

Blackburn with Darwen

Executive Summary

This MPW support offer was an on-going mentorship.

Cathy Reilly assumed the role as Blackburn with Darwen's SEND Engagement and Coproduction Lead shortly before the start of the contract year 2023–2024. After some discussion, it was determined that an online mentoring opportunity would be most advantageous for both Cathy and the region, as this was a new role and an entirely different position from her former employment in early years.

Purpose of support:

- To help new in post Engagement and Coproduction Lead develop knowledge and confidence
- Impact outcomes including: coproduction charter, evidencing logs
- Plan and prioritise competing demands and pressures
- Develop a legacy of better ways of working across Blackburn with Darwen
- Improve support network

Throughout this year-long support offer, many resources, ideas, practical examples etc. have been shared, supporting Cathy's professional development in her post, and supporting the wider positive impact of her role across the area.

Mechanism of support:

- Monthly 2 hour meeting x 11 (22 hours)
- Sharing resources and skills
- Link in with networks/support opportunities (ONE Event x 1.5 hours)
- Email and short ad hoc meetings when needed (Video support and meetings 7 hours, plus 4 hours of 'other')

The discussion topics have been varied and primarily lead by Cathy's workload and agenda. As her understanding and confidence has increased, Cathy has implemented focus group work, area wide participation and coproduction sessions, and developed tools and mechanisms for the area to share the youth voice work happening, including engaging parent/carer voice.

Cathy is making a positive impact in Blackburn with Darwen across SEND services, linking in with different teams, including health, education and

social care. Her work to involve service providers, parents/carers and young people, giving meaningful depth to the outputs co-produced. The charter, the engagement plan, Preparing for Adulthood (PfA) development and celebrations are all of commendable note.