

## **COUNTY COUNCIL MEETING – 11 MAY 2018**

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

### **CHILDREN'S SERVICES**

#### **Extension of the Leaving Care Services**

In April 2018 a Statutory Duty was placed on all Local Authorities to extend the offer of support to Care Leavers in the UK. Previously those children Leaving Care were offered a personal advisor service up to the age of 21, but with the new duty from the DfE we are now required to extend that service up to the age of 25. It was left to local authorities to decide how best to extend that offer of support, and Lincolnshire wasted no time in ensuring that the needs of all our young people were catered for.

Working with Barnardo's Leaving Care Service, we identified what the legislation required us to do, and then ensured that we put in place effective planning to meet the requirements of our young people. From 1 April 2018, anyone who previously left the support of the Leaving Care Service can return and request information, advice and guidance from a personal advisor.

The whole Leaving Care Service and the extended Service also works closely with other services – particularly CAMHS, Adult Social Care, District Councils, health providers and criminal justice agencies – ensuring there are seamless pathways for Lincolnshire young people to access the services they need at the right time from the best placed professional. We are delighted to confirm that we have twenty care leavers attending university

#### **Children Centres Community Maternity Hubs**

Children's Services are a partner in the Local Maternity System to implement the national Better Births programme. As part of this joint working we have developed four community-based Maternity Hubs which have been launched with much positivity. Each of them is based in a Children's Centre within the county: in Lincoln Birchwood, Grantham Swingbridge, Skegness and Boston Children's Centres. Each one has held a launch event: two in December 2017 and two in January 2018. The engagement, both in a physical presence and virtually via social media, has been very encouraging with our greatest success at Skegness where over a hundred people attended on the day and 10,000 people joined the event remotely via live streaming.

The hubs provide access to Community Midwifery services, to enable families to access antenatal appointments locally within an environment that is friendly and comfortable. It also gives an opportunity to introduce families to the services Children's Centres can provide after their baby is born. There are great examples of how this is already seeing added value with the Boston team engaging with GPs and the Neighbourhood teams to discuss integration of other services for the benefits of the Community.

As this is a pilot, we want to ensure the benefits and outcomes are evaluated effectively. We will therefore be working with Lincoln University to plan the evaluation process.

### **Special Educational Needs: Transfer of Statements of SEN to Education, Health and Care Plans**

The Special Educational Needs and Disability (SEND) provisions in the Children and Families Act 2014 were introduced on 1 September 2014. There was a statutory duty placed on local authorities to transfer from a statement of Special Educational Needs to an Education, Health and Care Plan (EHC) all children and young people with statements of SEN who meet the criteria for an EHC plan, or have made a decision that it was not necessary to issue an EHC plan, by the 1 April 2018. Local authorities also had a duty to hold a Transfer Review – that is an EHC needs assessment in accordance with the Special Educational Needs and Disability Regulations 2014.

An EHC plan details the education, health and social care support that is to be provided to a child or young person who has Special Educational Needs or a disability.

The Department for Education expected that all young people who had a statement of SEN and who would have continued to have one under the previous SEN system would be transferred to an EHC plan. Lincolnshire had 3,300 children and young people with a statement of SEN when the new legislation was implemented in September 2014. Since that time an additional 1,300 young people have been issued with an EHC plan.

Many authorities have been unable to complete all transfers by the deadline and in March 2018 there were still 14,305 young people across the country who had not had their statements transferred. Despite the significant increase in requests for EHC needs assessments, Lincolnshire has achieved 100% compliance with the requirements to transfer existing statements of SEN. In addition, the SEND Service is finalising new EHC plans within the statutory twenty weeks in 95% of cases. Nationally, this figure is around 63%.

The authority is proud of its achievement in ensuring that children and young people are receiving their EHC plans in a timely way to ensure that all those involved with them are clear about the support they need and how that will be provided.

### **Lincolnshire Learning Partnership**

The partnership has established its purpose as a 'strategic board to set the conditions for schools to thrive in Lincolnshire.' Its mission is to ensure that 'all children and schools in Lincolnshire are our collective responsibility. Every child and school is known, valued and supported to achieve. No school is more important than an individual child's needs.'

The partnership has now been in existence and leading the sector-led model of school improvement for two years. It has been funded by the Schools Forum since its inception and additional funding was secured to continue the work until 2020. The central focus remains on the development and provision of high quality education provision for Lincolnshire's children and young people.

Further to the £500,000 awarded to support English attainment and achievement in Lincolnshire, the Lincolnshire Teaching Schools Together partnership (LTT) has been awarded £253,000 to boost primary school-to-school support for pupils aged 9-11. The funding will be used to focus on support for mathematics under the Lincolnshire Attainment Maths Project (LAMP), so that pupils make the best possible progress through their primary years. Boston Staniland Academy, Witham St Hughs Academy, Bourne Westfield Academy, Lincoln Mount Street Academy and Sandon School & Ambergate Sports College in Grantham are driving the collaboration and support with other schools as part of this Teaching Schools Together project.

This welcome funding boost will help ensure support is targeted at the schools that need it most in Lincolnshire. It makes sense that we use the talent, skills and experience of our teaching schools and those that are leading the way in terms of performance to drive improvements in other, more vulnerable schools.

### **Education Support**

Lincolnshire County Council continues to successfully deliver new school places across the county. In April 2017 we secured a £23m Basic Need capital allocation for 2019/20 towards providing additional school places across the county and we are in the process of planning for 2020/21 and beyond as well as reviewing Special School places. From 2011 through to 2020 over £90m will have been invested into Lincolnshire schools to ensure that there are sufficient school places to meet the needs of local communities. This will include our most recent new school, Grantham Poplar Farm, a 420-place primary school scheduled to open in September 2018, along with other successful collaborative projects with schools and academies across the county to create additional school places.

Creating enough school places ensures that parents and carers can secure a local school place for their children. Almost all parents now apply online for their child's school place when starting primary or secondary school for the first time. For these admissions, despite rising pupil numbers, more than 9 out of 10 parents still get their first choice school. This is in line with regional figures and better than the national average. Despite an increase in the Reception intake for September 2018 compared to 2017, the first preferences being met have increased from 94% in 2017 to 95% in 2018.

### **Ten days of events to celebrate ten years of Children Centres in Lincolnshire**

During May 2018, Children's Services will be holding events to promote the successes of our county's Children Centres. In total, there are 48 centres across the county. These were delivered in three phases, initially from 2004 to 2006, the second from 2006 to 2008 and finally phase three from 2008 to 2010. The Children Centre programme was funded via a capital grant received from central government.

The centres in phase two of the programme will be celebrating their 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary since their official opening in May 2008. This provided an additional 23 centres across the county, enabling families with children to access a range of services in one place. It was a huge achievement to plan, develop, and deliver 23 capital projects within a two-year period across the county. Over the past ten years the Children Centres have become a fundamental part of our Children's Services locality delivery model across Lincolnshire. The centres range from stand-alone buildings to integrated provision with schools providing opportunities for families to access services within their local communities. We are going to celebrate the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the official opening from Monday 21 May to Friday 1 June 2018, promoting activities at each of these centres to engage existing users and new families to the provision available.

### **Caring2Learn**

Caring2Learn is a research project funded by the Department for Education through the Partners in Practice programme.

The overall aim of the project is to improve a wide range of learning outcomes for Lincolnshire's looked after children and young people. The project wants all Lincolnshire education settings to be confident in nurturing looked after children and young people so they achieve better than expected progress. We want both foster carers and residential care workers to champion education in the home. We want all our looked after children and young people to feel safe and to feel they belong in their home and school, which will provide them with a solid foundation to have the confidence to go on to learn, be aspirational and achieve their full potential.

Thirty two foster carers and sixty five education settings from the Lincolnshire community are participating, along with representatives from each of our Children Services areas. Caring2Learn have also recruited the first cohort of sixteen Foster Carer Education Champions. They are currently completing an induction programme which includes working and training across services and education. Their aim will be to support carers and the links between homes and education.

### **Nominated for award for podcast "The Adoption" about Lincolnshire's adoption process**

Back in the autumn of 2017 a podcast was broadcast by Radio 4 which followed the story of two children from Lincolnshire, who were going through the Family Court. The Court ultimately agreed that it was not safe for the children to be left in the care of their family and it would be in their best interests to be placed with prospective adoptive carers. Our adoption team worked very closely with the production team to make sure that the preparation for this sensitive and informative documentary was carefully managed. The birth family, the children, the adopters and the social workers were all heavily involved and contributed to this programme. The resulting podcast provides real insight into the experiences of all those involved in the process, and how we manage adoption in the county. The programme has received a number of accolades and has recently been nominated for two national awards, namely *Podcast of the Year* in the Drum Online Media Awards and *Best Family Podcast* in the British Podcast Awards.

## **ADULT CARE**

### **Hospitals**

Adult Care staff based in acute hospitals have worked with our reablement, home care, and care home providers and health colleagues to achieve over 5,500 discharges this winter. Adult Social Care delays remain very low in Lincolnshire at 6.6% compared to nationally 32% - this is upper quartile performance. At the same time, the County Council's commissioned reablement service has delivered 16% more support over this winter compared to last winter. Over 60% of people who received reablement did not need ongoing support and over 95% of people are very satisfied with their reablement support. Despite 'winter pressures' staff are doing an incredible job.

### **Workforce Development**

In the last twelve months, we have focussed on supporting further improved practice within the Adult Care workforce to encourage greater resilience and use of community resources. We continue to work closely with our partners including LinCA (representing social care providers) to address the wider workforce challenges which Lincolnshire is faced with, including the recruitment of care workers, and nurses within nursing homes as well as the more experienced social workers and occupational therapists.

### **Integration and Neighbourhood Teams**

Adult Care continues to work closely with partners across the health and care system to roll out Integrated Neighbourhood Working – with Gainsborough, Stamford, Grantham, Lincoln North, Spalding and Boston leading the way. Phase 2 of the roll out is underway to ensure that all teams are in place and are operational as soon as possible. Adult Care staff are co-locating with primary health care using the opportunity of the 'One Public Estate' programme. The Secretary of State for Health and Social Care recently announced that Lincolnshire will be one of three systems in England identified as a pilot site for Integrated Health and Care assessments. This will ensure vulnerable adults in Lincolnshire tell their story once, and have a truly joined-up experience. Integrated Personal Commissioning remains a focus for Adult Care and as a demonstrator site we are working with local and national partners to expand this programme and build on the early successes.

The Enhanced Care Home project continues with representatives across health and care exploring opportunities to develop support systems via technological innovations, telephone and skype support and face-to-face assistance to ensure people avoid unnecessary admissions to hospital and receive more primary health care support in residential settings.

Falls prevention and response will be a focus for joint work across the Adult Care workforce this year with the implementation of the countywide Wellbeing Service. A number of falls projects including a falls vehicle for the east of the county will be

working towards both reducing falls and assisting people who have had a fall to remain in their homes for longer. This is a very important area, as we know many residents find themselves being taken to A&E after a fall when it isn't necessary. This must be better for residents.

### **Better Care Fund**

The Lincolnshire Better Care Fund (BCF) for 2018/19 is £230m, of which £56.165m is the national allocation. Lincolnshire's BCF fund continues to be one of the largest in the country and gives us influence on policy development at a national level. This now includes our involvement with the NHS England Strategy Team. Lincolnshire County Council is one of a small number of councils currently involved in a project looking to create products which can be used by other areas across the country, as part of the wider national development towards integrated systems of care.

This year's BCF again includes increases in the national funding streams which have been allocated to Lincolnshire as part of the overall £230m total. These increases result from:

- Inflationary increases in CCG funding and, as a result, in the CCG funding for the Protection of Adult Care Services
- Increases to the 'Improved' Better Care Fund (iBCF) funding that was announced by the Chancellor in November 2015 and March 2017 which totals £23.858m in 2018/19
- Increases to the Disabled Facilities Grant funding which is passed onto District colleagues totalling £5.698m
- Innovative partnerships are being formed with District Councils and Housing Associations to develop much needed Extra Care Housing across the county. The first schemes will be in Lincoln and Sleaford and in both cases the District Council will build the facility with care provided by Lincolnshire County Council. The Council will have nomination rights in both facilities for a thirty-year period. The first facilities are expected to open in 2019/2020.

The requirement to ensure that the funding has a positive impact on performance in such areas as Delayed Transfers of Care, Reablement and Non-Elective Admissions continues and the Lincolnshire's Health and Care System has worked hard to ensure that those delays continue to fall.

## **PUBLIC HEALTH**

### **The 0-19 Children's Health Service**

September 2019 will see all schools making available a Relationship and Sexual Health Education programme to their students. This is in response to the Children's Commissioner's assessment that most children needed more education and emotional support in understanding their development and how to manage relationships, including protecting themselves from harm and managing online relationships. Our innovative response to this development will be offered to schools

via a new team of advisers working directly with schools, parents and young people to make sure we are offering high quality support in this important area.

### **Telecare**

On 1 April, a number of new services went live in our prevention and early intervention programme, all of which are designed to help local people live well and independently in their own homes for as long as possible, avoiding the need for higher cost services. Local people can now benefit from a range of telecare services, ranging from basic alarms through to higher technology equipment like falls monitors. People can sign up for a 24/7 Response Service which will provide support to them when they need help but are not experiencing an emergency. We have communicated with over 7,000 vulnerable people during March. This was a challenging task for officers in the Council and in provider organisations, but one which I am pleased to say has progressed well.

### **Wellbeing Service**

The Wellbeing Service now offers, amongst other things, an enhanced falls lifting service for people who sign up to receive a response service and a generic support service which can be utilised for up to twelve weeks rather than the six-week period in the old model.

### **Substance Misuse**

The substance misuse treatment service recently had its first annual inspection which highlighted that treatment is safe and well delivered. The new recovery service is developing well and is now running educational and peer support programmes across the county. The annual inspection also showed the service to be overall good and moving well towards its long term objectives.

During 2017/18 those at risk of harm due to parental or sibling substance misuse were seen as a prevention area that could be developed. To address this, 700 training places were commissioned for front line children's workers. This hidden harm training will be completed through 2018/19 and will help those in contact with young people to better identify and help those at risk of harm, thus lowering the chances of them engaging in substance misuse in the future.

### **Director of Public Health 2018 Annual Report**

Considering ageing and wellbeing, I am pleased to draw to members' attention the imminent publication of the 2018 Annual Report of our Director of Public Health. The report updates us on some of the environmental and biological risks to us all in one chapter and making a case for the health and care system, in partnership with local people, to maximise the wellbeing improvements possible as we age in the other. Ageing, ill health and disability are not inevitable partners is the message in the report and the developments in our prevention and early intervention services announced earlier are evidence of how seriously I take this agenda.

## **COMMERICAL TEAM**

### **Care Quality Commission**

CQC ratings across Lincolnshire have continued to improve. We now have seven providers rated as outstanding (an increase of four since the start of the year) and 234 rated as good.

Over the last twelve months the Commercial Team has focused its attention on providers that require improvement and this has played a part in a 23% reduction in providers rated as inadequate or requires improvement since October 2016.

Nursing provision continues to be a high priority area, with providers across the county reporting difficulties in recruiting and retaining nurses. In the last three years, twelve homes have deregistered from nursing which has resulted in a net loss of over 400 nursing beds across the county. Through the new residential contract and fee settlement, LCC is seeking to support nursing providers, but further engagement with health colleagues on a national level is required to ensure security of provision in the future.

### **Residential and Nursing Care**

The Council has successfully negotiated a new three-year agreement with its providers of residential care which came into effect on 1 April 2018. This provides a strong foundation for both the Council and the Adult Care market to continue to perform well and to meet oncoming challenges up to 2021. There continues to be a healthy and diverse market for residential care, with approximately 3,600 service users placed by Lincolnshire County Council across 275 residential homes within the county, accounting for an annual spend of over £120m.

In addition to this, the Council is launching an innovative new cost model for Learning Disability (LD) residential services. The new model has been developed in conjunction with LD providers over the last 18 months, representing a significant step forward in how the Council commissions residential care.

### **Wellbeing Service**

Our reformed Wellbeing Service went live on 1 April this year with the refreshed service *Wellbeing Lincs*, which aims to provide timely support that enables and empowers people to live healthy independent lives and reduce/delay escalation into more costly health and care services. It includes assessment, generic support, small aids and adaptations, telecare response and hospital in-reach services. I am excited about the lead we are taking in ensuring that we help people to stay well and independent for as long as possible – which is good for local people.

## **ADULT AND COMMUNITY LEARNING**

There continues to be high demand for Adult Learning provision that increases the skills of people in our communities, giving them new career opportunities and

allowing local businesses to recruit the talented employees they need to develop. So far in the 2017/18 academic year we have worked with over 4,000 learners, delivering 527 qualifications ranging from GCSE English and Maths to Food Safety, helping learners to progress into work.

The Family Learning Service has been supporting Tower Road Academy in Boston with its ambition to achieve '*Leading Parent Partnership Award*' (LPPA) status. We were delighted to meet with the LPPA Assessor to discuss how the school engages and works with parents, particularly via its very successful Family Learning programme which supports parents to be better able to help their children as well as develop employability skills. Feedback from the verifier was that the school was one of the best five schools that he has validated in his ten years of doing the job and that the school should become a case study for parental engagement.

The service has been collecting nominations from providers and tutors for the annual '*Learner of the Year Award*' which is presented at the Lincolnshire Show, which I hope as many councillors as possible will attend to meet the learners.

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