

COUNTY COUNCIL MEETING – 20 FEBRUARY 2015

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

CHILDREN'S SERVICES

Ofsted

I am very pleased to report that Ofsted confirmed that the Council's Children's Services and the Lincolnshire Safeguarding Children Board are providing good, effective, timely support for children and families. The findings confirmed that children, young people and their families in Lincolnshire are supported with the right services at the right time.

The final combined Ofsted report can be found on the Ofsted website via the link below: <http://reports.ofsted.gov.uk/local-authorities/lincolnshire>

The overall judgement is that children's services are good, with the judgements on areas of the service that contribute to overall effectiveness being good for children who need help and protection, children looked after and achieving permanence, leadership and management and finally, adoption considered to be outstanding.

The report praises the governance and partnership arrangements, acknowledging that the local authority has a sound infrastructure across the county that supports vulnerable children well. Corporate parenting is strong, evidenced by the far-reaching developments promoted for children looked after and care leavers. The early help strategy has been supported by considerable investment and joint commissioning arrangements, which means that families are being offered the right help at the right time. The quality and organisation of early help services ensures that families are receiving highly effective support.

JUMP

The current JUMP Duke of Edinburgh group undertook their final expedition during the weekend of 13-14 September and received their Certificates at an awards presentation event at the Freiston Centre on 24 January, which I was delighted to attend. A fresh group of JUMP mentees have now attended two residential weekends 27-28 October and 10-11 January. Similarly, a new group of mentors has been recruited and shows immense promise as the group adapts to the challenges of taking on this latest chapter in the JUMP programme.

Signs of Safety Innovation Project

Lincolnshire County Council has commenced work with Eileen Munro, Andrew Turnell and Terry Murthy (MTM) as one of ten implementer local authorities who have been successful in securing Innovation Funding from the Department of Education. The Innovation Project will be looking at embedding Signs of Safety across the whole range of Children's Services work and this will be independently evaluated by Kings College and Professor Gill Manthorpe will be taking the lead. This is an exciting project building on some of the recommendations Professor Eileen Munro made in her 2011 Review of Child Protection including improving partnership working with families and supporting them find solutions to their

individual families problems, managing risky situation and behaviour whilst listening to families and using what they say to improve child safety.

ADULT CARE

Winter Pressures

This winter, in particular since 22 December, we have seen unprecedented demands on our acute hospital services. This pressure has resulted in a 25% increase in EMASS calls, 19.4% increase in out of hours health services and a 14% increase in 111 calls. Overall this resulted in increased delays for the acute hospitals of 15%. Adult Care has, along with all the health providers, increased capacity by working additional hours including weekend working. This has meant delays reported to adult care remain low. In January they accounted for a maximum of 5% of all delays.

Since September 2014 Adult Care has proactively developed multi-disciplinary teams in the four hospitals we support, with dedicated teams that have been working weekends since November. They work with staff in both A&E Departments and on the hospital wards to identify patients who need support to facilitate the discharge processes. Adult Care staff continue to deliver improved outcomes for people by working with health to reduce delays in hospital discharges.

Strengthening the Social Care Market

For three years the residential market in Lincolnshire has been very stable and provided a good supply of service. The three year agreement is coming to an end so, in order to ensure that we have an adequate supply of residential and nursing care placements, we have carried out an independent evaluation of the market. Some of this work was supported by Laing & Buisson and we have also worked closely with independent providers and representative groups. The output is a robust cost model that allows us to suggest appropriate rates for care for the next three years. At the present time we are consulting with the independent and voluntary sector but it seems clear that this approach will be highly beneficial in ensuring the stability and quality of the residential care market for the next three years.

In similar vein, in 2015/16 we will be seeking to revise our framework for acquiring community support (home care) services for older people and those with a physical disability. We expect to see growth in this market due to demographic changes and must ensure that the services are stable, robust and of high quality. In order to ensure continuity of supply before the start of the new framework we have made some short term improvements. This includes increasing the current agreed rate from £12.50 to £12.70 per hour and extending the areas of the County that attract an additional £1 per hour due to their rural nature. We have also agreed to pay providers for up to seven days after the admission of one of their service users to hospital in order to minimise disruption to the individual. In this way we are strengthening the market prior to a significant change to the way in which we purchase these services which will be implemented in late 2015.

This will go some way to addressing the concerns around supply and quality and employment practices for care workers and, recognising that over 60,000 visits *per week* are made to vulnerable people in Lincolnshire this is a fundamental pillar in ensuring people's needs are met, at home and with a quality service.

Care Act 2014 Programme

The Care Act is the biggest change to social care legislation for 50 years and, once implemented, will have a major impact on us as a local authority in relation to our adult social care responsibilities. It seeks to bring together a number of existing laws, and introduce new duties to local authorities to ensure that wellbeing, dignity and choice are at the heart of health and social care across the Country.

Adult Care is actively preparing for the effective implementation of the new statutory requirements and duties, which will come into effect on 1 April 2015. As part of the Act further funding reforms will come into force on 1 April 2016.

COMMUNITY LEARNING

The Community Learning Service, working in partnership with Procurement Lincolnshire, launched its 2015-17 commissioning cycle on 2 February 2015. Through extending its Provider base the Community Learning Service intends to increase and widen participation in learning, develop knowledge, skills and confidence, encourage progression to further learning, improve employability, develop community leadership skills, and support children's achievement through the involvement of parents.

Themes for Community Learning Service delivery:

- Employability and Skills
- IT Skills and supporting people to get online
- Healthy Living, including health and well being
- Promoting independence for Adults (especially those with learning disabilities)
- Sustainable development, including environmental, resource management and educational issues
- Unique Lincolnshire provision, celebrating the essence of Lincolnshire including Heritage, food, agriculture, tourism, wildlife and culture
- Community Benefit (e.g. volunteering)
- Improving Outcomes for Families
- Children's learning and development

It is important to Government that employers are able to influence the development of new training and apprenticeship programmes and we are helping our local businesses get more involved in a number of ways. Using funds that Government have provided to the Employment and Skills Board, we are developing new activity that will bring local employers and young people together via social media platforms so that we can increase the number of local Apprentices to fill the skills gaps employers tell us they have. Additionally, we are making sure that employers are aware of the opportunity to progress their Apprenticeships through to the highest achievable level (equivalent to a degree) and help them develop these pathways so that young people can clearly see the benefits of local career opportunities.

Linked to this, we are pleased to say that the Department for Business, Innovation & Skills, through the Skills Funding Agency, have been working with the NHS to develop higher level apprenticeships as a way of entering the nursing profession.

Given the shortage of nurses in Lincolnshire, we have written to the Minister of State for Skills, Nick Boles MP, to express our willingness to pilot this in Lincolnshire.

PUBLIC HEALTH

Weight Watchers on Referral

There have been 3000 referrals made by health professionals in Lincolnshire to the Weight Watchers on referral programme this financial year.

Over 60% of people starting the course complete the full 12 weeks and, of those, over 60% have lost 5% of their initial body weight, which is statistically significant, producing real health benefits.

Healthy Schools

Lincolnshire schools received good news last week from the Department for Education. Ten local bids were successful in their applications for funding towards new kitchens on site. Over £1.5 million pounds was awarded to local schools for the development of new kitchen 'pods' or the redevelopment and expansion of existing units. This means that as of the 2015/16 term – more hot school meals will be able to be provided on site for the children of Lincolnshire – helping the county to continue on its healthy eating journey.

Making Every Contact Count (MECC)

Marisco Medical Practice in Mablethorpe has provisionally agreed to become the MECC practice and train all frontline staff to be confident and competent at raising and dealing with health and lifestyle issues. They are also going to look at how this can be linked to reducing GP appointments and overall prescribing budgets for the practice as they are currently struggling to recruit GPs and primarily deal with an ageing and deprived population with vast health issues. This will link to the work currently being looked at linking MECC with neighbourhood teams to ensure that all NTs are thinking more proactively in their approach to health and lifestyle issues. MECC continues to be fully operational across all three NHS trusts and is currently being developed across Local Authority Councils with a long term view of delivering consistent and concise health messages to the public.

Children's Take Over Day

Children's Commissioner's Takeover Day is a national event that gives children and young people the chance to work with adults for the day and be involved in decision-making. On 21 November, Public Health was taken over by 22 young people ageing from nine to 16 years old who took part in activities such as: asking the children about Lincolnshire County Council priorities and scoring children's JSNA topics; a presentation from Democratic Services in the Council Chamber; a tour of Public Health and Adult Care to meet staff and see where they work and lunch in the Member's Lounge with an opportunity to meet elected members. The results of the children's voting and their feedback were included in the consultation report to Overview & Scrutiny Management. It was a hugely successful day and a full evaluation report will be produced.

The day is all part of the Council-wide commitment to create regular co-production opportunities for staff to road-test or evaluate their plans or services with individuals

and communities. From April 2015 co-production and engagement opportunities can be facilitated for staff by the new “People’s Partnership” which Public Health’s Community Engagement team have recently commissioned through Involving Lincs.

Wellbeing Service

The Wellbeing Service has completed its third quarter with referrals continuing to grow. So far a total of 2405 people have been referred to the Wellbeing Service for an assessment of their needs.

The 5% of people who were not eligible for the service have been signposted to services including the Lincs Advice Network., Age UK for befriending type services, Lincolnshire Fire and Rescue for home safety checks and to the wellbeing providers to self-fund the whole service.

During this quarter there have been 858 new referrals, of which 42% have been self-referrals; this is an increase from the last quarter which could be a result of the awareness raising sessions that took place in quarter 2.

In addition to the 858 wellbeing referrals, the Wellbeing Service providers have completed an increasing number of Adult Care Telecare equipment installations. From April 2014 to December 2014 there have been 2926 Telecare referrals with the total number of people in the county using Telecare now approaching 6000.

Take up of the Wellbeing Response Service has also continued to increase with currently 584 people countywide signed up to receive this element of the service.

Through the Home Safe element of the service, which provides the transport and responders, 238 people have been discharged safely home from hospital so far.

Both the Wellbeing Provider and a member of the Wellbeing team are working with the Neighbourhood Teams as they develop across the county both at a strategic and operational level. Work is also being undertaken with Lincolnshire Partnership NHS Foundation Trust to promote the service to staff, with Greyfriars GP surgery in Boston on their pilot project to support over 75 year olds.

The Wellbeing Team and Providers have received a number of compliments regarding the service and how it has helped individuals at a time of need enabling them to maintain their independence at home.

Housing Related Support Services

Following a joint procurement with Children's Services, Public Health have recently awarded new contracts for Housing Related Support services for vulnerable adults aged 18 and over throughout Lincolnshire. These services provide support for people to prevent them from requiring more institutional or intensive forms of care or support.

Particular care has been taken throughout the commissioning of these services to mitigate the impact of any changes on the users of them. This has been achieved by reviewing criteria for how long someone can stay in services which has enabled us to increase the number of people that can be assisted in our housing related support services.

In addition, the re-commissioning has focused on provision across the whole county and whilst this means that there may be a reduction in units of support in one area (e.g. Lincoln) there are also areas in the county which currently have no provision (such as South Holland) which will now have services under the new contracts. This provides a consistent service across the county based on the needs of the community and in turn means that people requiring a service do not have to travel but can receive services closer to their friends, families and within the communities where they live.