

COUNTY COUNCIL MEETING – 13 SEPTEMBER 2019

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

CHILDREN'S SERVICES

Grow and Share/Little Talkers Project: Boston and South Holland Early Help Service

In July this year, the Ministry for Housing, Communities and Local Government announced that Lincolnshire County Council, alongside a number of local authorities, had been successful in its bid to the Controlling Migrant Fund and awarded a grant to boost community integration through two specific projects:

Grow and Share Project: Informal education allotment project bringing together children and families from migrant families and the wider community. The Project will enable families with common interests to come together to build positive relationships through healthy, outdoor activity, sharing ideas and resources with a tangible lasting benefit to all. The project will promote interaction, develop learning and understanding of different cultures and promote positive community cohesion and integration.

The project will work with migrant families to support integration by learning to grow their own fruit and vegetables on a shared allotment site in Spalding with support centred on language, skills and working together in a healthy, productive way.

Little Talkers; Learning for Life: The project will deliver a communication focussed project, which is aimed at supporting communication development of children aged 0-5, alongside improving parents' English skills to enable them to support their children and access support services that they are entitled to as well as improve their futures.

Education Support

Lincolnshire County Council continues to successfully deliver new school places across the county. In May 2018 allocation of Basic Need capital funding was confirmed at £12m for 2020/21. Funding for 2021/22 and 2022/23 is expected to be confirmed later this year or in early 2020 due to the government spending review. This funding is to provide additional school places across the county to meet the needs of our local communities. We are in the process of planning and delivering projects for 2021/22 and beyond for mainstream and special school places. From 2011 through to 2021 over £100m will have been invested into Lincolnshire schools to ensure that there are sufficient school places in the county. This has included a wide range of successful collaborative projects with schools and academies across the county.

Creating enough school places ensures that parents and carers can secure a local school place for their children. Almost all parents now apply online for their child's school place when starting primary or secondary school for the first time. For these admissions, despite rising pupil numbers, more than 9 out of 10 parents still get their first choice school which is in line with regional figures and better than the national average.

The Education Support Service migrated onto a new education system which enabled parents to continue to apply for a school place on-line but also to check their eligibility for free school meals at the same time. This new coordinated experience will enable children to have the best start to their new school.

Regulated Services

I attended the FAB! awards in June, which took place at Lincoln University and was really well attended by children. This provided a really positive opportunity for the children's achievements to be recognised and celebrated. This year there was a strong focus on being eco-friendly and really thinking about the impact our behaviour has on the environment. The children who were instrumental in organising the event wanted to encourage everyone to think about this, with consideration given to the eco footprint that was left as a result of this day. Awards this year were made from recyclable material and there were also stands which looked at encouraging a greater awareness of this.

The foster carers' awards took place on 13 May 2019. This was really well attended with a number of carers receiving awards for five, ten and fifteen years of service to the children of Lincolnshire. Two of our foster carers Steve and Lorna Booth, also received an OBE in the Queen's Honours list, as well as an award from the Sheriff of Lincoln in recognition of their very long service to children who have experienced trauma and are not able to reside with their families.

Many foster cares have birth children in their families. Whilst we recognise the work of the foster carers, it is equally important to recognise that the children of these carers play an important role in supporting their parents to provide a home for children who have not had the advantages which they have experienced. With this in mind, the Fostering Service provided a summer away day on 30 August for these supportive superstars.

SEND Service

Following the recent Adult and Community Learning Inspection, which involved Adult Learning, Apprenticeships and Children's Services' Young People's Learning Provision (YPLP), Ofsted awarded an overall Grade of 'Good'. 'Outstanding' was awarded for Personal Development, Behaviour and Welfare with many of the comments made by Ofsted attributed to the work YPLP carry out with some of the most hard to reach young people in the county. Despite the often low starting points of YPLP learners, many of whom have failed to thrive at school, it was noted that considerable gains are made in their personal, social and employability skills. Ofsted recognised that learners, including those who have high needs, make good progress at YPLP with most either moving on to a higher level of qualification, Supported

Internship, or employment. Access to high quality work experience was highlighted as a strength, with praise given to the internal work experience offered by LCC. This is a really positive achievement for YPLP who currently offer education opportunities to 225 learners across the county.

ADULT CARE

Occupational Therapy Service Changes

The Occupational Therapy Service is undertaking a two-year transformation journey which will see investment to improve both outcomes for people and the staff experience.

The current service is structured into three area teams (East, West and South). These teams are not aligned to the District Councils (housing partners) which can cause confusion and delays.

It has been agreed to deliver the Service from four operational teams which will be coterminous with District Council boundaries. This will facilitate closer partnership working between the Service and the District Councils. Geographical teams have been proposed using different data sets to model future demand:

- East Lindsey. Bases in Louth and Skegness;
- Boston/South Holland. Bases in Spalding and Boston;
- West Lindsey/Lincoln. Bases in Gainsborough and Lincoln;
- North Kesteven/South Kesteven. Bases in Sleaford, Grantham and Stamford

The team structure is only a small part of the wider change programme which will include:

- Introducing dedicated assistant grades into the Occupational Therapy Service to create a more sustainable skill mix;
- Forming closer links to the Wellbeing Service;
- Triaging and providing equipment and minor adaptations at the first point of contact (where clinically safe and appropriate);
- Reducing the time waiting for assessment by allocating appropriate work to assistants, therefore freeing up occupational therapist capacity for complex cases;
- Forming closer relationships with Children's Services regarding transition cases;

Admiral Nurses

In partnership with Dementia UK, St Barnabas and CCG, four part time nurses have been employed to work with families of Lincolnshire residents with dementia diagnosis. The staff will be hosted by St Barnabas and started taking referrals on 5 August 2019. It is expected that the scheme will work closely with the Integrated Neighbourhood Leads in identifying suitable referrals.

Stroke care 100 day challenge

A number of staff from Adult Social Care are involved in working as part of an integrated response with partners from acute and community health to promote a stroke pathway from acute hospitals to the community. This has now taken the form of a 100 day stroke challenge which went live on 9 August 2019. Adult Frailty staff are working with colleagues from NHS Trusts in three teams looking at improving pathways from acute hospitals to the community and keeping stroke patients independent in the community.

Performance

A total of 11,715 adults aged 18 or over received a long term support service in a care home or the community at any point during the year. We continue to support more people in their own homes with a 7% reduction in people being placed in residential/nursing settings. Adult Care continues to perform strongly with all Council Business Plan measures being achieved or exceeded within the first quarter of this year. Review performance is on track to be as good as last year with in excess of 90% of people having an annual review. This places LCC within the top quartile in the country with regard to this particular measure.

Work is being focused on a strengths-based approach to assessment, utilising a conversation-based model to assessment which is nationally recognised as best practice when engaging with people. Use of local community resources as well as statutory service provision is enabling local people to be active members of their community whilst continuing to receive the care and support they need.

Neighbourhood Working

Many of you will be aware that Neighbourhood Working has been a focus of the local health and care system for some time in Lincolnshire. A decision was jointly taken to nominate a senior manager responsible for implementing and driving forward Neighbourhood Teams in our localities. LCC have put forward Carolyn Nice, Assistant Director, to take on the Senior Responsible Officer role for the system to help drive this much needed change forward. Adult Frailty teams continue to commit time and staff to enhancing this integrated way of working.

Additional Winter Funding – review

Lincolnshire County Council received £3.368m from a national allocation of additional funding of £240m which was provided in October 2018. We procured schemes to support timely hospital discharges and to prevent unnecessary hospital admissions. An extension to home care restarts enabled providers to keep complex care packages open for up to 7 days and, as a result of this scheme, 1,100 additional hours of home support were delivered by the Council. A further example of the additional investment is support to help social care providers recruit new people into the sector with a 'welcome' payment. Additional investment was made to support recruitment and retention in the independent sector with some success, although the full impact will not be known to September 2019. Workshops have been held in August 2019 with partner agencies across the sector to consider

schemes with the funding that has been awarded for 2019/20 and the Council will then consider options for where the additional winter resource should be targeted to support the NHS.

Additional Mental Health Funding

Adult Care has been working closely with NHS colleagues to work up bids for additional Mental Health funding in Lincolnshire. The first bid for additional Community Crisis Transformation Funds has been successful in securing £544k for 2019/20 and £680k for 2020/21 onwards. This will be used to fund a 24/7 Helpline for the new Mental Health Hub due to open in March 2020, a 24/7 Community Crisis Response Vehicle and the creation of voluntary sector led Crisis Cafes across the twelve Neighbourhood Teams.

PUBLIC HEALTH

One You Lincolnshire – the new Integrated Lifestyle Service for the County

I am pleased to report [One You Lincolnshire](#), the new Integrated Lifestyle Service, went live on 1 July 2019. This service offers people support to stop smoking, eat less, move more and drink less. We are seeking to achieve over 10,000 positive health outcomes for the people of Lincolnshire each year. Our ambition is broad and covers four week stop smoking quits; supporting those with a Body Mass Index (BMI) of over 30 to lose weight; increasing the number of people achieving 150 minutes of exercise per week and reducing the number of people drinking more than 14 units of alcohol per week. At least half of the outcomes will come from people who live in the less affluent areas of the county and will help those with long term conditions to improve their wellbeing as well as reduce their risk of getting complications and ending up in hospital. The service has been funded by the County Council and I am very pleased that the Lincolnshire Clinical Commissioning Groups have also put in some financial resources to ensure that the people of Lincolnshire can live healthier lives.

Wellbeing Service

The Wellbeing Service (WBS) received 1,951 referrals for support in the first quarter of 2019-20, an average of 32 referrals per day. Wellbeing Lincs are predicting around 8,000 referrals this contract year (compared to 6,400 last year).

After a successful first year, I am pleased to report the service is continuing to see improvements in delivery. On 8 July the WBS, working with Lincolnshire Fire and Rescue, started piloting a project to support individuals who require a response after activating their telecare system, normally as a result of a fall. This project will see responders based at four fire stations throughout the county assist with the aim to reduce response times and help meet demand. Early indications are encouraging.

Our Annual Contract Visit took place in April, which culminated in the WBS receiving an overall 'Good' judgement for quality and contract compliance. Engagement with staff provided a positive insight into the service customers are experiencing and the

wrap around support provided to individuals in often difficult and complex circumstances.

Carers Action Plan: one year on progress review

Lincolnshire's approach to implementing the Care Act duties has been acknowledged in a national report published by the Department of Health and Social Care at the end of July. The report, called *Carers Action Plan 2018-2020 one year on progress*, highlights the steps we are taking in Lincolnshire to ensure that assessments are carried out in the most appropriate way for each carer. It states that the benefits of our mixed method approach means we can help a high volume of carers quickly and in a way which best suits their needs.

Health Effects of Sure Start

Research undertaken by the Institute for Fiscal Studies into the health effects of Sure Start suggests children centres in poorer areas have a positive benefit to a child's health and reduce the number of children needing hospital treatment for injuries. The report, which focuses on children's hospitalisation, obesity and the mental health of the mother, offers an evidence base to support the need for children's centres in areas of deprivation and also the need to see children centres as part of a whole system approach to address health and wellbeing issues in Lincolnshire.

Substance Misuse Service Rated Good

I am pleased to report that the Care Quality Commission (CQC) has rated Addaction Lincoln as 'Good'. Addaction are commissioned by Public Health to provide substance misuse services across the county. It is rare that we get a detailed independent review of services and this is the first time the CQC have rated substance misuse services.

ADULT SKILLS & FAMILY LEARNING

There continues to be high demand for Adult Learning provision, increasing the skills of people in our communities, giving them new career opportunities and allowing local businesses to recruit the talented employees they need to develop. In the 2018/19 academic year we have worked with over 6,500 learners, delivering 1,114 qualifications. New qualifications in construction and hospitality have been introduced to meet the needs of local employers, alongside the important GCSE English and maths; all helping learners to progress into work.

The Adult Learning Service, alongside Young Peoples Learning Provision and the Council's internal Apprenticeship programme, was inspected by Ofsted in June. The service was delighted to retain its 'Good' grade for its overall provision, as well as 'Good' for the effectiveness of leadership and management, quality of teaching and learning, outcomes for learners, 16 to 19 study programmes, adult learning programmes and apprenticeships. Personal development, behaviour and welfare were rated as 'Outstanding' reflecting the service's effective strategies to promote high standards.

The service undertook procurement activity earlier in the year to increase the number of Learning Providers on its procurement framework who are approved to deliver Adult Learning courses for Lincolnshire County Council. This activity has increased the number of approved providers to twenty-three, ensuring a wide range and good geographical spread across Lincolnshire of quality provision that meets the council's strategic objectives of widening participation of 'hard to reach' and other individuals that face barriers to participation in learning and work. This extends the accessibility of provision for learners, thereby contributing to the economic prosperity of our local communities.

The Education Select Committee, chaired by Robert Halfon MP, has launched an inquiry to examine the benefits of adult skills and lifelong learning to the individual, society and the wider economy. The inquiry is also exploring the level of support available to learners, and the role played by local authorities/combined authority areas in providing adult education. The inquiry is responding to the national decline in the number of people aged 19 and older completing qualifications. The council has contributed information on Lincolnshire's successful programme, as well as case studies to demonstrate the benefits to those involved and help build the case for further investment.

Clare Bradford from Market Rasen, Robin Aldrich from Boston and Tony Butcher from Sleaford have been named as Lincolnshire's Learners of the Year 2019. All three were nominated by their tutors for their hard work and dedication over the past twelve months. These three adult learners were honoured for their exceptional achievements at June's Lincolnshire Show, highlighting the real benefits that adult education can bring.

We are delighted that Councillor Bridges, in his role as Chairman of Lincolnshire County Council, has been able to attend a number of Family Learning celebration events and present certificates to our Adult learners and their children.

Over the past twelve months, the Family Learning service has developed new partnership working arrangements with Helen Rutherford from the Early Years & Childcare Support Team that work directly with private nurseries in Lincolnshire, helping Family Learning to reach a new audience. A new programme called '*Play and Learning*' was developed to meet the needs of the early years target group and courses were successfully delivered by Family Learning tutors at Magical Moments Day Care in St Giles (Lincoln) and Dandelion Day Nursery in Tattershall. We have received some very encouraging feedback on which to expand the programme in 2019/20.

This page is intentionally left blank