

COUNTY COUNCIL MEETING – 21 FEBRUARY 2014

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

CHILDREN'S SERVICES

Duke of Edinburgh Awards

I would like to congratulate the forty young people who travelled to St James Palace in London to receive their DofE Gold Award from the Earl of Wessex in February.

In January I spent a Saturday afternoon with twelve young people in care to celebrate their achievement in receiving their Bronze and Silver DofE Award. The young people gave an inspirational presentation highlighting the work they had done to achieve their Award.

Schools

Primary Schools

Two Lincolnshire schools received letters from David Laws MP congratulating them on their excellent performance in the 2013 Primary school performance tables. Dunholme St Chad's Primary were congratulated on being one of 159 schools nationally where 100% of pupils achieved Level 4+ in reading, writing and maths. Lincoln Monks Abbey Primary were congratulated on being in the top 250 schools in terms of progress between Key Stages 1 and 2, and were commended for the performance of all pupils, particularly their disadvantaged pupils.

Secondary Schools

The Key Stage 4 results were published on 24th January. Lincolnshire is again above the national average (by 2.6%) for the percentage of pupils achieving 5+A*-C GCSEs including maths and English (Lincolnshire 61.8% and National 59.2%). Lincolnshire is also 4.2% above national for the percentage of pupils achieving A*-C in all English Baccalaureate subjects (Lincolnshire 27.2% and National 23%).

The percentage of pupils making expected progress between Key Stage 2 and Key Stage 4 is well above the national average in maths (73.6% compared to 71.9%), and while below the national average in English (70.4% compared to 71.6%), we remain above the average of our statistical neighbours.

Ofsted Outcomes

The focus continues to be on satisfactory and requiring improvement schools but also on good schools that are considered vulnerable. This term, there have been six inspections, all of primary schools. Two of these inspections were of Good schools, both of which remained Good. The other four inspections were of Grade 3 schools and two improved to Good, one remained Requires Improvement and one was put in to Special Measures. The proportion of Good or Better primary schools remains at 81%.

Outcomes for young people leaving school

Participation

Performance on September Guarantee has improved from last year with 97.87% of 16 year olds (compared to 95.1%) and 90.56% of 17 year olds (compared to 85.3%) receiving an offer of a place in post 16 education.

Preliminary data shows that only 1.6% of leavers from statutory education did not enter education, employment or training compared to 2.01% last year.

Lincolnshire continues to buck the national trend in terms of Apprentice starts for 16 – 18 year olds with growth of 5.1% compared to a drop of 4.9% regionally and 11.6% nationally.

Provision for learners with learning difficulties and/or disabilities

Supported Internships Pilot

A partnership between the Welfare to Work team and local colleges in Lincolnshire has been piloting supported internships for young people with learning difficulties and/or disabilities. Of the 12 young people who started on the programme in September 2013, two young people have already been offered apprenticeships with Lincoln City Council and these started at the beginning of January. A further 2 have been offered paid jobs. The remainder are progressing well and outcomes look promising with negotiations for employment having commenced for a further 5 young people.

Demographic growth capital funds

Working with and on behalf of providers we have secured over £2million of capital funding from the Education Funding Agency to develop provision for young people with learning difficulties and/or disabilities. The funding supports the implementation of the Lincolnshire Post 16 Strategy for Learners with Learning Difficulties and/or Disabilities and will fund some innovative projects and facilities for partnerships between colleges and special schools.

Families Working Together

Members of the Troubled Families Unit in Department for Communities and Local Government recently visited Families Working Together in Lincoln to check on the county's progress regarding the delivery of the Troubled Families Programme and discuss preparations for Phase 2, due to commence in 2015.

The Whitehall officials were impressed by the nature of the set-up in Lincolnshire and the delivery against the national government targets – which help reduce anti-social behaviour, youth offending, absence from school and worklessness. Through the Families Working Together partnership, Lincolnshire has now identified over 1200 (90%) of the families it needs to work with and is working with over 1000 of them. Families Working Together were able to tell the Troubled Families Unit representatives that Lincolnshire will have 'turned around' one-third of its' families with complex needs – nearly 500 households - by the end of February. Turning a

family around means reducing the number of interventions and saving money for the public purse.

The visit also provided an opportunity to talk about Phase 2 of the project. More money will be available for Lincolnshire in 2015/16 to address the needs of more families with complex needs. The focus will be on earlier intervention with families allowing local areas greater flexibility to target those families in need of early help to avert undesirable consequences in the future. This will prevent costs building up in the system and put Lincolnshire families on the right track for a healthy, successful future.

DFE Recruitment project

At the end of September 2013, Lincolnshire was selected as one of 15 Local Authorities to participate in a time limited project to enhance foster carer resources. The project is jointly co-ordinated by DfE / iMPower and Fostering Network who effectively act as consultants who ensure that good practice is disseminated amongst participants. The motivation to become involved were 3 fold

- 1) Meeting the challenge of an increase in Looked After Children numbers
- 2) Improving the number of carers via recruitment and retention
- 3) Reviewing the effectiveness of in-house systems

At present we have met with 14 sets of foster carers interested in acting as local contacts for recruitment activity and in the coming months will extend the local recruitment model to 4 quarters of the County. Although the project ends at the end of March, it has put in a place a fresh approach to recruitment and engagement with foster carers that will underpin the service into the future

ADULT CARE

Adult Care Performance

Adult Care continue to maintain good performance across a number of areas.

The number of people entering our reablement service and being successfully re-abled to live independently is almost 50% compared to 39% for the same period last year. Furthermore, over 60% of those needing ongoing support do so at a reduced level of service as a result of reablement. With improving performance and closer working across the County with health colleagues there is every possibility that this will develop further and achieve a national top 25% performance status.

We continue to make progress with personalisation, with everyone (100%) eligible for a personal budget now receiving one. Direct Payments continue to grow with over 4600 people now accessing their support through a direct payment.

Admissions to long term care for adults with a learning disability, mental health or a physical disability remain relatively low and stable. This is good because younger adults typically want to be able to lead independent or close-to-independent lives. However, pressure continues with respect to the number of very elderly people admitted into residential or nursing care. We are currently predicting approx.1200

people will be admitted to long term care this financial year. This reflects an increasing intensity of need associated with serving an increasingly older population in which Lincolnshire has the largest growth in the East Midlands region.

Operational efficiency continues to be very good with over 85% of assessments completed within 28 days, compared to 81% for the same period last year. Review performance is at the highest level ever at this time of year. Performance at the end of September was 66% compared to 56% for the same period last year. Reviews are important because it helps to ensure quality of service and that vulnerable people are getting what they need.

People are receiving services more efficiently with 93% of home support packages brokered within 7 days of referral and 79% within 48 hours where the service is to support a hospital discharge. Our ambition will be to work with providers to ensure even better performance to ensure our top 25% performance nationally on discharge delays is maintained.

Care Quality Commission (CQC) Inspections

363 providers representing nursing and residential homes and, home care services in Lincolnshire have been inspected by the Care Quality Commission. Of these 86% were judged to be compliant with the 16 'Essential Standards of Quality and Safety'. Lincolnshire has the highest level of compliance in the East Midlands, where the average compliance level is 75%. This in part reflects the quality assurance work undertaken by Adult Care, our commitment to subsidised training for providers, the quality of our relationship with providers themselves and the on-going relationship with CQC to identify poor quality providers and support them to improve.

Macmillan End of Life Support Service

In response to the growing number of carers who need support when caring for someone at the end of life, Macmillan funded an 'End of Life Carers Support' project which was launched in Lincolnshire in 2012 and hosted by Carers Connect. A review of the service, which was undertaken in November 2013, identified that 99.3% of the 305 carers referred to the service had been offered and had received support, with 80% of people receiving a completed assessment and 66% receiving a Carers Emergency Response Plan (CERS). As well as indicating success at preventing carer breakdown, the service also helps people to die in their location of choice and offers carers with much needed ongoing support during the end of life and palliative stages. The funding for this post was due to cease in March 2014. However, we are pleased to announce that funding for a further year has been secured and therefore the service will continue up until March 2015. During the next 12 months we will be seeking to include the delivery for this service within our new Carers Hub.

Carers

I am pleased to announce that we have agreed a new grant agreement with the Lincolnshire Carers and Young Carers Partnership. This agreement will help to enable the voice of Carers and Young Carers to be heard. The Partnership also plays a significant part in shaping the strategic direction of services and opportunities for Carers across Lincolnshire. The Carers and Young Carers Partnership have a new staff team in place and are already making an impact in terms of carers getting

involved, and in supporting the current refresh of the Lincolnshire Carers Strategy. The Partnership will also be hosting its much anticipated annual conference in May this year.

Budget Update

The Adult Care budget is currently reporting a predicted overspend at the end of this financial year of £0.5M. This is a significant reduction compared to the previous statement (£1.9m) and is due primarily to a reduction in Short Term Care and Respite within the Older People service, lower than anticipated growth within Learning Disabilities and increased use of the Better Care Fund (formerly known as the Integrated Transformation Fund). Notwithstanding, I expect Adult Care will achieve a balanced budget by the end of the financial year – the second year in succession that it has been achieved.

The service continues to deliver savings with £33.225m anticipated by the end of 2013/14 (after 3 years) from an initial target of £39m (over four years). Adult Care also continues to have one of the lowest management and non-front-line costs of similar authorities with the service delivering good value for money.

Adult Care has recently agreed its 2014/15 budget will be £143.64m. This includes a proposed increase in base allocation of £5.5M.

Funding for Adult Care is also being made available via the Better Care Fund. However the use of this funding is subject to formal agreement with Clinical Commissioning Groups through the Health and Wellbeing Board. Discussions are also ongoing with the four Lincolnshire Clinical Commissioning Groups concerning how the 2015/16 allocation of £48.4m is allocated across Adult Care and Health. The ability of Adult Care to manage within budget is increasingly dependent on the funding coming from the Better Care Fund. This is also intended to support integration with local health partners and help prepare for the advent of the Care Bill and funding reforms.

PUBLIC HEALTH

Children's Health Programme

Public Health staff are working closely with colleagues from Children's Services to embed a range of Public Health services in our children's centres. A new joint programme looking at helping families access services such as weight management in children's centres will be developed and rolled out in the new financial year. It is hoped that this will encourage young parents to make healthier lifestyle choices earlier for themselves and their children.

Weight Watchers Adult Weight Management Programme

A Weight Watchers by Referral success event was held in November to recognise some of those Lincolnshire residents who have managed to lose weight on the 12 week programme. Two GP practices also received awards for the highest number of referrals and the best outcomes for their patients.

Since the programme started in Lincolnshire in April 2012, over 6,000 residents have been referred. Last year 60% of those completing the course lost at least 5% of their body weight and the service is seeing that level of success in even more people this year

Wellbeing Service

The procurement process for the Wellbeing Service is now in the final stages and the new provider is expected to be announced by the end of February 2014. The service is designed to reduce demand for statutory services and provide much better, relevant information at the right time to individuals, their carers and families. Investing in helping people remain independent, such as practical help in the home, or equipment such as hand rails, can save the costs of long term care, as well as providing safer, more accessible homes. The service will promote the use of assistive technology as well as providing a much needed countywide rapid response service. Overall, the model will provide a sophisticated preventative service which will prevent accidents; lead to fewer patients in hospital; facilitate early discharge and avoid expensive re-admissions.

LIFELONG LEARNING

The Apprentice Champions continue to bring young people and employers together to ensure a more effective transition from learning to work and have been successful in bringing additional funding into the County, through working with the Work Based Learning Alliance. They are currently organising the county's largest Skills and Careers event that will take place in Spalding on 4th and 5th March. The Lincolnshire Skills Show Experience, funded through the national Skills Show, will inspire young people and young adults through interactive skills activities and experiences, and bring together public and private sector, as well as parents and teachers.

Adult Learning continues to evolve and align itself even more closely with the Council's priorities, working in partnership with small providers throughout Lincolnshire to deliver over 12,000 learning opportunities each year. The courses which are run are highly varied, providing skills which support local economic growth.