

**COUNTY COUNCIL MEETING ON 21 MAY 2010**

**Statement from: Councillor Sue Woolley, Executive Councillor for Health, Housing and Third Sector**

**Healthier Communities**

The Lincolnshire 'Getting a Life' programme is developing well, and is already delivering positive outcomes for the young people on the programme. The Lincolnshire Transition Partnership, led by the Council's Head of Supported Employment, is the East Midlands pilot site for the national Getting a Life programme.

The programme aims to identify and demonstrate good practice in enabling young people (aged between 14 and 25) with learning disabilities to leave school, get paid employment and have full adult lives. The programme also looks to explore how to bring together assessment and funding streams from different national and local policy areas, and to inform Government about what works and what needs to be changed at a policy level.

The programme has been running in Lincolnshire since January 2010 and all 30 participants are having employment plans developed to identify the appropriate pathway for them to find and keep paid employment when they leave education. Although the programme is in its infancy, four young people have already moved into paid employment.

I was very pleased to attend the Health & Wellbeing Fund's showcase event held in February where organisations were able to celebrate their achievements in improving the wellbeing of the community with funding from the Health & Wellbeing Fund. It showed that, with small amounts of money, organisations were able to deliver impressive outcomes for their communities.

The Fund Board continues to meet to develop more activities to address underdeveloped areas. Key priorities for 2010/11 are Food and Health and developing systems that really target prevention on those most at risk. Some projects supported by the Fund include:

- Enhancing the popular LIVES First Responders scheme - with an additional 70 local volunteer groups due to be developed over three years
- Developing five areas of Boston using the Placecheck model - where local people decide what is important to their community and have a small amount of money to make the changes
- Enabling the free Good Life Guide to be updated and distributed across the county - the Guide gives people who are thinking about retirement (or who are already retired) suggestions and information about how to improve their health & wellbeing.

It is with pleasure that I can confirm that the threat posed to local people by Swine Flu has now receded significantly. NHS and other service colleagues have resumed 'business as usual' for now. We need to continue to encourage uptake of vaccine into the summer and autumn to maximise protection in the 2010/11 winter flu season.