

## **COUNTY COUNCIL MEETING – 19 DECEMBER 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**

#### **Lincolnshire Family Services Directory and the SEND Local Offer**

The new-look Family Services Directory (FSD) at [www.lincolnshire.gov.uk/fsd](http://www.lincolnshire.gov.uk/fsd) formally launched on 1 September 2014, and incorporates Lincolnshire's Local Offer for children and young people with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) and their families.

The Local Offer is part of the SEND Reforms within the Children and Families Act 2014, and requires Local Authorities to make available on-line information about services and organisations which support SEND, including information about EHC (Education, Health & Care) Plans, Personal Budgets and the Transition Pathway documents.

The SEND Local Offer itself can be found on the FSD at:  
[www.lincolnshire.gov.uk/sendlocaloffer](http://www.lincolnshire.gov.uk/sendlocaloffer)

#### **Lincolnshire Young Inspectors**

Lincolnshire Young Inspectors programme is an established part of Lincolnshire County Council Performance Assurance and makes an active contribution to the Quality Assurance framework. The young inspectors programme aims to support young people from hard-to-reach and underrepresented groups to participate in volunteer opportunities increasing their self-esteem and self-confidence leading to improved life chances. There are currently 18 young inspectors aged 12-17 years, who volunteer their time to help improve services for other children and young people across Lincolnshire. During the recent Ofsted visit, two young inspectors shadowed one of the Ofsted inspectors whilst they were undertaking an interview with a member of staff. The inspector then accompanied the young people to a wider meeting of six young inspectors where an open discussion was held. The young people were able to inform the inspector of the positive work they had undertaken. This included the inspection visits to Children's Centres where they had highlighted that many parents did not understand what safeguarding actually meant and thought it was around safety equipment. Young people had made a recommendation that more work could be done in Children's Centres to ensure everybody understood the safeguarding message, providing an example of how this could be achieved.

Young people also spoke about the mystery inspection completed on Condom Card venues across the county. By highlighting inconsistencies in practice, further training had taken place with staff leading to an improved, better quality service for other young people. Ofsted were impressed with the young inspectors' project and suggested that Lincolnshire Young Inspectors might like to go down to London to meet with Ofsted and share ideas of best practice. A small group of the young inspectors have since written a letter to Ofsted to arrange the visit in the New Year.

#### **Score Project**

As detailed in Cllr Colin Davie's statement, the Council's SCoRE project, which supports Lincolnshire schools in saving money through reducing energy, has been recognised in a national award scheme. The project won the Gold Award in the local authority energy reduction category and Cllr David Brailsford attended the Awards Ceremony at Westminster.

## **Primary**

In the autumn term (up to w/e Friday 21 November) there have been 26 inspections. Five schools have been judged outstanding: all had previously been judged good. Fifteen schools have been judged good, with six of these improving from requiring improvement or satisfactory and nine schools retaining their previous good judgement. Four schools were judged to require improvement (RI): two had previously been found to require improvement and two had moved from good to RI. We are still awaiting publication of the final two inspection outcomes.

As at the end of October 2014, 85% of Lincolnshire primary schools are judged to be good or better, with 12% judged as outstanding. The percentage of good or better primary schools has risen since the end of the autumn term 2013 (81%). As a service we are now focusing our work on supporting and challenging good primary schools in their move to outstanding.

Middle Rasen and Horncastle St Lawrence Schools both had their Ofsted inspection reports published this month with these two schools being criticised by Ofsted for not ensuring their pupils have first hand experience of the diverse make up of modern British society. Both reports praise the schools but say that they cant be outstanding because their pupils cultural development was limited by a lack of first hand experience and that pupils needed to have more awareness of other British cultures

It is important to highlight that both inspection reports highlight the excellent work that is going on in the schools and they deserve the good rating . With regard to the recent media coverage, there are many schools in the County which face similar challenges and our schools work hard to ensure that pupils gain the widest possible experience of cultural diversity. I have written to the Secretary of State to highlight my concerns

## **Secondary**

For the autumn term (up to 31 October 2014) there have been eight inspections of which four were good, and four were requiring improvement (RI). One of the schools who achieved RI was previously in special measures; the other three RI schools remained RI as achievement is not improving fast enough.

Currently 14 schools (27%) are outstanding, 23 are good (45%), 12 are RI (24%) and 2 are inadequate (4%). We also have three schools which are new in terms of Academy status, who are yet to be inspected. Currently, all of Lincolnshire's maintained grammar schools are graded as outstanding. (Six of the selective area schools have been judged as RI and one is still in special measures.)

CfBT continues to support and challenge the 14 schools that are graded RI or special measures in terms of Ofsted, but it should be noted that 12 out of 14 of these schools have below average attainment on entry. This is the most significant factor leading to the downgrading of our schools and/or the seeming inertia in schools moving from RI to good.

## **Key Stage 4 - Background to the 2014 Results**

Overall it is very difficult to compare this year's results with last year's because the Government has made so many changes and there are more to come next year. It is evident that the majority of figures overall are down on 2013.

Changes which have had the most impact include:

- Only the grade achieved for the first attempt at an exam counts in published school data. Re-sit or re-entry results do not count in school performance data;
- Short tests and modular exams have been replaced by an end of course exam;
- Coursework now counts for a significantly smaller proportion of final grades;

- In English, speaking and listening was removed mid-course, from units which count toward the final grade.

Next year many work-related courses will no longer be examined and the few that remain will count for far fewer grades.

### **Key Stage 5**

The 16-18 performance tables include the percentages of students achieving A levels at grades AAB or higher in 'facilitating' subjects. These indicators cover A levels only.

The facilitating subjects are:

Biology, Chemistry, Physics, Mathematics, Further Mathematics, Geography, History, English Literature and Classical/Modern Languages.

The 'AAB+' indicators include students who achieve three A levels in facilitating subjects at grades AAB and also three A levels, of which two are in facilitating subjects, at grades AAB.

This is the first year we would expect to see the impact of this change introduced in 2012. In addition, from September 2013 students were no longer able to sit A level exams in January.

Performance in Lincolnshire is above the national average.

- Nationally, the proportion of A-level exam entries resulting in an A or A\* grade has dropped by 0.2% to 26.3%. This drop could be attributed to more exam entries in facilitating subjects;
- So far in Lincolnshire the indications are that A-A\* grades have risen by 2% from 23.6% to 25.6%, closing the gap with the national figure considerably;
- The overall pass rate is 98.5% for grades A\*-E and nine of our schools (two more than last year) have reported pass rates of 100%.

### **Special**

There has been one special school inspection so far this term. The school was judged as good having previously been requires improvement. This means that there are now no Lincolnshire special schools or academies below 'good' in terms of Ofsted.

30% of special schools and academies are now judged outstanding, the remainder are good.

## **ADULT CARE**

### **Adult Care Performance**

Demand for services continues to grow, with 14,400 people currently accessing services. 8,000 are supported with long term support either in the community with a personal budget, or in permanent residential care. The remaining 6,400 people are receiving on-going support in the community. The general increase (1,000 people compared to a year ago) is mostly fuelled by the growth of older people requesting support.

Admissions to permanent residential care for younger adults remain low and stable. For older adults, the rate of admission is particularly low this year, with 100 fewer placements made between April and September 2014, compared to the same period last year. This is particularly good because it means we are supporting more people to remain at home.

The uptake of services would be much greater if our 'front door' offering was not as effective as it is. Based on a stronger approach to providing information and advice three quarters of contacts from new potential service users are being signposted appropriately instead of progressing down the funded care route. The Wellbeing Service has played its part in this.

With regard to the Reablement Service, which is now provided by the local NHS Mental Health Trust, 50% of people accessing the intensive service have regained their independence and require no ongoing support from Adult Care. Also, the percentage of clients admitted to hospital after reablement has reduced to 16%, which further demonstrates the effectiveness of the intervention and reduces the pressure on local hospitals.

For people who have already been admitted to hospital, Adult Care has worked closely with health colleagues to reduce unnecessary delays. For two consecutive years, Lincolnshire has been one of the best performing authorities in respect of delayed transfers of care with an average of 8.5 delayed patients per 100,000 population, and 1.4 delayed patients per 100,000 where the delay was caused by Adult Care. In the last six months, the number of delays has reduced further still. It will be a real challenge to maintain this position as winter unfolds but the plans made between Adult Care and Health colleagues should help to mitigate the additional pressure we expect to face.

Operational efficiency continues to be very good with 88% of assessments completed within 28 days. People are receiving services more efficiently with 90% of home support packages brokered within seven days of referral, and 94% of direct payments processed within 14 days. Adult Care are on track to review 90% of people in the year, which would show a good improvement from 80% last year - which in itself represents upper quartile performance. Reviews ensure that people have the most appropriate support services to meet their needs and keep them safe.

The Authority is also experiencing an increase in demand from carers. 6,600 carers are currently supported by the Carers Service Team or one of the Trusted Assessors for Carers, the majority of which are offered a direct payment to meet their particular needs as a carer. Carers also want reassurance that the person(s) they care for are looked after should something happen to them. The Carers Emergency Response Service (CERS) addresses this need, and 50% of carers have a CERS plan in place, which can be activated at any time, day or night.

People are generally happy with the care and support they receive, with 92% of service users responding to the 2014 Adult Care Experience Survey saying they were at least quite satisfied. 84% of people responding to the survey also said that the care and support services they received made them feel safe and secure. The number of complaints received by Adult Care has fallen consistently since 2011/12, also suggesting that the service is improving. From April to November 2014, only 30 complaints have been substantiated (compared to 66 substantiated complaints in 2013/14).

Notwithstanding the consistent improvements I have already mentioned, the level of budget pressure against increased demand will mean that it will be a challenge to retain good or excellent performance in the future. This is a national phenomenon and something that the National Audit Office has commented upon recently.

### **Budget Update**

Adult Care continues to forecast expenditure to be in line with the budget of £145.036m. If successful this will be the third year in succession that Adult Care has avoided an overspend despite increased pressure for services. However, there are a number of budget pressures within the service:

- Continuing high cost pressures for Learning Disabilities from Children's Services as transition cases. We are also looking at the impact of the increased number of young people being assessed as part of the changes to how Special Educational Needs for Children with Disability (SEND) cases are assessed.

- Pressures in short term care placements and within domiciliary care as we continue to divert away from residential placements where possible.
- Pressures continue to increase as a result of the Cheshire West Judgement in relation to the Deprivation of Liberty Safeguards. Work to identify the ongoing cost this year and into future years has been undertaken and more detail will be made available in budget monitoring reports presented to the Executive during the financial year.

### **Autism Strategy**

Exciting developments are underway across Lincolnshire to enhance and develop the services available to individuals who have an autism spectrum disorder. Lincolnshire County Council, Lincolnshire Clinical Commissioning Groups, Health and Community service providers, Carers and those who access services are working together to re-launch the Lincolnshire Autism Partnership Board in 2015. The re-launch will shape the way the partnership board works towards delivering the action plan for the Lincolnshire Autism strategy.

In response to the national strategy, along with the recent refresh, *Think Autism*, published in 2014, and taking into account the key findings from The National Autistic Society (2014) *Independent review of services for Children and Young People with Autism in Lincolnshire*, the forward thinking decision was made to establish an All-Age Autism Strategy. This Strategy covers children, young people and adults living with autism in Lincolnshire (including those placed out of county) and their families/carers.

This Strategy also applies to people who have autism alongside other conditions, for example a learning disability and/or mental health problem. The aims of the Strategy are:

- To share an ambitious model for promoting and enabling the best care, support, enablement and social inclusion of people with autism of all ages and their families / carers in Lincolnshire;
- To inspire commissioners and providers in the local authority, health and non-statutory sectors to commission and deliver a better future for local people living with autism;
- To ensure Lincolnshire reflects national policy and adheres to current legislation;
- To ensure Lincolnshire uses resources efficiently and effectively.

The key themes of the Strategy are out to public consultation and the Strategy is due to be launched in spring 2015. There will be an event held on 30 January 2015 where people interested in learning about the autism partnership board or becoming a part of the board and/ or the implementation of the autism strategy can learn more about how to get involved. Details will be made available on the County Council website.

## **COMMUNITY LEARNING**

### **Quality Accreditation**

I am delighted to announce that the Community Learning Service and Young People's Learning Provision (YPLP) have worked in partnership to gain the Matrix Standard which is a quality accreditation around Information, Advice and Guidance (IAG) and a funding requirement of the Skills Funding Agency. The Matrix Assessor described the Services as a 'Good to Outstanding' Provider and was full of praise for the work around IAG which is being delivered.

Key strengths of the Services were leadership and direction, involving staff and learners in shaping the services, partnership arrangements and good delivery of IAG before, during and after the end of a course.

The Community Learning Service has also supported all of its smaller providers to achieve the Matrix standard thereby ensuring that all learners across the Service receive good Information, Advice and Guidance to ensure they are on the right course for them and to support end of course progression to further learning, volunteering and employment.

### **Skills Show**

The Lincolnshire Skills Show took place on 5 and 6 November at Butlins, Skegness. Organised by the Apprentice Champions, managed by the WBLA (Work Based Learning Alliance) who are Employment and Skills Board members, and funded through ESF money (European funding), the event provided hands-on, bite-size skills experiences for almost 3,000 visitors. School children, young people and adults who are unemployed were inspired by exhibitions and practical skills challenges from engineering, construction, catering, health and care and much more. This was a real partnership event, with training providers, employers, schools and Job Centres working together. Statistics are still being gathered but we know that several businesses who exhibited recruited people into jobs on the day.

## **PUBLIC HEALTH**

### **Obesity**

Once again, Lincolnshire County Council has contributed to and steered the national debate on the links between spatial planning and health and wellbeing. In late summer, we were lucky enough to host and support the Town and Country Planning Association (TCPA) in running a local workshop with experts on Public Health and planning matters around 'obesogenic environments'. This evidence has helped inform a national TCPA document on how we might plan to mitigate the effects of a 'fat causing' environment. This is receiving a UK Parliamentary launch this month.

### **Universal Free School Meals**

The beginning of the new academic year saw all primary schools in Lincolnshire offering free meals to all eligible year groups. A small number of schools were unable to meet their aspiration to offer a hot meal to every child, so work with our team is continuing. However, we are now in a stable enough position to begin the next stage of planning. This has kicked off with a round of discussions with headmasters and caterers to establish a common view of what approaches the County should take to this important work in future.

### **NHS Health Checks and Adult Weight Management**

Lincolnshire slimmers were rewarded for their weight loss success at a ceremony in Horncastle on Friday 3 October 2014. I attended along with the Chairman of the County Council, Cllr Bill Aron. We presented awards to ten people who had lost weight through the Weight Watchers referral scheme, commissioned by Public Health.

Three further awards were presented to GP surgeries in the county whose referrals to the scheme have been most successful. Between them the ten finalists had lost 36 stone. In Lincolnshire in 2013 there were 3,854 Weight Watchers referrals and this amounted to 2,065 stone in weight loss.

### **Food and Growing**

The work of the Growing Programme has now become firmly embedded in communities across the county. The programme is commissioned directly through District Councils as well as through the charities Garden Organic and Green Synergy. The growing programme was designed as a means not only of encouraging physical activity, but also of empowering local people and supporting them to take pride in their public spaces. The growing projects engage populations from a wide range of backgrounds and with a variety of physical and social needs. There is extensive volunteer activity across all the sites; the ultimate aim being

that many of these sites become self-sustaining. The dedication of the volunteers coupled with the expertise of the commissioned service providers has brought a number of notable successes over recent months:

'Ellie's Community Garden' is a residents' growing site based at the Tower Estate in Abbey ward – an area of Lincoln with very high levels of deprivation. The site has been supported by Green Synergy but is now run almost entirely by a very active group of residents, who also provide a Kids' Growing Club over the school holidays. The members are not only responsible for running the garden, but are now also beginning to take on the governance of the site. Their hard work was rewarded this summer when they were given 'best garden in show' at the Abbey in Bloom awards. The group was presented with a plaque and visited by BBC Radio Lincolnshire's Melvyn Prior.

Boston Borough Council's growing programme currently supports 20 community spaces across the town, including gardens at Axiom homeless hostel, Fydell House heritage site and Age UK allotments, as well as plots at a number of schools, community centres and open-access parks. This level of activity relies on providing support to large numbers of committed volunteers. The quality of the work was recognised in September when Boston was awarded a Silver Gilt by the Royal Horticultural Society in the East Midlands in Bloom competition. A number of sites were singled out for praise including the Boston West Academy and the Geoff Moulder leisure complex. The judges commented on a series of successful achievements made possible by the input of community groups and volunteers; they described the gardens as "impressive," "stunning" and "wonderful" and noted that it was "evident that the teams worked hard to make Boston a better place."

### **Community Health Champions**

The Live Well Champions project has progressed excellently throughout its first six months of operation, training over 45 people already to give brief advice within their local communities. Of the 45, 15 registered and passed the accredited RSPH (Royal Society of Public Health) Level 2 in Understanding Health Improvement qualification held in October, allowing them to further promote health and wellbeing locally through volunteering opportunities.

### **Wellbeing Service**

The Wellbeing Service completed its second quarter of delivery on 30 September. The Wellbeing Service Partners are showing commendable commitment to meeting the increasing, and often complex, demands of the service. They have all been working closely with the County Council's Wellbeing Service Team sharing areas of good practice, addressing common issues and concerns to ensure the service is developed consistently across the county.

During this quarter there have been 828 new referrals, similar in number to quarter one, of which 40% have been self-referrals. From referral, an eligibility check for the service is made by assessing the individual against a number of triggers. The most frequently hit triggers this quarter have been a history of falls, trouble mobilising around the home, on a number of medications and feeling isolated.

In addition to the 828 wellbeing referrals, the Wellbeing Service providers have completed a significant number of Adult Care Telecare equipment installations.

Take up of the Wellbeing Response Service has increased with currently 523 people countywide signed up to receive this element of the service. The providers have responded to 100% of calls well within the maximum two hour time frame.

Over the last couple of months there has been a real push to increase awareness of the service to the public and professionals, including a number of events in South Kesteven area

and ones planned for West Lindsey, resulting in more referrals being made for the vital support the Wellbeing Service has to offer.