I am pleased to see that Lincolnshire is part of the East Midlands Regional Adoption Agency. I am certain this will provide you with a real opportunity to improve your existing services and practice. I am also pleased to see that you are making good use of the Adoption Support Fund to provide therapeutic support to adoptive families and their children. This kind of support is critical for adopted children and their families and I hope you will continue to use the fund to complement the wider adoption support you provide. It is clear that you share the Government's commitment to ensuring no child waits too long to be placed in a safe and loving home.”

Sector-led School Improvement goes live in September 2016

Since October 2014 we have been working on redeveloping the way school improvement is delivered in Lincolnshire schools. The project has been led by Head teachers and supported by the County Council.

As an outcome of this work we now have in place the Lincolnshire Learning Partnership which all schools across Lincolnshire can join. This is governed by a smaller group of elected Head teachers who form the Lincolnshire Learning Partnership Board.

The board officially launched at a successful event on 22 April 2016.

The new sector led approach will replace the previously commissioned CfBT, contract. I am sure you would want to join me in thanking CfBT for their support to Lincolnshire schools and to the Council over the years. They will be leaving Lincolnshire in August 2016.

Looking forward, this is a real opportunity to develop educational expertise within Lincolnshire Schools. The national move towards a sector led self-improving system is set and there is extensive work being put into creating the conditions to enable this. Many of Lincolnshire's leaders have shown they are willing and able to develop a culture and practice of reflection and enquiry within and beyond their schools that underpins self-improvement.

To ensure LCC are still meeting their statutory duties, a new structure has been put in place and is being led by Heather Sandy, Assistant Director for Learning.

School Places

The basic need work-stream of the capital programme continues to deliver new school places across the county. In March 2016 a further £11m was announced for 2018/19. By September 2019 over £70m will have been invested into Lincolnshire schools since 2011, to ensure that there are sufficient school places to meet the needs of local communities. The school age population of Lincolnshire continues to rise with additional school places being planned for both the primary and secondary sector for the years ahead. Over 1000 new primary school places will be created in the year leading up to September 2016, and there will be many more planned for and delivered in line with birth rates, migration and housing development over the coming years, particularly in the secondary sector as we plan for the increased numbers moving through the primary sector in certain areas of the county.

School Admissions

This year's schools admissions saw the offer of 15,460 school places with both primary and secondary cohorts being larger than previous years. Maintaining a high first preference satisfaction rate of 93% is in keeping with previous years and remains slightly higher than our East Midlands neighbours. Out of the 15,460 places only 278 (1.8%) were offers other than the first three chosen by parents.

GCSE / A-level results

Lincolnshire has maintained the attainment of previous years, at 56.1%; however, the gap between Lincolnshire's performance and national for this measure is closing.

Fourteen schools achieved in excess of 90% of students earning 5+ A*-C including English and maths.

A-level passes are above the national figure; and in higher level grades awarded. The pass rate for 2 A-levels in Lincolnshire schools reached 97%. Seventeen of our schools achieved 100% of pass grades.

There has been a slight reduction in the percentage of students achieving 3 A* - A grades or better, in line with the national trend. Performance remains consistently better than that nationally, regionally and that of our statistical neighbours.

Ofsted Information

Ofsted % of providers in each category – Lincolnshire (National figures in brackets)				
	Outstanding	Good	Requires Improvement	Inadequate
2015	17 (20)	68 (64)	13 (14)	1 (3)
2014	15 (20)	69 (61)	14 (17)	2 (3)
2013	15 (20)	66 (58)	18 (19)	1 (3)

Source – Ofsted Data View

Key Stage 1 and Key Stage 2 results

KS1 Attainment: There has been an improvement of 2% in attainment in reading, writing and mathematics at Level 2+ and L2B+ compared to 2014, with combined L2+ now 86% and combined L2B+ now 67%. However LA performance remains below the national overall. There have been improvements in L3+ outcomes for reading and mathematics improving by 1% from 2014; L3+ writing remains steady. Attainment at L3+ in reading, writing and mathematics remains just below the national.

KS2 Attainment: Level 4+ Grammar, Punctuation and Spelling has improved this year compared to last year and the rate of improvement in this area is greater for the LA than seen nationally. Performance at L4+ writing and mathematics has improved from 2014, reading has remained steady. However, Level 4+ attainment data for the LA remains below national figures, with combined L4+ now at 79% compared with 80% nationally. There has been a similar rate of improvement for attainment at L4B+ from 66% to 68%; however this is still below national at 69%.

There are improvements at L5+ compared with 2014 LA outcomes. Attainment at L5+ in Grammar, Punctuation and Spelling has continued to improve over time as has L5+ writing. Mathematics has increased from 2014. Although L5+ reading has fallen compared with 2014, the drop is not as great as seen nationally. L5+ attainment data for the LA remains below national for grammar, punctuation and spelling and for reading, writing and mathematics.

KS2 Progress: Expected progress in reading 91%, writing 93% and maths 87% is broadly in line with 2015 LA outcomes, however, Lincolnshire is now below national data in all three areas. Lincolnshire is broadly in line with East Midlands and statistical neighbours for expected progress in reading and writing and just below in mathematics.

ADULT CARE

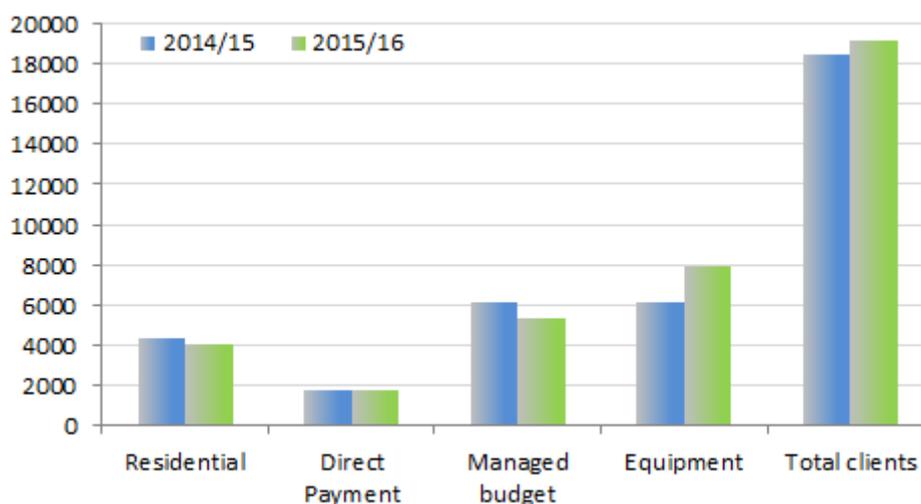
Adult Care Services

Here in Lincolnshire – as nationally – health and care services are coming under increasing pressure and for those with a great deal of experience in the sector there has never been a busier time. The increasing needs from older people (notably over

85 years of age), and those with profound disabilities are compounded by increased demand for safeguarding investigations and to uphold vulnerable adults' Human Rights – in the form of Deprivation of Liberty assessments. To this we can add the additional pressures arising from ever busier hospitals supporting not just more people but more people with ever complex conditions.

Provisional figures for 2015/16 indicate that over 34,000 requests have been received by Adult Care, 2,000 more than the previous year. This increase in demand has been met with improved services at the front door. Two out of three requests are dealt with by information and advice and by directing people to other sources of support, such as charities and community groups, and to give advice to people who can afford to pay for their own care. A further 2,000 people have received Reablement services and 4,000 people have accessed the Wellbeing Service. Both services have contributed to delaying or reducing the need for more intensive services.

In total, 19,000 adults have received a service in the year, which is a 4% increase compared to the previous year. A higher proportion of adults have had their needs met with lower level services such as equipment. The profile of service provision is shown in the chart below.



The provisional results from the annual statutory Adult Social Care Survey show an improvement on customer satisfaction, with 66% of people who are 'extremely' or 'very satisfied' with the care and support they receive, and only 5% of clients not satisfied. The survey also shows that compared to the previous year, people have more control over their daily lives and experience a good quality of life.

With the Better Care Fund (BCF), a series of projects are in place to reduce the pressure on the health sector, and keep people at home for longer. Although there are current pressures around delayed discharges, delays attributable to Social Care are still relatively low. Adult Social Care and Health partners continue to work closely together to improve experiences for people accessing services both in and out of hospital. The primary objective for both organisations is to keep people in their own homes or as close to home wherever possible. Other measures that pertain to the effectiveness of the BCF from a Social Care perspective include recently published survey results which indicate that 94% of Adult Care clients enjoy a better quality of life as a result of the services they receive.

Services for Carers

We all know how important carers are in supporting the many vulnerable adults living in Lincolnshire. From 1 June 2016 a new contract will commence for carers services. Following a thorough tender process the contract has been awarded to the experienced provider Carers FIRST who will work alongside our Customer Service Centre Care and Wellbeing Hub to deliver support to carers. Carers FIRST will also be our strategic partner for engaging with carers of all ages.

The new contract has provided the opportunity to ensure services have an increased focus on early help and prevention whilst helping us to meet our duties under the Care Act 2014 and Children and Families Act 2014. The new contract will also make access to services easier while offering more joined up support.

Almost 8,000 carers have been supported over the last 12 months, and since April there has been a definite shift in the pattern of support towards early intervention and prevention with 20% of carers having their needs met with information and advice.

Care Quality Commission

In January 2016 a residential care home in Sleaford was the first in Lincolnshire to be given an overall rating of outstanding by CQC, one of only 57 nationally. The overall standard of regulated care in Lincolnshire homes continues to be good under these new style ratings. Of the published new style reports for social care locations in the county by March 2016 (184) 65% are rated as, good 33% requires improvement. There is only one care home rated as inadequate and this is being robustly monitored through the Council's Service Quality Review meeting

Sensory Impairment

Adult Care in conjunction with Children's Services and Public Health recently recommissioned the sensory impairment service. From 1st April 2016 Action on Hearing Loss became the prime provider of the new service working in partnership with Lincoln and Lindsey Blind Society (LLBS) and South Lincolnshire Blind Society (SLBS), known locally as Lincolnshire Sensory Services. The new service will increase the number of people who are sensory impaired to retain their independence. It will assist in reducing social isolation, encourage better use of technology and have an integrated approach to working with health organisations and other partners.

Care Act compliance

I am pleased to report that Lincolnshire County Council has been rated joint second in the country in an independent review of Information and Advice compliance with the Care Act. 'Independent Age' has assessed all 152 local authorities in the country, reviewing websites and using mystery shopping exercises. Lincolnshire scored 29/30, and is identified as care act compliant (only 45 out of 152 were deemed Care Act compliant).

Update on Day Services

The review of Daytime Opportunities in Lincolnshire was conducted in order to make proposals for how these services need to be offered to service users now and in the future.

- Streamline services to the benefit of service users;
- Ensure we have daytime opportunities equally spread across the county
- merge some Daytime opportunities together and to then invest capital funding to improve the building base
- Daytime opportunities strategy to modernise the existing provision of services;
- Ensure Day Services are more sustainable.

The review included site visits, and engagement events with both Service Users and Staff, and where appropriate, with Parent/Carers, over the rationalisation of certain Day Centre buildings from which Day Services are currently provided.

Directly provided Day Centre provision will be located as follows:

- Ancaster Day Centre, Lincoln
- The Wong, Horncastle
- Wellington Road, Mablethorpe
- Alghitha Road, Skegness
- Alternative building to be confirmed, Louth
- Scott House, Boston
- Old Health Clinic, Market Rasen
- The Hastings Centre, Gainsborough
- Northgate, Sleaford
- Alternative building to be confirmed, Grantham
- Stamford Day Centre, Stamford
- Chappell Centre, Spalding

Contributions Policy for Non-Residential

The policy has now been successfully introduced and service users, from 16 April 2016, are making their financial contributions towards the cost of their care packages in accordance with the new policy.

5,186 service users were notified during March 2016 by letter what their new contribution was to be. Effective arrangements were put in place within Adult Care, the SERCO Customer Service Centre and the Financial Assessment Team to deal with resulting queries. From this, 520 calls were received, 55% dealt with by the Customer Service Centre and 45% by the Financial Assessment Team, less than 10 were contributions policy queries. The new policy should generate in excess of £700,000 in additional income in 2016/17, rising to over £800,000 in 2017/18 as a result of the introduction of this new policy.

Hospitals

The adult care teams supporting Lincolnshire residents have this winter seen and supported around 45 people a day. Adult Care staff offer advice to both Carers and people that fund their own care, they assess people's needs to support their safe

discharge home from hospital. This year has seen further joint working with health colleagues in the development of multi-disciplinary staffed 'hubs' within all three sites in Lincolnshire. Although Adult Care delayed discharges have increased by 14% over the past 12 months this remains below the national average. The majority of delays 70% remain health responsibility.

PUBLIC HEALTH

Substance Misuse

In December 2015, the Council published an invitation to tender for a Lincolnshire Alcohol and Drug Community Treatment Service and Lincolnshire Recovery Service. Following a robust tender process, Addaction was awarded the contract on 30 March 2016 for a period of five years, with an option to extend for up to a further two years. The new service is to start on 1 October 2016.

The new treatment service will reduce costs, improve service delivery and offer a new recovery service that will match best practice from across the country. It combines adult and young person services as well as drug and alcohol treatment in a package that is far more flexible and cost effective.

The recovery service has been developed following consultation with service users and benchmarking best practice across the country. The service will primarily use volunteers to develop a recovery community across the county that will change the perception of recovery and make it something to celebrate and not stigmatise people. It will act as a wraparound support network for those in treatment with the service, but also a gateway to support for those who are reluctant to enter formal treatment services or who require support rather than treatment.

The Public Health team are working closely with Addaction as part of the implementation of the new services, which will include the full detail of how services will be accessed from 1 October. Discussions with the exiting providers are ongoing as part of the exit strategy process.

Housing Related Support

Housing Related Support services are performing well since a new service model was introduced on 1 July 2015. 1,829 individuals have been referred into services already via the new electronic referral system 'The Avenue'. Over 692 professionals from 39 organisations have signed up to use 'The Avenue' to make applications to our services, saving large sums in administration costs and ensuring consistency in access to services all over the county for vulnerable people.

The first year has seen 706 individuals leave the services and out of those, 509 were planned and successfully moved on into their own accommodation with or without support. This represents a 72% planned departure rate and is a strong indicator that the problems which brought the person into the service are being resolved. We are monitoring particular success in outcomes around maximising income, managing debt, improved physical health, improved mental health, maintaining accommodation, and access to settled accommodation.

An Oversight Board has been established and meetings have taken place on a quarterly basis since November 2015. In attendance are representatives from District Councils, housing providers, criminal justice organisations, mental health teams and wider stakeholders. This Board is proving to be a useful arena to facilitate partnership working and ensure our current services are doing as much as they can to support vulnerable adults. The Board's current work programme includes widening service user move on options and establishing priority user groups.

Wellbeing Service

The contracts for our successful Wellbeing Service expire on 31 March 2017. The existing service is currently being reviewed to ensure that any potential future model is fit for purpose.

Benchmarking of similar Wellbeing services elsewhere within the country and internal engagement is well underway. Provider and stakeholder engagement events have been run in order to assist with this development. Work so far has highlighted some areas of best practice within Lincolnshire, as well as some areas for improvement to ensure that the service continues to develop to meet the needs of the population whilst meeting commissioning expectations.

The Wellbeing Service is a critical 'front-door' service that supports the Care Act requirements and assists in reducing demand on higher cost statutory care services provided by Adult Care. I am very pleased to say that the evaluation of the service in 2015 did clearly evidence that a key success of the current Wellbeing Service has been to reduce demand on statutory care services.

The procurement for a new service will commence during 2016 once the revised service model and approach to procurement are finalised and agreed.

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