

COUNTY COUNCIL MEETING – 14 DECEMBER 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

Foster Carer Education Champions - The Caring2Learn Project

As part of the Caring2Learn project, the Children's Services Team have created the role of Foster Carer Education Champion and the first sixteen Education Champions were appointed in March 2018. Although they are all experienced foster carers, this is a brand new role which has been developed in line with the project objectives to improve educational outcomes for our children in care through the professional development of schools and foster carers across the county. The role of the Champions is to help develop a sustainable Caring2Learn support network across the county and liaise with schools and carers in their locality and support them to offer the best possible education for our looked after young people. Over the last few months they have had monthly meetings focused upon sharing best practice and have hosted speakers from the Virtual School, Early Help, and the Specialist Teaching Team. They have participated in a number of Children's Services and Partners in Practice meetings and events: TAC Forums, the Designated Teachers Conference, Operational Champions Group, as well as the C2L Schools Induction days and have made valuable contributions to these meetings and events.

Services to Support Children With Disabilities

A recent tender opportunity which saw three previous services being combined into one large contract has now been completed with the successful supplier being named as Kids. The new service commenced on 1 October 2018, and provides much needed support and respite to children with disabilities and their families, and enables families to stay together. The services include Domiciliary Care, Early Support & Learning, and Holiday Clubs & Community/Youth activities.

School Standards and School Improvement

As previously reported, the Strategic School Improvement Fund from the Department for Education has brought £1.25m of improvement activity. LEAP (English) and LAMP (Maths) continue to be delivered and engagement remains good, with feedback from the Teaching Schools confirming the work is having a very positive impact. LENs (SEND Support) has been launched and schools have begun the programme of works eagerly with support from David Bartrum, who has taken a National lead on SEND improvement work through the London Challenge. The resource and strong partnership working has brought new and external experts to the county whilst maintaining our sector led approach.

Leadership briefings and Governor briefings have been delivered throughout the county and have been well attended by maintained schools and academies, with very positive

feedback. Over 250 schools were directly represented at the Leadership briefings, with some representing clusters or partnerships of schools. During the briefings, information and guidance was given around peer review, Ofsted outcomes and inspection updates, Teaching School offers, finance updates, and a number of key areas. Weekly Bulletins for School News and Safeguarding are distributed reliably and readership has been 80% in October 2018.

Building Communities of Specialist Provision: A Collaborative Strategy

A £50m investment in Lincolnshire's special schools has been approved by the County Council's Executive, which will transform Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) support for local children and young people.

The Building Communities of Specialist Provision strategy will bring major improvements to special schools over the next five years by creating an integrated system where pupils attend their nearest school, confident their educational, health and care needs will be fully met. Lincolnshire special schools will have greater capacity to meet the increasing demand for places and will have the premises and facilitates to meet all types of needs and disabilities. As a result, children and young people with SEND will be able to attend a special school in their local community and will no longer have to travel excessive journeys to access an appropriate school place.

The Council has been developing a new model for special education, alongside Special School Leaders and the Lincolnshire Parent Carer Forum, which will ensure children and young people can access the right education, in the right place, at the right time, as close to home as possible.

Looked After Children and Care Leavers strategy

I am pleased to report that, following the last full council meeting where the commitment of every elected member was secured to support the Corporate Parenting strategy, on 1 November the new Looked After Children and Care Leavers strategy was formally launched by the Local Authority at a multi-agency launch event. The new strategy was written in conjunction with our key partners and outlines the direction of travel for us all and sets us goals for delivering excellent services and support to all our children and young people. The strategy spans the next three years for all the services which collaborated in the writing of the strategy and ensures a consistent and well-coordinated approach is in place for supporting and caring for Looked After Children and Care Leavers in Lincolnshire up to their twenty-fifth birthday. The number of partners involved in its development demonstrates to me that Lincolnshire County Council and its partners all share a joint aspiration to be excellent Corporate Parents, and to make sure the most vulnerable young people in Lincolnshire are given the very best support by those people and organisations responsible for their parenting.

Ofsted inspections of children's homes

Over the last three months, Ofsted has inspected three of our children's homes. Strut House and Haven Cottage, which both provide short term breaks for children with special needs, have both been rated as "Outstanding" by Ofsted. Eastgate Children's home, which provides a home for six children, and Northolme Children's home have also been rated as "Outstanding." Our two other children homes, The Beacon and Albion Street, along with the Lincolnshire Secure Unit, have all been graded "Good".

These grades reflect the continued high standard of care which we strive for, for all of our children who are looked after within Lincolnshire. When provided at the right time and for the right children, residential care provides really positive options for young people.

ADULT CARE

Lincolnshire's Learning Disability Partnership

Lincolnshire's Learning Disability Partnership, which is supported by the County Council, celebrated its seventeenth birthday in 2018. An inclusive and transformative network, the Partnership gives people with learning disabilities and family carers a genuine say about the way services are planned and delivered.

The Partnership's action plan is focused on engaging service users of all ages in an ambitious programme of work based on the Commissioning Strategy 2018–2021. The Partnership focuses on what people can do for themselves with support: finding a job, getting a place of their own, and tackling the challenges of moving into adult life.

The Partnership is a strong influencer of improvements in health services and is recognised as an expert panel in support of the Health and Wellbeing Strategy. At a recent meeting of the Adult Care Scrutiny Committee, a member of the Partnership spoke passionately about ensuring GPs offer people an annual health check, consider the needs of family carers, and see the person behind the disability.

Adult Frailty Area Teams

Our Area Teams have performed well against business plan measures this year despite a challenging market for recruiting staff. Adult Care has been working closely with colleagues in HR and Children's Services to develop a rolling programme of recruitment for our difficult to recruit posts: e.g. social workers / occupational therapists / nurses. This work continues and will build upon the success of the work undertaken by Children's colleagues in relation to recruitment and retention of good quality staff. In 2017, the Council supported twelve unqualified staff to undertake their social work training. They are now in their final year and will qualify as social workers in 2019. Due to the success of this, a second cohort of a further twelve unqualified members of staff are being supported and have commenced their three-year social work training. Future qualifying courses for nurses and occupational therapists are currently being explored.

Integrated Care and Support Planning

Adult Care is working with a range of stakeholders to design an integrated care and support plan. This is being co-produced with people receiving services and health as part of the integration accelerator pilots. Initially the plans will be used in the three test neighbourhoods (Grantham, Boston and Gainsborough) to inform the development of integrated neighbourhood working. In the first two quarters of 2018/19, 5,645 adults received an integrated and personalised care and support plan. By 31 March 2020 all individuals who receive a Care Act assessment will have a joined-up assessment and care plan which includes health and care needs / outcomes. This will reduce duplication across the system as well as minimising the number of times people have to tell their story to health and care professionals.

Hospital Teams

DTOC (Delayed Transfer of Care) performance in Lincolnshire attributable to Social Care continues to perform well against national comparators and the hospital teams' focus is to support people to return home as soon as it is safe for them to do so. So far this year, the Social Care teams based at the acute hospitals have assessed over 1,000 patients to facilitate a timely discharge. In the first six months of the year, 1,500 episodes of reablement have been provided, primarily to older people coming out of hospital. Almost 95% of these people did not need any subsequent long term services from Adult Care and people are being supported to maintain their independence at home.

Additional Funding

On 2 October 2018, the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care announced £240m of additional funding for councils to spend on Adult Care to help councils alleviate winter pressures across the Health and Care system. Lincolnshire County Council is due to receive £3.368m of the total national allocation. Work has already started to decide how to utilise this additional funding, ensuring that the additional investment has the maximum possible impact, reducing the number of days that people stay in hospital, ensuring that when they leave hospital they receive the right support to help them stay independent and reducing the need for unnecessary admissions into hospital in the future. Part of this plan has already been announced with £300k in a new Falls Response Pilot programme in partnership with the East Midlands Ambulance Service (EMAS), L.I.V.E.S., Fire and Rescue, and the Wellbeing Service.

A further allocation of funding of £240m for 2019/20 was also announced in the Chancellor's Budget Statement on 29 October and delegated authority has already been provided to the Executive Director for Adult Care and Community Wellbeing in consultation with myself, ensuring that plans will be well advanced in time.

In addition to this, £410m in extra funding was announced for Adults and Children's Social Care in 2019/20. Whilst there is no further detail on how this funding should be split between Adult and Children's Services, initial estimates suggest that this will result in a further £5.74m for Lincolnshire as a whole.

Winter Planning

Adult Care has a winter plan in place which feeds into the wider system plan. Hospital staff continue to work over seven days. Brokerage work on Saturdays and Care Home Trusted Assessors currently work six days a week but this has been extended to seven days a week during the winter. This will enable discharges to happen seven days a week. Hospital teams attend meetings regularly throughout the day with the integrated discharge hub to identify and resolve any potential blockages to discharges. Additional investment has been given to the Council to support Adult Care in assisting the NHS this winter and these monies have been targeted at improving patient flow through the hospital system. The investment also focuses on caring for people in their own home and ensuring people are only taken to hospital when they are in need of acute hospital care. Schemes are also working to build and encourage capacity in the system for increasing carers over the winter period with additional investment going to providers to assist with this. Adult Care is working closely with Public Health colleagues to develop

a falls programme and work is ongoing to get this underway with partners from across Lincolnshire. Our staff will be working seven days a week in our hospitals as well as over the Christmas and New Year bank holidays to get people back home as soon as possible during the holiday.

PUBLIC HEALTH

Wellbeing Service (WBS)

The new service delivered by Wellbeing Lincs is now fully mobilised. Referrals into the service to date are 2,358, an average of twenty-one per day (based on a five day week). The service is achieving a high level of outcomes and user satisfaction, with 95% of service users reporting positive improvements across their self-determined outcomes. Of these, the average improvement in an individual's outcomes is 194%, meaning service users are improving their outcomes scores almost two fold.

The spread of referrals across the County shows that good access has been maintained in East Lindsey and North Kesteven where the service was previously delivered by the respective District Councils, and has increased in the other five Districts now covered under the one Wellbeing Lincs contract.

Despite initial problems with undertaking assessments within seven days of referral due to staff TUPE and capacity problems, I am now pleased to inform you that 85% (311 out of 368) of assessments are now taking place within the timeframe, and it continues to improve week on week. Additionally, 96% of service users begin receiving generic support within ten days of assessment, which ensures people are supported in a timely manner to achieve their outcomes.

Since its launch in April, over 270 different organisations have referred people to the service, including GPs, Adult Social Care, ULHT, District Councils, food banks, Victim Support, Citizens Advice, P3, and many third sector organisations. The in-reach and partnership team are embedded in neighbourhood teams and other partnerships, developing local intelligence and contacts to raise awareness of what Wellbeing Lincs can offer and enhancing the opportunities for generic support services within communities.

Wellbeing Lincs has been shortlisted in the national Local Government Chronicle Awards. We wish them well in the next stage of the process and look forward to the outcome of this in 2019.

Telecare Service

In September, of the 28,569 calls NRS answered, 96.6% of them were within 60 seconds of receiving the initial alert, ensuring a timely response to an individual's needs. Of these calls, only 299 needed a response by the emergency services: the rest were dealt with via a nominated responder (421) or the WBS responders (218), or with the individual being reassured over the phone.

NRS are continuing to develop a competitive local retail telecare model and will be offering a discounted winter offer to encourage additional uptake to relieve winter pressures on health and care organisations.

Carers

I am delighted to say that two submissions to the national Local Government Chronicle Awards in relation to our work to support carers have been shortlisted in the categories of Health & Social Care and Public/Private Partnerships. The next stage involves Panel Interviews in January with outcomes to be announced in March 2019.

ADULT AND COMMUNITY LEARNING

There continues to be high demand for the varied Adult Learning programmes delivered via the Adult Skills and Family Learning service and promoted on the 2Aspire website (www.2aspire.org.uk).

The provision continues to positively impact on those who participate, demonstrated by the large number of success stories coming out of this programme. For example, in conjunction with Princes Trust, in the academic year 2017/18 one of our sub-contractors RHG supported the start of 22 businesses in Lincolnshire from the Trust's target group of disadvantaged young people aged 18 to 30. RHG also contributed to positive outcomes for a further 56 learners who attended self-employment workshops run by RHG. Business start-ups included Boston Gourmet Burgers, Nails by Sophie, Brotherhood Tree & Landscape Services, and Hair Chic Boutique in Sleaford. The provision is also very successful in assisting learners to develop volunteering roles within Lincolnshire's heritage sector, including the National Trust, local churches and independent museums. Promotion of this provision via different media, including local radio, local television and in local and county newspapers, continues to widen participation. BBC1 Countryfile programme are visiting Seagull Recycling's EcoCentre in the spring to do a feature on the wide range of Adult Learning opportunities on offer.

Strong partnership working with the Council's Food in Education Team has enabled the Family Learning Service to target schools not worked with recently, including Charles Baines and The Parish in Gainsborough and Bracebridge Infants and Nursery School. This has allowed the service to engage with learners that would not normally take up Family Learning and support learners to make informed decisions about healthy eating as well as encourage progression onto other Family Learning provision. The Council's investment in special educational needs schools supports the important work that the Family Learning service is undertaking in the John Fielding Special School in Boston. The Family ESOL provision, introduced in October 2018, has been very well received by the parents and school alike, and plans are in place to develop this further and securely embed Family Learning in the school so that it is well placed to take advantage of the additional school places as a result of the school's expansion programme.

Family Learning in Bourne continues to successfully integrate into the local community and was delighted to contribute to the recent Remembrance event. Family Learning learners joined hundreds of volunteers in Bourne creating a lasting memorial. The project sponsored by Bourne Town Hall and the Len Pick Trust culminated in a four and a half metre hand-embroidered work. Family Learning learners and their children very much enjoyed the experience.