

COUNTY COUNCIL MEETING – 16 SEPTEMBER 2011

Statement from: Councillor G A Marsh, Executive Councillor for Adult Social Care and Supporting People

Lincolnshire Carers Partnership - See Me, Talk To Me Project

Winner of the GateHouse award for equality and diversity at the National Healthcare Professional Management Awards 2011, the prize was awarded for the See me Talk to me Project which aims to assist young carers in their dealings with health professionals when helping the person they care for. There was also success as category winner and judges' special award winner.

Extra Care Scheme – Boston

Extra care housing for older people with care and support needs in Lincolnshire has taken further steps forward with the opening of the county's Mayfield scheme in Boston. This is a 40 bed unit which took in its first tenants and freeholders in June, but the official opening took place on 31 August. Mayfields was developed by a partnership of Boston Mayflower Housing Association, Boston Borough Council and Lincolnshire County Council Adult Social Care, and has attracted a high level of interest from older people in the Boston area. Mayfields provides a 24 hour on-site care and support service, commissioned by Adult Social Care, which gives an additional housing option for older people with higher care needs who might otherwise struggle to maintain their independence.

Shaping Care

Following the Executive decision on 5 July, we have made significant progress towards delivering personalisation. Bespoke information packs have been produced and distributed to the providers of all five care homes due for closure as part of the Shaping Care agenda, as well as information packs for the service users to give them information relating to providers, direct payments and the assessment process. We now have a bespoke independent Brokerage Service in operation to support service users affected by the home closures to find alternative services.

New Residential Framework

The current position is that 82 homes have signed up to the new framework, with a further 116 at various stages of completion - this includes 16 Orders of St John homes. This means that we are able to place people in 191 homes out of the 272 within Lincolnshire with whom we had a contract under the previous framework agreement. Lace Housing Association has also recently returned contracts relating to their four homes.

Single Approach To Quality And Safeguarding

Following the unannounced quality visits to all 63 of our out of county placements for people with learning disabilities - in response to the exposure of abuse on the recent Panorama programme - they have been analysed for action where necessary. Quality considerations have been introduced as part of the placement panel process for learning disabilities. A quality profile is now in place for all placements both in and out of county. We are introducing a single approach to quality and safeguarding.

Performance

A new performance framework is now in place and regional performance leads have adopted Lincolnshire's performance framework as is have been acknowledged to be well ahead of rest of region. The Performance team has responded to 31 requests for management information to support Operations and Commissioning including in support of core offer and priority areas. There is now fortnightly monitoring of admissions to residential and nursing care.

Adult Social Care Operations Transformation

Adult Social Care Operations implemented the new organisational structure on 4 July, the aim being to facilitate the personalisation agenda, increase efficiency and streamline processes. This organisational transformation will be reviewed in October.