

**COUNTY COUNCIL MEETING: 11 FEBRUARY 2011**

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

**HEALTH**

**Excellent Ageing**

The county-wide programme is currently approaching the final milestone for the first phase of the programme. A Recommendations Event was held on 4 February at The Lawn to feedback on the ideas and solutions which have been generated, and to hear views on how we can maximise the opportunities the programme provides as we move into the next stage of planning and delivery.

More than 150 people contributed to the working groups over the last 3 months and their input, thinking, ideas and enthusiasm have resulted in over 45 ideas being generated. Just Lincolnshire, the single equality organisation in the county, has also undertaken a review of the ideas to look at the equality and diversity implications. More stakeholders continue to be involved in the programme, including Karl McCartney MP, and Nick Boles MP, who have visited the team and been briefed in person.

Total spend on Older People's services in Lincolnshire is currently estimated at **£874 million**. A number of funding maps have been produced that show how funding passes through various organisations before arriving at the front line service or customer.

Discussions have been taking place to ensure that the programme has the appropriate governance structure to meet the challenges in developing, planning and starting to implement Excellent Ageing. The Steering Group and the Sustainable Community Strategy Board have expressed their enthusiasm and commitment for the continuation of the programme.

We will also need to ensure that we learn from our previous experiences of partnership working in the county, and take account of the emerging infrastructure within Lincolnshire around Community Budgets and the new Health and Wellbeing Boards. Above all else, we want to ensure that there is a means for older people, community groups and service users to feed into the programme.

**Pressures on hospital beds**

After Christmas, hospital social work teams found Lincolnshire hospitals in a highly pressured position with an outbreak of 'flu and respiratory conditions. Over the following two weeks, hospitals cancelled operations and opened up an additional one hundred beds to house and treat people requiring hospital care.

To enable people to be admitted to hospital, the discharge process had to be speeded up. Additional community staff were moved to the hospital teams to address the high number of requests, staff volunteers manned the departments at weekends, processes in the hospital were simplified so that follow up was carried out by community staff, and Practice Managers and Supervisors attended daily bed meetings with hospital staff at each hospital to discuss any hold-ups and possibilities.

From the end of December, daily teleconferences for senior managers across Adult Social Care, the Primary Care Trust, Lincolnshire Community Health Services, and United Lincolnshire Hospitals have been held once or twice a day to review the pressures, consider the bed flow, agree and make decisions about actions on a co-ordinated basis. As the pressures ease, reviews are being held twice weekly.

The general feedback from the Lincolnshire Health organisations is that the teleconferences and the partnership working with adult social care at all levels has been extremely helpful, and there has also been specific feedback from the Hospital Trust on how organised and supportive our staff have been.

### **Health & Wellbeing**

We have seen further information emerge around the changes to NHS organisation and a reviewed role for local government in health and wellbeing since our last full council.

High expectations of our involvement in health and wellbeing is driving some exciting developments at present. We have formed a new Directorate of Public Health, in preparation for the new responsibilities expected for the Council in the forthcoming NHS Bill.

As a high performing Council, we have been asked to be an 'early adopter' of the Health and Wellbeing Board arrangements described in the NHS White Paper. We will shortly be producing proposals for partners to consider which will represent a significant step forward in the co-ordination of commissioning for health and wellbeing.

### **Fit Kids programme**

Fit Kids is a programme jointly funded by LCC/LNHS Health and Wellbeing Fund and delivered by Lincolnshire Sports Partnership, and is aimed at 8 – 11 year olds and their families who want to lose weight, get fit and have fun.

The programme delivers free 12-week courses in venues across Lincolnshire and the emphasis for the courses is having fun so families learn through play and interaction. Family support is essential so a parent or adult must accompany their child.

88 children joined the Fit Kids programme with their families in September 2010 to learn about healthy lifestyles; completing challenges and having fun with new friends, whilst being active and keeping fit.

After a 12 week programme, every child has improved their fitness level and 93% of the children have attained a healthier BMI. Children and their parents have told Lincolnshire Sports Partnership that they now drink more water, understand what healthy eating means, take part in one hour of activity every day, and like the way they look now more than they did at the start of the programme.

“These results for the first stage of this year’s programme are excellent. It is great to see that the scheme is really helping to improve children’s health and fitness in Lincolnshire. We have found that children have gained so much confidence, and have a much better understanding of healthy living and fitness, which they will carry into later life.”