

**COUNTY COUNCIL MEETING - 17 DECEMBER 2010**

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

The White Paper on the future of Public Health services was published in early December. I am looking forward to updating Council about the exciting opportunities these announcements offer.

Our Supported Employment Service continues to help more disabled people out of a life in social care and into meaningful and sustained employment.

Fifteen young people benefited hugely from a Summer School on how to 'Get a Life' in Lincoln. The event was so overwhelmingly positive with the young people and parents that we are immediately onto planning another elsewhere.

The next stage of work for this team will be offering opportunities to leave day care and enter employment to adults with physical disabilities.

I was very pleased to attend the on-site Press launch of the new Pathways Homelessness Centre with Cllr Marsh since the last full Council meeting. This centre will transform services for homeless people in Lincoln and the North of the County. The centre will be open by spring 2012, and it is an example of joint working by local agencies leveraging in significant amounts of external funding.

Lincolnshire Supported Housing Partnership will work more closely with the Strategic Housing Board to deliver better integrated support to vulnerable adults. This is an exciting new era for this work and I look forward to keeping Council informed of achievements.

Twenty-three projects are currently funded from the Health and Wellbeing Fund. Four of these have now been completed. Other projects include:

**Multi-Skills Training package** - although the project only started a few months ago, 59 zones have already been installed in it (well in advance of their target). This project will benefit all children in primary, secondary and special schools around the county through innovative playground markings. These will also be training for playground supervisors, teachers and community leaders to encourage physical activity and develop core skills.

**Food4Life** - has just been approved in detail by the Fund Board. It will develop growing and eating healthy food in the most deprived areas of the county. Land will be identified to create community growing areas and surplus produce will be distributed through community larders.

**Targeted Prevention** – is the largest project supported by the fund at £2m, and is currently at the planning stage with business cases for the four areas being developed. Programmes of activity will start from April 2011.

**Boston Placecheck** - this project is already reaping benefits. At a recent conference, officers from the local police force said that in the three areas where the Placecheck scheme had started to improve community facilities and cohesion, the anti-social activity had reduced and they were able to return to their main policing role.

Our Excellent Ageing programme is really capturing the imagination of people in and out of the county. It is an ambitious project, looking to bring together public, private and voluntary sectors to work with communities and individuals to improve opportunities for older people.

Following on from a successful launch in September, five working groups made up of representatives from public, private and third sector partners as well as councillors and older people, have now been set up. These are each investigating one of the following five themes:

- financial support and the case for contribution;
- community action and older people as a community asset;
- complex case management;
- prevention and early intervention;
- using information and accessibility.

The findings of these groups will be put together in a final report containing recommendations for the way ahead, to be launched early in the new year, and I look forward to keeping Council apprised of the priorities that emerge from all the work going on.

## **SPORTS FORCE**

Sports Force is Lincolnshire's Sports Volunteer Programme, whose aim is to recruit, retain and reward sports volunteers in Lincolnshire. The programme has a growing database of volunteers who support and run everything from local club events, to marshal larger annual events such as the Lincoln 10K and the Mablethorpe Marathon, where over 140 volunteers gave their support.

Now that it is becoming increasingly expensive to use the police to marshal events, Sports Force is seen as a way to reduce this. It is expected that volunteers from the Sports Force database will be used to support every major sporting event in the county, particularly in the run up to the 2012 London Games.

Next year the focus for Sports Force will be around volunteers over 50. The project **Silver Spirit** will be aimed at encouraging people who have moved into the county to retire, taken early retirement or voluntary redundancy, or athletes with injuries who are not able to compete, to remain engaged with

sport. The programme will recruit, train and reward the over 50s who help to engage local communities and support clubs and events.