

Annual Report

Councillor Tracy Brown, Champion for Children and Young People

I am delighted to present my second Annual Report as Champion for Children and Young People.

Children's Partnership Board - CPBs have continued to meet quarterly. The Lancaster district hosted the meeting on the 23rd September at Lancaster Town Hall, other meetings have been hosted by Fylde and Wyre councils in Poulton and Lytham. Membership of the Fylde, Lancaster and Wyre CPB is made up of multi-agency officers who hold a senior leadership role within their organisation that ensure they can either make resourcing decisions or can provide a perspective of the sector they represent. The purpose of the CPB is to drive and deliver effective multi agency working that safeguards and promotes the well-being of children and young people and improves outcome for families. All three district councils are represented at CPB meeting with both an elected member and a Senior Manager. The Board, as a sub-group of the county-wide Children and Young People's Trust, provides a means by which local agencies can come together to ensure effective collaboration in the development and delivery of services to children and their families, and ensures that local priorities can be influenced by local people.

One of the top priorities this year for the CPB was 'Online Safety – to share information and raise awareness'. Lancaster took this on board and organised an Online Safeguarding event, recognising an opportunity to host an event in the north of the county making it easily accessible for people working in the district. The Online Safeguarding event was held on 1st December at Moor Lane Mills in Lancaster it was a huge success, with approximately 90 C&YP frontline workers attending. The 2-hour session was led by Graham Lowe the Online Safeguarding Adviser for Lancashire Safeguarding Children Board, he provided an overview of current risk areas across the Online Safeguarding agenda including Information Privacy, Online Grooming, Bullying, Sexting, Radicalisation, Gaming and Social Media. The session provided opportunities for discussion along with practical advice and recommended supporting resources, Graham also highlighted the LSCB's Seven Minute Briefings as being another source of readily available Safeguarding Information available on the LSCB's website and a selection of the briefings were on display at the event.

Children's Holiday Activities Programme - The Summer Holiday Activities Programme was produced with the help of some funding from Lancashire's Children and Young People Trust. It included activities for children and young people provided by the City Council, along with those being offered in the district by partner organisations. The result was a comprehensive on-line brochure and an 'at a glance guide' which was an asset to families in the district, providing a central resource on available activities during the summer holidays.

Children's Holiday Activity programmes for children aged from 4 to 16 are also available during other school holiday periods, in February, April, May and October. Each programme is packed with exciting art and sport workshops at affordable prices to make them accessible for all. Places prove to be popular and are strictly limited to ensure a high quality coaching session. All our workshops are in a fun and safe environment delivered by experienced coaches.

The Children and Young People's Multi Agency Forum -

This forum has met on five occasions over the year, coordinated by the council's Children and Young People's Coordinator. It continues to provide a valuable opportunity for those working with children and young people in the district to share information and keep up to date with what is happening on

the front-line. Guest speakers are invited to give presentations on new developments and many new contacts are forged enabling practitioner's working with children and young people to keep up to date with current services in the district.

Meetings have been held at Lancaster Town Hall, Lancaster Boys & Girls Club, YPS Centre at Morecambe Library, Cancer Care and University of Cumbria. In between meetings the C&YP Coordinator distributes information on behalf of members of the forum, sharing information and keeping everyone better informed about local opportunities and changes to services for children and young people in the district. This forum continues to be a successful example of agencies and individuals working together practically and effectively.

Safeguarding and Child Sexual Exploitation - The council's safeguarding arrangements for children and young people are up-to-date and meet current requirements. The Safeguarding Policy has been revised and is easy to read and follow should an incident arise, and includes an online reporting form designed to simplify the process by which staff can report safeguarding concerns or queries, the council's intranet service (Elsie) also has an electronic option for reporting. The Safeguarding Children's Policy is accessed through the intranet, this ensures that the most up to date version is always readily available.

The authority continues to complete the Lancashire Safeguarding Children Board (LSCB) Section 11 Audit, which ensures that Safeguarding is at the forefront of all council activities and that such procedures and practices are an integral part of our business. The Community Safety and Safeguarding Officer attends regular meetings with district council representatives with safeguarding responsibilities in other districts of Lancashire.

Taxi drivers have received Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE) training and this will be an integral part of the requirement for new drivers applying for their licenses.

Democratic Services arranged CSE training for Council Members this was delivered by the Licensing Manager and DCI Tony Baxter (former police officer), the session was attended by ten councillors. The presentation from the briefing is available on the Councillors section of the Intranet (Elsie) under Past Briefings.

Local Plan Consultation - Continuing with the next stage of the Local Plan Consultation looking at the proposed approach to allocating future housing and employment land young people in the district have been encouraged to have their say.

Local Democracy Activities - During June 2016 Lancaster Town Hall hosted a 'Pupil Power Event' attended by thirty four year 5/6 pupils from five primary schools from across the district. This provided an excellent opportunity for young people to meet councillors and officers, and find out how a district council works, and how decisions are made about budgets and service provision. Pupils attending received a leaflet - 'Guide for pupils attending the event' this was produced in house and helped prepare them for their visit to the town hall giving them an introduction to council services. The Mayor's Beadle led a guided tour around the town hall and pupils visited the Mayor's Parlour, the old prison cells, council chamber and learnt about the history of the town hall.

As part of the National Citizens Project (NCS) two Local Democracy Days were carried out at the University of Cumbria during the summer, these proved to be popular with the young people and provided the opportunity for young people 16 – 18 to get to know about the local council and the services provided. Some council members attended and took part in a Question and Answer session, this was an opportunity to quiz elected members and find out more about their duties. Two further

sessions at Lancaster and Morecambe College took place in the Autumn term, students from the Travel & Tourism and Public Service Course got to debate services that were important to them and also questioned councillors about their duties.

Apprenticeships - The council continues to provide apprenticeships, creating opportunities for local young people to train and learn in a working environment. Apprenticeships have been provided in lots of different areas of the council.

Career Events - Through visiting local schools the council aims to inform pupils and their parents about the variety of job roles performed by the council, to give advice on careers within the council, and to promote us as an employer. These events always generate lots of interest from pupils and their parents.

Play Areas - are maintained by Environmental Services - Public Realm. The City Council's website hosts a page which maps all the playgrounds that are maintained by Lancaster City Council and parish councils within the district, further information about each play area can be accessed by the information icon.