

COUNTY COUNCIL MEETING – 16 MAY 2014

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

CHILDREN'S SERVICES

Lincolnshire Secure Unit

Lincolnshire Secure Unit was subject to a triennial licensing inspection from 27th to 30th January 2014. The staff and management team have been working very hard during the last few years and are very proud to announce that the judgement given by Ofsted was outstanding in all areas.

Furthermore, the unit has been awarded the maximum contract available from the Youth Justice Board during the recent contracting process and has been awarded an increase in bed numbers. This achievement is placed against the national picture, whereby resources within the secure children's estate have been reduced.

Well done to all the staff within Lincolnshire Secure Unit.

Special Educational Needs & Disability (SEN & D)

The Children and Families Bill received Royal Assent on 13th March 2014, therefore, nationally there is now a new Children and Families Act 2014. This Act has major implications for how a range of organisations across Lincolnshire organise and manage services to children and young people who have a special educational need or disability between the ages of 0 to 25.

The County Council is currently working with its partners and the families these changes will benefit to ensure that by September 2014 we will have in place the following:-

- A single system giving support across Education, Health and Social Care,
- A joint commissioning approach across Education, Health and Care,
- An Education, Health and Care Plan (EHC Plan) to replace the current SEN Statements and Learning Difficulties Assessments (139a),
- A personal Budget offer for those with an EHC Plan,
- A clear and transparent 'SEN&D Local Offer' which sets out the provision that we expect to be available, both within and outside Lincolnshire.
This will include educational settings for young people up to the age of 25,
- A strengthened (ideally single) redress process, to include mediation support.

By delivering these changes in Lincolnshire we aim to:

- Improve outcomes for children and young people with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities and their families,

- Improve the process for accessing services by having clear, single, cohesive pathways,
- Improve the level and transparency of information and support available to families,
- Increase the level of choice and control children, young people and their families have over the services and support they receive.

Strut House Ofsted Report

Strut House is one of the Council's two Short Breaks Homes providing respite care for children and young people with disabilities. The home recently received an 'Outstanding' judgement from Ofsted for the fourth consecutive year. The Inspector's report commented:

'The home offers exceptional care to young people during their short breaks. From their starting points young people gain in confidence and skills and have improved outcomes. The staff team work tirelessly to ensure that each young person receives high quality care and that their views are kept central to all aspects of how the home is run.

The home is able to demonstrate how young people's life chances have improved since starting to use the service. Parents confirm this and report noticeable improvements for their children in relation to independence skills, improved socialisation and confidence'.

FAB Awards

FAB! (Fantastic Amazing Brilliant) is the annual celebration of achievement awards for Looked After Children and Care Leavers, incorporating awards for the Joint Universities Mentoring Programme (JUMP) and was held on the 8th March. This year's theme was engineering, with a number of inspirational and aspirational workshops held during the morning. Awards were presented in the afternoon in a ceremony hosted by actress Zoe Mills.

One hundred and forty-six children and young people were successfully nominated for awards in one of five categories; Educational Endeavour, Personal Endeavour, Positive Activities, Art and Music, and Sport. Including JUMP, 169 children and young people received a total of 210 awards. In addition, Barnardo's presented over thirty young people with Care Leaver awards. We also presented Awards to foster carers for long service.

The Duke of Edinburgh's Award

Going from strength to strength: the Duke of Edinburgh's Award in Lincolnshire has recently received congratulations from the Central England Regional Office for being the first authority to pass the 3000 mark for New Entrants.

A total of 3035 new participants registered between 1st April 2013 – 31st March 2014; this was a 5.75% increase on the previous year.

There has also been a significant increase in Awards gained during the same period, with a total of 1190 young people achieving their Bronze, Silver or Gold Award. This was a rise of 13.75% on the previous year.

The Duke of Edinburgh's Award is supported by hundreds of adult volunteers each year, who give up their weekends, bank holidays and often, annual leave, to support the ever popular Expedition section. During the 2013 Expedition season a total of 5170 young people went on an Expedition, with volunteers giving a total of 3559 days to enable their success.

Fifth Annual Fairplay Football Tournament

The sun shone as 250 young people joined together from across Lincolnshire to take part in the 5th annual Fairplay football tournament.

The annual festival brings local projects together to help motivate and inspire young people through the use of football, music and media. It also shows young people the positive ways they can spend their leisure time.

The youngsters are selected from groups who take part in Positive Futures sessions held across the county on a weekly basis. Competing at Carre's Grammar School, Sleaford, were boys and girls teams from Boston, Gainsborough, Lincoln, Grantham, Louth and Wainfleet.

As well as the tournament, young people were introduced to a number of stalls run by partner organisations - offering advice on things from future employment to sexual health screening. The one stall that seemed to prove most popular was run by graffiti artist James Mayle of Image Skool. He was customising teams' kits by painting team and player names as well as squad numbers on their shirts.

Teams have now been invited to represent Lincolnshire at the Ambition National football finals in Manchester on the 10th May.

ADULT CARE

Adult Care Performance

Adult Care continues to maintain or improve upon good performance across a number of areas. The number of people entering our reablement service and being successfully re-abled to live independently is almost 50% compared to 39% for the same period last year. Furthermore, over 60% of those needing ongoing support do so at a reduced level of service as a result of reablement. With improving performance and closer working across the County with health colleagues there is every possibility that this will develop further and achieve a national top 25% performance status.

We continue to prioritise personalisation, with everyone (100%) eligible for a personal budget now receiving one. Significant improvements have been made in the processing times for direct payments, which have taken too long in the past. In

March 2014 100% of direct payments were paid within 14 days of receipt of all information, with cumulative performance of 56%. Work to further improve the processing of Direct Payments continues building upon a very positive internal audit report which provided substantial assurance. We should be able to compare our performance in Lincolnshire with other Councils later this summer and I expect we will again see that Lincolnshire compares well to our comparator group.

Admissions to long term care for adults with a learning disability, mental health or a physical disability remain relatively low and stable. This is good because younger adults typically want to be able to lead independent or close-to-independent lives. However, pressure continues with respect to the number of very elderly people admitted into residential or nursing care. In 2013/14 almost 1200 people were admitted to long term care, a slight increase on the 1063 who were admitted in 2013/14. It is interesting to note that the number of people supported by Adult Care is over 1000 more than in March 2013. These statistics reflect an increasing intensity of need associated with serving an increasingly older population in which Lincolnshire has the largest growth in the East Midlands region.

Operational efficiency continues to be very good with over 86% of assessments completed within 28 days, compared to 81% for the same period last year. People are receiving services more efficiently with 93% of home support packages brokered within seven days of referral and 77% within 48 hours where the service is to support a hospital discharge. Our ambition will be to work with health and care providers to ensure even better performance so that our top 25% performance nationally on discharge delays is maintained.

Care Quality Commission (CQC) Inspections

380 providers representing nursing and residential homes and, home care services in Lincolnshire have been inspected by the Care Quality Commission. Of these 81% were judged to be compliant with the 16 'Essential Standards of Quality and Safety'. Lincolnshire has the highest level of compliance in the East Midlands, where the average compliance level is 75%. This in part reflects the quality assurance work undertaken by Adult Care; our commitment to subsidised training for providers; the quality of our relationship with providers themselves; and the on-going relationship with CQC to identify poor quality providers and support them to improve.

Budget Update

Adult Care are currently finalising the outturn position for 2013/14. Current indications are that the service will report an underspend against budget of £1.382m for the financial year. This is a significant reduction compared to the previous statement which described an overspend of £0.5m and is due primarily to a reduction in Short Term Care and Respite within the Older People service, lower than anticipated growth within Learning Disabilities and increased use of the Better Care Fund (formerly known as the Integrated Transformation Fund). This is the second year in succession that the service will have achieved an underspend against budget, despite supporting more people.

The service continues to deliver savings with £33.225m anticipated by the end of 2013/14 (after three years) from an initial target of £39m (over four years). Adult Care also continues to have one of the lowest management and non-front-line costs of similar authorities with the service delivering good value for money.

In 2014/15 Adult Care will have a budget of £143.64m. This includes a proposed increase in base allocation of £5.5m. Additional funding is also being made available via the Better Care Fund which has been subject to formal agreement with Clinical Commissioning Groups and through the Health and Wellbeing Board.

Agreement has recently been reached with the four Lincolnshire Clinical Commissioning Groups concerning how the 2015/16 revenue allocation from the Better Care Fund of £48.4m is shared across Adult Care and Health. The ability of Adult Care to manage within budget is increasingly dependent on the funding that comes from the Better Care Fund. The agreement will see Lincolnshire County Council receive £20m in 2015/16 to aid in the work of transforming the service, ensuring closer integration between Lincolnshire Adult Care and Health and maintaining existing services.

Lincolnshire Assessment and Reablement Service (LARS)

The LARS service was successfully transferred to Lincolnshire Partnership NHS Foundation Trust (LPFT) on 31st March 2014: 240 dedicated staff TUPE'd to LPFT. Adult Care will achieve a £9.6 m saving over the three years of the grant fund to LPFT.

PUBLIC HEALTH

Universal Free School Meals

From September, primary schools need to provide a free hot meal to all (KS1) infant children. £1.2 million capital has been allocated to Lincolnshire to support projects that prepare for this increase in meal provision. Whilst schools will be allocated a flat rate of £2.30 per meal from September 2014, meal costs vary from school to school and the cost is around £2.43. Schools will be expected to make up any shortfall in revenue funding.

We are working in partnership with schools to help with the planning of delivering this challenge.

We have hosted a conference for our schools to receive information about what support is available to them from nationally commissioned support services. A series of area meetings across the county have been arranged for schools to discuss their particular issues.

Healthier Lifestyles Programme

Many of Lincolnshire's schools are taking part in the Legacy Challenge devised by Inspire + for the whole of Lincolnshire. The Challenge is for children and families to engage in six activity and health promoting challenges across leadership and

volunteering: join a club; compete in school competitions; a healthy challenge; and demonstrating Olympic or Paralympic values. In November, Phil Garner, Specialist Programme Manager for Healthier Lifestyles, went along to an excellent launch of the Challenge at the Priory City of Lincoln Academy, where it was clear that the young leaders and primary school children were still very excited by London's 2012 legacy. The Legacy Challenge has the support of Public Health in the county and the launch was backed by Baroness Sue Campbell from the Youth Sport Trust.

Since then, 22 training events have been held for 144 primary schools, covering 209 teachers. 492 bronze-level Young Ambassadors have been trained to actively engage their peers into the Challenge. As of April, 7,000 children are engaged with the Challenge. It is the plan for 30,000 children to engage with the Challenge by August 2015.

The Wellbeing Service

The Wellbeing Service was launched on the 1st April. This service will help more people to stay independent in their homes for longer, bringing assessment, monitoring and response services together in one place. The contract was awarded to the Lincolnshire Independent Living Partnership in late February. The Partnership is a consortium including Lace Housing, Age UK, the Lincolnshire Home Improvement Agency, Boston Mayflower and St Barnabas Hospice. In East Lindsey and North Kesteven, the District Councils are delivering the service as part of a development opportunity which together, represents an equitable service countywide.

The Wellbeing Service will make it easier for people to access support – such as the installation of safety equipment, monitoring of alarms, 24 hour rapid response and additional short term support.

Previously, only those in receipt of housing benefit and in rented accommodation, predominately sheltered housing, could access these services, and from the 1st April they are now available to all adults through a single assessment. Some are free and the cost of in-home technology monitoring has fallen from £1.50 per week to 36p.

The Wellbeing Service will offer:-

- A one stop shop for information and advice about available support,
- Free installation of safety equipment, like discreet Telecare technology and grab rails,
- A 24 hour alarm monitoring provision for a cost of only .35p a week,
- A 24 hour rapid response service available for a £1.50 per week subscription: this provides a personal attendance within 45 minutes to crisis situations such as falls,
- Extra short-term support such as the home from hospital service which helps people resettle and recover their independence at home more quickly.

LIFELONG LEARNING

We recently (25th March) held a conference for senior leaders at schools and colleges to provide insight into our areas of economic growth and future skills needs, exploring both current and future opportunities for young people within the Lincolnshire economy.

This successful collaboration between our 14-19 and Economy teams brought together speakers from both public and private sectors including United Lincolnshire Hospitals Trust, Skills for Logistics, Mortons of Horncastle, National Centre for Food Manufacturing and the Construction Industry Training Board (CiTB).

Feedback shows that this was a popular and very useful event; however we need to encourage more schools to attend in the future.

The Community Learning Service is making great strides in supporting people to gain relevant skills for employment. From September 2013 to February 2014, the Community Learning Service has worked with providers to deliver 5,352 learning opportunities to Lincolnshire residents, 30% of whom are unemployed.