

COUNTY COUNCIL MEETING – 14 SEPTEMBER 2018

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

CHILDREN'S SERVICES

A-level and GCSE results

A-level results have once again been strong this year with the provisional Lincolnshire pass rate above the national average at 97.8%. Three quarters of our students achieved three or more A-levels, with one quarter of all entries successful at the highest A* to A grades and half of all grades at A* to B grades.

Provisional results for GCSEs show and improvement in the proportion of students achieving the key measure of a good GCSE pass in English and maths, with a 2.1% rise on last year. Overall our students have bucked the national trend by improving attainment. Average attainment across eight subjects, including the new GCSEs in a range of subjects, has risen by 1.3%.

These are excellent achievements and clearly highlight the strong commitment and dedication of students this year, especially with the sweeping changes to the grading system for GCSEs.

Partners in Practice Programme

In previous reports, I have updated you on the Partners in Practice programme, which is a four year programme that brings together the country's leading authorities, Lincolnshire being one. The Partners in Practice (PIP) programme aims to improve practice in Lincolnshire and other Children's Services, transforming the quality of children's social care services and early help arrangements, and support the reform of the wider system; putting practice excellence and achieving more for the children we serve at its heart.

Under the Lincolnshire PIP Programme sit six individual projects, testing out new and creative ideas to improve outcomes for children and families in Lincolnshire and in other local authorities. We are pleased to report some early improvements as a result of these work streams, including significant reductions in agency staffing and improved quality of practice in relation to signs of safety as well as plans to establish a dedicated adolescent team.

Education Support

Lincolnshire County Council continues to successfully deliver new school places across the county. In May 2018 we secured a £12m Basic Need capital allocation for 2020/21 towards providing additional school places across the county and we are

in the process of planning for 2021/22 and beyond as well as reviewing Special School places. From 2011 through to 2021 over £100m 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 opening 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.

School Standards and School Improvement

In partnership with Lincolnshire Teaching Schools Together, LCC has supported and co-ordinated a series of bids for national funding to support school improvement within the county.

Over the course of the academic year 2017/2018, we have secured £1.25 million to drive school improvement around attainment and progress in English and Mathematics, and very recently a strategy to improve SEND Support pupils outcomes over the course of 2018/19. The quality of relationships between key partners is strengthening and benefitting Lincolnshire Children and Young People. The Strategic School Improvement Fund has had three rounds of funding and there was a planned fourth round. Unfortunately, this has been abandoned and the process for funding future school improvement activity at scale is unclear at this time.

The Local Authority Maintained Schools still benefit from being able to access the Intervention Funding delegated by Schools Forum which is supporting a number of lower scale, but equally valuable, projects and school improvement activity, such as the small schools project, developing leadership and other areas of professional development through a strong partnership with our Teaching Schools. The provision of professional development is growing and strengthening due to the partnership between the Lincolnshire Learning Partnership and the Council to enable an infrastructure of accessible, affordable and appropriate quality training is available across the county.

Inclusive Lincolnshire

The Inclusive Lincolnshire Strategy was introduced in September 2016 as the Council's strategic response to the very high rate of permanent exclusion of pupils from Lincolnshire schools. Operationally, the strategy is delivered through a 'Ladder of Intervention' which schools are encouraged to follow when a pupil's behaviour is of significant concern. The Ladder promotes early intervention through Pastoral

Support Planning, specialist input from the Behaviour Outreach Support Service and, when necessary, time-limited intervention placements within Springwell Lincoln Alternative Academy. Whilst this strategy cannot be imposed upon academies, the buy-in from the sector has been remarkable with the vast majority of head teachers using the Ladder to reduce exclusions. For the first time in recent years, the annual statistical release on exclusions from the DfE indicates that Lincolnshire is doing well compared with its statistical neighbours. Formerly second highest within this group, Lincolnshire is now the second lowest excluder with a 2016-17 exclusion rate of 0.11% - down from 0.31% two years previously. 2017-18 data will not be released by the DfE until July next year, but we know that exclusions fell again. With the numbers skyrocketing nationally, this reflects very positively upon our schools.

ADULT CARE

Safeguarding Ambassadors

In 2017 Lincolnshire CCGs secured funding for the 'Safeguarding Ambassadors' role, a joint initiative with LinCA, the Safeguarding Adults Board and the Council. The role of the Safeguarding Ambassador is to further enhance quality improvement and safeguarding practice and to ensure that consistent, current and competent advice and support on safeguarding is locally available. This is currently being rolled out across the independent care sector on a phased basis.

Lincolnshire appears to be the only authority nationally who has such an initiative and, since its launch in November 2017, attendance at events has been strong with broad representation and good engagement from delegates. The first cohort of 80 Ambassadors have completed their training and received awards at an event in May. A second cohort of 80 has been confirmed for July. To build on this success in its second year, consideration has been given to service user and carer involvement and expanding the scope of the initiative.

Review of Mental Health Crisis Support Services

A review of mental health crisis services began last year due to an increase in the number of patients being transferred to hospitals outside Lincolnshire, revised legislation around section 136 detentions in a health based place of safety, and excessive use of police resources in dealing with mental health crises. Intelligence suggested that mental health crisis services were not configured to meet the needs of local people experiencing a crisis, and senior representatives from key stakeholder organisations came together with the shared aim of improving the experience of service users, making best use of the existing funding and resources available, and ensuring sufficient capacity of mental health crisis services across Lincolnshire.

The review covered the whole population of Lincolnshire, including all ages and geographical locations, and therefore looked at provision of services for children and young people, working age adults and older adults across the county. These services included Crisis Resolution and Home Treatment Teams (CRHTTs),

Approved Mental Health Professionals (AMHPs), mental health liaison service, triage care, crisis housing, section 136 suite and other health-base places of safety. Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS) and the Single Point of Access (SPA), and acute inpatient services were also included for the purposes of mapping the crisis pathway following assessment and identifying the impact of current crisis services on acute bed usage, both within Lincolnshire and in out-of-area placements. Additional focus was also placed on those services not commissioned for mental health crisis response but who play an important part in the pathway, specifically Lincolnshire Police, Accident and Emergency departments at ULHT, and GPs.

The review has now concluded with a number of recommendations being made which are currently being considered by all the key stakeholders.

A copy of the review report is available on the County Council website.

Autism Network for Lincolnshire

Lincolnshire County Council has commissioned Lincolnshire Partnership Foundation NHS Trust to provide an Autism Network in Lincolnshire, similar to the Managed Care Network for Mental Health. Voluntary sector and charitable organisations will be invited to bid for funding for specific projects to support individuals with Autism and their carers.

Working with Health in and out of hospital

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. Neighbourhood Leads are now in post across the county and this is facilitating further local and countywide developments. Adult Care staff co-locate with primary health, where possible, using the opportunities of the 'One Public Estate' programme.

Following the Secretary of State's announcement that Lincolnshire would be one of three systems in England identified as a pilot site for Integrated Health and Care assessments, work has begun with partners across the Health and Care sector to ensure services are more co-ordinated for residents.

Since July 2017, the hospital teams have commenced seven-day working with support from Care Home Trusted Assessors and Brokerage on Saturdays. This has resulted in additional discharges this year at a weekend or on a Monday morning. Daily meetings are held on each site to ensure good communication, partnership working and flow in the hospitals.

Adult Care staff based in acute hospitals along with providers and health colleagues have achieved over 10,634 discharges in 2017/18. Adult Social Care delays remain low in Lincolnshire, at 11.7% in May 2018 compared to nationally 29.7%. In 2017/18 3375 new service users received the County Council's commissioned reablement service, which was a 28% increase on the previous year. Over 61% of people who

received reablement did not need ongoing support and over 95% of people are very satisfied with their reablement support. Despite ongoing higher than usual activity levels within our acute hospitals, staff continue to do an incredible job.

The Enhanced Care Home Project continues with representatives across health and social care exploring opportunities to use technological innovations, telephone and skype support and face-to-face assistance to ensure people avoid unnecessary admissions to hospital and receive better primary health care support in residential settings.

Additionally, work has been ongoing to update Lincolnshire's Dementia Strategy, a joint document produced by health and social care detailing the focus of future support and service provision for people with Dementia and their carers. This strategy will be going to Scrutiny Committee in the autumn and a launch will follow.

Telecare

Work has been ongoing to ensure that all 7,000 service users which were in the telecare service prior to handing over to NRS Healthcare were moved across as easily as possible. As part of the transfer, NRS Healthcare have developed a local retail offer which allows service users greater choice and easy access to a wide range of assistive technology, which enhances the Council's preventative offer and supports us to manage demand for more costly care services.

PUBLIC HEALTH

Health Messages during the Hot Summer Months

We are approaching the end of summer and starting to think about the risks and pressures for local people and services that winter often brings. The unprecedented period of hot dry weather experienced across the UK has been keeping our range of prevention and communication services very busy. Most people understand the risks to their health and wellbeing presented by winter, including coughs and colds and other bugs, and the dangers of hypothermia and falls on slippery surfaces, especially if they or a family member are frail or has a long term illness. We have been making efforts to reach vulnerable local people with a range of wellbeing messages about the risks associated with excess heat and sun exposure to ensure that their awareness is as high about these as they are about the perils of winter. We also worked with the Children's Safeguarding Board and its partners during the hot spell to raise awareness of water danger to children and young people, especially those under five and in their teenage years.

Influenza Immunisation

September sees the beginning of the national immunisation campaign against influenza, which we participate in every year to help protect people at particular risk from this very difficult and dangerous infection. I am pleased to announce some new approaches to immunisation for flu developed by the Council this year to make sure

that as much of the vulnerable population, and the staff who support them, are protected. We have developed new schemes to encourage uptake of immunisation of all Council staff, and the staff of front line providers of Adult Care & Community Wellbeing and Children's Services. The programme includes, as a new addition, immunisation by nasal spray vaccine for all year 5 students in schools. Our objectives are to support the NHS to get coverage for vulnerable members of the public up to the national target range of 75% and start providing our staff with the chance to manage the level of protection NHS staff are achieving locally.

Wellbeing Service

I was delighted to formally launch Lincolnshire's new Wellbeing Service at the Lincolnshire Show on 21 June. The Wellbeing Service enables people to live as independently as possible for as long as possible, preventing or delaying entry to health and care services. The new provider, Wellbeing Lincs, is a consortium of Lincolnshire's seven District Councils, led by East Lindsey District Council.

After a transition over the Easter bank holiday, during the first quarter from 1 April to the end of June, the new service had taken over 1,400 referrals, i.e. around 23 people per day. Wellbeing Lincs employs two hospital in-reach officers and four partnerships and networks officers to promote the service and develop local networks to support those most likely to benefit from its support. A Facebook page and a website <https://www.wellbeinglincs.org/> are now live. The service is on track to support more than 6,000 people this year.

Since April, customers have been supported, amongst other things, to apply for bus passes, secure additional benefit entitlements, apply for assisted bin collections, have fire risk assessments and new smoke detectors fitted, have carer's assessments, apply for a telecare lifeline and connect with a befriender to help them socialise more.

Falls Pilot

I am pleased to report that we will be piloting a programme in a number of care homes and other settings in the autumn that will target people who are likely to fall (or fall again).

One in three people over 65 years fall each year, and one out of every two people over 80 years will experience a fall. A fall (whether it injures the person or not) makes the individual lose confidence in their bodies and can lead to social isolation and loneliness. Falls are also a significant factor in serious injuries and can result in people needing to move from their own homes into high cost long term residential care.

We know that loss of balance and weakness of muscles as people age are major contributory factors. "Postural stability instruction", or more commonly referred to as "strength and balance training" in care homes has been shown to work in reducing the likelihood and severity of falls. Anywhere between 20-40% of all falls in the 65+ age group can be avoided if strength and balance training is completed. This is

partly due to improvements in walking and balance skills, and partly down to improvements in confidence.

The model we are piloting in Lincolnshire is a group exercise programme that also helps to reduce feelings of loneliness and isolation.

We will be evaluating the pilot to understand where it works best and to understand the likely reduction in falls we should be able to achieve.

Third Sector Awards 'Charity Partnership of the Year'

I would like to congratulate P3 and Addaction who have been shortlisted for the Third Sector Awards 'Charity Partnership of the Year' as a result of the work that they have been doing together in Lincolnshire. Working with a range of agencies including the seven District Councils and ourselves, they are delivering key elements of the ACTion Lincs Programme to support 120 entrenched rough sleepers. ACTion Lincs is Lincolnshire's first social impact bond funded programme, and one of only seven nationally tackling this issue through this programme. I am delighted that Lincolnshire's proactive approach to preventing and reducing homelessness, and their work in particular, is being recognised and I wish them well in the next stage of the awards process. <http://www.thirdsectorexcellenceawards.com/shortlist/>

ADULT AND COMMUNITY LEARNING

There continues to be high demand for Adult Learning provision increasing 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. In the 2017/18 academic year we have worked with over 6,500 learners, delivering 807 qualifications ranging from GCSE English and maths to Food Safety, helping learners to progress into work. The GCSE results, published on 23 August, reflect the hard work carried out by learners and tutors alike, supporting our learners into the next stage of their learning journey. Focusing on achievements at level 4 and above, which is classified as a standard pass, the service achieved an 83% pass rate in English, and 71% in maths. A great set of results, particularly considering these GCSE courses, usually studied by secondary students several times a week over two years, are squeezed into one or two three-hour sessions from the end of October until the following June.

Planning is well underway for the 2018/19 academic year. The service has a varied programme of courses in place promoted on the 2Aspire website (www.2aspire.org.uk). We are very excited to launch a pilot work experience programme in the south of the county, offering Adults work experience in book keeping and payroll in small companies in the Grantham area.

The Family Learning programme goes from strength to strength through strong partnership working maximising opportunities for our learners. Working in partnership with Boston College, their Early Years Team will become a strong element in Family Learning courses at Tower Road Academy encouraging seamless

progression to Boston College courses. Family Learning in Bourne has creatively included partnership working with The Cedars, a local care home, in their programme. Residents from The Cedars joined in the sewing skills and planting session, passing on their skills and knowledge to the learners and their children – truly inter-generational learning! Supporting Macmillan Cancer research, Family Learning will be delivering workshops as part of Boston St. Mary's School and Pioneers' School Macmillan coffee mornings, raising awareness of both Family Learning and the work of Macmillan Cancer support.

Building on past experience, the Family Learning programme will continue to deliver GCSEs in its 2018/19 programme. The Family Learning Service started delivering GCSE maths and English courses in Bourne in 2015 in response to learner demand. The learners were a group of mothers of young children who, for various reasons, had not achieved the all-important grade C in English and/or maths (now replaced by level 4) while at school. All wanted to be able to access further education in order to progress in a career as their children grew older. The challenge to keep up with the course requirements was significant. The course, usually studied by secondary students several times a week over two years, was squeezed into a weekly three-hour session from the end of October until the following June.