

**UPDATE ON THE WORK OF THE OLDER PERSONS CHAMPION AND CHILDREN & YOUNG PERSONS CHAMPION – 03 NOVEMBER 2008**

**Older Persons Champion**



The Older Persons Champion Cllr Jill Blackwell has successfully launched the Older Persons Forum for the District. The Forum has now held its third meeting and is becoming established as a key mechanism for engagement between service providers and older people using their service. The last meeting of the Forum focussed on a presentation which covered addressing the issues of Anti-Social Behaviour and there was also a short presentation on “Decisions At Life’s End (DALE)”. The Chair (Lucy Smith) and the Older Persons Champion are developing the agendas on a thematic basis, for example Health Care and the Older person is to be discussed at a future forum meeting. Organisations such as Age Concern and the Leicestershire & Rutland Primary Care Trust will also be invited to speak at future meetings.

In addition to the above, Cllr Blackwell attends a number of events/activities in order to raise her profile and consequently assist the “Voice of the Older Person” in the District in being heard, and to bring information of use to older people, back to the Older Persons Forum (and the Local Strategic Partnership, “Blaby Together”) for circulation to the wider community. Examples of this include visits to warden controlled homes across the District with the Community Safety Officer who deals with Anti-Social Behaviour, the “Over 50’s Feel Good Fair” at Braunstone Civic Centre and the “Safety in the Home” event at Kirkby Muxloe Village Hall. Cllr Blackwell also represents the “Voice of the Older Person” on the District’s Local Strategic Partnership, Blaby Together.

To assist in the co-ordination of services available to the Older Person, Cllr Blackwell is developing an A – Z guide of providers and how they can be contacted. This will be the focus for her work in the next quarter along with promoting the adoption of the County Council Older Person Strategy, “Ageing Well in Leicestershire 2008-2011”, by the District Council and visiting older people’s groups with the Domestic Violence Co-ordinator in November, in order to highlight the issue of “Elder Abuse”.

**Children & Young Persons Champion**



Cllr Karl Coles (the Council’s Children & Young Persons Champion) has supported a number of events and activities this quarter and has been active on a range of groups, including those concerned with combating Anti-Social Behaviour, through to working on the development of a Youth Council for the District. With respect to the proposed Youth Council, a consultation event, as part of National Democracy week (13<sup>th</sup>-19<sup>th</sup> October, 2008) took place in Blaby District Council’s Council Chamber on 16<sup>th</sup> October, 2008. The event included “political speed dating”

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with local District Councillors and was attended by 52 young people from local schools. It is hoped that outcomes from the event will include greater interest in local democracy amongst the young people attending along with an increased interest/support for the development of the Youth Council from young people and their schools.

Cllr Coles's role is supported by a District Council, Children & Young Persons Officer Group which has been established and is responsible for taking forward Blaby District Council's Children & Young Persons Strategy and Hear by Right Action Plan. Cllr Coles attends Scrutiny Commission to report on progress against the Strategy and Action Plan, which seeks to address the requirements upon the Authority with respect to Section 10 and Section 11 of the Children's Act 2004.

As the Children & Young Persons Champion Cllr Coles supports the development of a Children Centre in the District and participated in the launch of Phase II Children's Centres on 13<sup>th</sup> October, 2008 at County Hall. The commissioning programme for the Children's Centre initiative is now supported by a Locality Partnership Group serving Blaby District and Oadby and Wigston. This Group reports to the District's Local Strategic Partnership, "Blaby Together", which Cllr Coles attends. In addition to this Cllr Coles has attended other strategic boards such as the Leicestershire Children and Young People's Board where he networked with other Children & Young Persons Champions from across the County, including the Lead Cabinet Member for C & YP Services, Cllr Ivan Ould.

Finally to help profile the role of Children & Young Persons Champion Cllr Coles has been visiting Schools supporting key youth projects including presenting awards to those who produced designs for the District's Community Safety Partnership's Criminal Damage Project.

Priority work for Cllr Coles in this next quarter will be taking forward the Youth Council initiative following the Youth Consultation Event on 16<sup>th</sup> October, 2008. Key information from this event is being used to develop the District's Youth Council in partnership with Leicestershire County Council.