

COUNTY COUNCIL MEETING – 27 September 2022

Statement from: Councillor Mrs W Bowkett – Executive Councillor for Adult Care and Public Health

ADULT CARE

Home Care Attraction Campaign

Given the challenge of recruiting enough skilled care workers in Lincolnshire. In March 2022, the Adult Care External Workforce Strategy Group in partnership with a company called Social Change initiated an attraction campaign. The key messages: 'It's not a job, it's a life' and 'It's not a job, it's a calling' draw attention to the benefits of job security, career progression and work-life balance present within adult social care that cannot always be found in other sectors.

The campaign attracted 155 people to apply for employment in the home care sector. Social Change are currently undertaking an end of campaign evaluation which will review key metrics relating to recruitment. The evaluation will help to inform how further improvements to recruitment campaigns could be made to strengthen attraction and recruitment into the care sector.

In House Day Services

I am pleased to say that the Lincolnshire County Council restaurant 'The Quad' re-opened in June 2022 at Lincolnshire County Offices. Officers from adult care day services are co-ordinating the running of the service, which provides the opportunity for those with learning disabilities to gain valuable work experience and to develop their skills in catering, serving and customer service.

Direct Payments Policy

Direct Payments enable eligible people to have more choice and control over their care. An updated policy is now available which was co-produced with a group of Lincolnshire residents, including Direct Payments recipients and carers, which presents information on Direct Payments in an encouraging and user-friendly way. The number of people using Direct Payments has grown significantly which is a priority for my area.

The Lincolnshire Safeguarding Adults Board (LSAB)

The LSAB continues to provide support and guidance to partners on a number of complex areas of practice; and to support this, has recently developed and refreshed guidance around specific issues such as self-neglect, cuckooing and managing allegations against persons in a position of trust.

The 'Team Around that Adult' initiative has also been very successful in supporting partners to better support people with complex lifestyles where a traditional approach has not been successful. This has now evolved further, where key partners have identified the 'top 10' most challenging individuals to their organisation; and a small multi-agency audit group develop a support plan, identify themes and seek strategic solutions which will offer long-

term practice improvements. The first audit group was very successful, with positive feedback from partners and the next meeting is scheduled to take place shortly.

The Annual NHS Safeguarding Adults Collection data was successfully submitted and demonstrates continued improvement for safeguarding practice in Lincolnshire.

The Adult Safeguarding Team.

The Adult Safeguarding Team worked hard through the Covid 19 pandemic to ensure that adults at risk of harm were appropriately protected and supported. A recent internal audit found that the Council and Adults Safeguarding Team acted promptly to explore alternative options to meet the requirements of the Care Act, with updated safeguarding guidance and putting in place a risk assessment framework to prioritise safeguarding referrals and mitigate the risks presented by the visiting limitations imposed by the Covid 19 pandemic, resulting in a high assurance opinion.

Approved Mental Health Professionals Service

The new integrated day time and out of hours Approved Mental Health Professionals (AMPH's) Service went live on the 1 April 2022. The team provide a critical support to people at times of mental health crisis. The team also play a valuable role in promoting least restrictive practice and where possible avoiding the need for admission to Mental Health Inpatient Care.

Previously the daytime service was provided by Lincolnshire Partnership NHS Foundation Trust (LPFT) but following a decision by LPFT that the service was no longer sustainable a new integrated service has been developed by the Council. The new integrated service will deliver more joined up outcomes for the people who need support.

Exploring Occupational Therapy Integration in the Community

We are exploring the opportunities presented by closer collaboration between Community Occupational Therapy services in Lincolnshire Community Health Services (LCHS) and Lincolnshire County Council (LCC). Working closely with colleagues in the Primary Care Networks and our Neighbourhood Teams in the south of the county we are working together to prevent unnecessary duplication by ensuring people see the right therapist at the right time, the first time. We are exploring joint decision making at triage, joint training, shared documentation as well as myth busting that challenges custom and practice.

It is expected that these changes will also help speed up service response time and address the backlog of assessments that exist in both health and care organisations.

PUBLIC HEALTH

Greater Lincolnshire Public Health Pilot

We are now seven months into our Greater Lincolnshire Public Health Pilot, which will reach a decision-point in February 2023. At that point, we will decide if the arrangement should be formalised on a permanent basis, if it should continue for a fixed duration or if we should bring it to an end. The Local Government Association has been commissioned to carry out an

independent evaluation of the pilot and the results of this evaluation will feed into the decision-making process.

So far, the pilot has led to:

- Regular collaboration between the Greater Lincolnshire Public Health Senior Leadership Team.
- The creation of a Greater Lincolnshire Public Health Oversight Board.
- Development of a single Health Protection Service covering Greater Lincolnshire.
- Cooperation between the three Public Health Intelligence Functions to agree a set of core principles and to identify opportunities for closer working (such as Covid-19 Intelligence and Suicide Surveillance).

We are currently exploring other potential areas for a Greater Lincolnshire approach, including the Substance Misuse Services and the Workforce Development Programme.

Know Your Numbers (Hypertension)

At the full Council meeting in December last year, I announced that Public Health would be working with local health colleagues to develop a Know Your Numbers campaign in Lincolnshire. Since then, an article has been included in County News, highlighting the importance of knowing your blood pressure and raising awareness of the services available to support people.

Additionally, our integrated adult lifestyle service, 'One You Lincolnshire', attended the Lincolnshire Show to promote Know Your Numbers and to demonstrate how the services that they offer can assist people in managing their blood pressure. The Blood Pressure UK 'Know Your Numbers' awareness week took place from the 5 September and we worked with the Communications department and the Integrated Care Board to develop a plan and produce joint communications relating to the campaign.

Child Weight Management

In January, an agreement was made for a Child Weight Management programme to be established this year. We produced a report on children's healthy weight in April and developed a service specification. I am delighted to announce that our new children's weight management service, known as 'Energy', is launching this month. Energy is aligned as a family resource to support results from the National Child Weight Measurement scheme. During 2021/22, our Integrated Healthy Lifestyle Service supported over 2,400 adults to lose at least 5% of their total body weight. Following this excellent outcome, we are optimistic that Energy can demonstrate similar successes.

Health Inequalities

Public Health have created a dedicated workstream to support work on health inequalities. In the spring, we identified a programme team to provide specific support to the Integrated Care System (ICS) Clinical Diagnostic Hub Programme. We are co-leading the NHS ICS Health Inequalities strategy development and are in the process of defining strategic, tactical and operational priority actions across Lincolnshire. These actions will be developed into a clear narrative for how the ICS is addressing health inequalities, which will add to the evidence base around disparities in Lincolnshire. We also chair an ICS and Population Health Management

(PHM) Health Inequalities working group, which supports the delivery of Primary Care Network profiles with a focus on Health Inequalities. The group also works to improve and standardise Health Inequalities recording, analytics and reporting across Lincolnshire.

Oral Health

Oral health issues, such as tooth decay and gum disease, can cause pain and discomfort, which negatively impacts overall wellbeing. Thankfully, poor oral health is largely preventable, which is why oral health promotion is another important priority for public health. Earlier this year, we received £115,000 to develop oral health promotion work across Lincolnshire and we have worked with the Oral Health Alliance Group to identify the best use of this funding.

We currently have a range of local projects underway to support oral health, including:

- A programme that provides toothbrushes and toothpaste to families living in Boston when their child reaches 6-8 weeks of age, to support good oral health behaviours and access to fluoride toothpaste from a young age.
- The Lincolnshire Smiles programme, delivered by the Community Dental Service, which is a supervised brushing programme in early years and primary education settings to prevent decay and establish good life-long oral health behaviours.
- A programme called Swallowing, Oral Health and Nutritional Ambassadors – or SONA for short – which improves outcomes for older adults by increasing social care staff knowledge and skills in oral health.

Public health is also working closely with the Local Dental Council, NHS England and Health Education England to explore ways to improve the challenges around access to a local NHS dentist.

Substance Misuse

In Lincolnshire, our substance misuse service is delivered by the organisation We Are With You. Over the past year, using additional funding from Central Government, we have been able to invest in additional capacity to support people who experience harm from alcohol and/or drug use. For example, in Lincoln we have piloted a female specific worker who has supported vulnerable women to manage their alcohol or drug use and to successfully progress through treatment. We are delighted to be continuing to fund this post, and others, to improve outcomes for people in Lincolnshire over the coming year.

Mental Health and Wellbeing

Protecting the mental health and wellbeing of people – children and adults alike – across Lincolnshire remains a key priority for Public Health. Within this broad programme of work there are some key areas of focus including:

- Helping people to understand how to look after their mental wellbeing.
- Building mental health promoting places and resilient individuals, families and communities.
- Assisting people across Lincolnshire to know how to support those around them through training such as Mental Health First Aid.
- A programme of work around suicide prevention that includes improving our understanding of people at risk of suicide (and targeting support services accordingly) and working with the CCG to commission a suicide bereavement service.

In the second week of May, we launched a communication campaign for Mental Health Awareness Week. We continued to build upon this, developing a broader public health communication plan, based on the Five Ways to Wellbeing, which began on the 10th of September and will run until World Mental Health Day on the 10th of October. We also recently produced a media and communications campaign leading up to World Suicide Prevention Day, which took place on the 10th of September. This campaign encouraged people to utilise the free Suicide Awareness e-learning programme by Zero Suicide Alliance. The Covid pandemic exacerbated mental health and wellbeing needs for many people across Lincolnshire and so we will continue to prioritise this area of work to make sure we have a strong approach to mental health promotion across Lincolnshire.

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