

WIGAN COUNCIL

COMMUNITY IS COMMITTED TO CAFÉ

Pennington Hall Park's café is to be given a new lease of life thanks to community passion.

Wigan Council has given CommuniTea Spaces CIC ownership of the café through the community asset transfer programme and the group hope to re-open the popular facility in spring 2018, bringing with it a new look.

Michelle Guest, director of CommuniTea Spaces CIC has outlined her vision, which includes a café, Caffeina, which will offer an extensive menu with gluten free and reduced sugar options. The group have also received money from The Deal for Communities Investment Fund to help start-up their new venture.

Penny McGinty, assistant director of corporate contracts and assets said: "We are delighted to work with CommuniTea Spaces to get this much loved community asset back up and running. "The café has been extremely popular over the years and we fully support Michelle's ideas, which focus on the needs of the local community."

The group will encourage new visitors to the park, while also rewarding loyal and eco-friendly customers with a coffee rewards scheme and a price discount for cyclists, which is in line with the council's 'live well' initiative.

Michelle Guest said: "We're delighted to have won the bid and we are really excited to begin work on the café so that we can open next year. "There is so much we want to achieve, especially with our menu. We're working with market traders to ensure our produce is locally sourced and we eventually want to see the Incredible Edible project taking shape in the park.

"We want the space to bring together the local community and be accessible for everyone, so we welcome interest from other community groups and volunteers who may want to work with us to make our vision a reality."

Michelle has also encouraged her staff to undergo the council's autism and dementia friendly training to ensure the café is truly inclusive.

CommuniTea Spaces CIC will provide updates on the project through their Facebook pages, 'CommuniTea Spaces CIC' and 'Caffeina at Pennington Hall Park'.

LEIGH IS UP FOR THE CHALLENGE!

The town of Leigh has been chosen to be part of a high profile urban regeneration challenge spearheaded by the Mayor of Greater Manchester.

Wigan Council has chosen Leigh to be in Andy Burnham's new Town Centre Challenge initiative to regenerate town centres across Greater Manchester. The challenge invites all ten councils across Greater Manchester to nominate a town to be part of the initiative.

The Mayor of Greater Manchester will then work with each council and bring together housing providers, public and private landowners, developers, community groups and other key stakeholders in a concerted effort to support local councils to unlock the potential in town centres. A key focus will be on delivering

new housing in town centres with powers under compulsory purchase orders available and investment from a new housing deal supporting the challenge.

Wigan Council's cabinet agreed that Leigh should be the town put forward by Wigan Borough. Cabinet members agreed that Leigh had many existing strengths but also significant regeneration and growth opportunities.

Karl Battersby, director for economy and environment, said: "Nominating Leigh for the Town Centre Challenge will help accelerate regeneration in the town and bring in new investment to realise the huge potential Leigh has. "Leigh is one of the borough's two biggest centres and by attracting investment it will have a positive knock-on effect for the surrounding area in the east of the borough especially for towns such as Atherton which are very close by.

"The council has already committed major investment for Leigh with £5m to be spent there in the coming years and the town centre challenge will really enhance that on-going work. "We hope the challenge will kick-start new developments in the town centre which will provide a transformational boost to Leigh and build on the continued success of the Leigh-Salford-Manchester Guided Busway."

Mr Battersby said that while there had been protests in Atherton about Leigh being chosen the council could only choose one town and an assessment process had been undertaken to support the Cabinet decision. Leigh town centre has a strong business and retail community with a thriving indoor market and a local catchment area of 120,000 people. However, like many other towns across the UK Leigh has been affected by changing shopping habits with fewer shops than a decade ago increasing the number of empty units.

In 2013 a Greater Manchester Town Centre study predicted there would be 31 per cent fewer shops in town centres by 2020. Wigan Council has recently completed town centre masterplans for Wigan, Leigh and Ashton-in-Makerfield and masterplans for Atherton and Tyldesley are in development. The masterplans identify how the borough's town centres need to play a significantly different role for local communities with housing having a more important future role.

Having more housing in town centres supports the Mayor's agenda to reduce the amount of greenbelt used for housing. Many town centres have no effective housing market due to costs of development, mixed land ownership and a low end value of any schemes.

WORKING TOGETHER TO HELP OUR HOMELESS

A new and improved approach to homelessness is helping to keep thousands of residents off the streets of Wigan. The approach, which sees Wigan Council working more closely with the voluntary and private sector, is helping to deliver more effective support and rehabilitation for the borough's homeless and rough sleepers by identifying and supporting those at risk as early as possible to prevent them reaching crisis point.

In addition to the current day time programmes offered by a number of groups, the new approach will implement a borough wide outreach provision, which will operate out of hours and at weekends. Two rehabilitation and support hubs will also be created, bringing together all relevant services to help rough sleepers.

The Leigh hub, based at Leigh Court House, will be operational at the end of January 2018 and the Wigan hub will be operational in summer 2018.

There will be emergency access beds available for the homeless and borough-wide services will be available seven days a week.

If you see a homeless person on the streets, please email roughsleep@wigan.gov.uk with as much information as possible (including their location) and our officers will investigate. You will also receive an update on the situation. Those who find themselves on the streets can also ring our out of hour's service on: 01942 828777

MANAGE YOUR MONEY, DON'T STRUGGLE WITH DEBT

'Don't struggle with debt' is the message of a new campaign launching in Wigan Borough. Wigan Council has teamed up with Unify and the Citizen's Advice Bureau to help residents manage their money at one of the most expensive times of the year.

In the last twelve months, (October 2016 – November 2017) 1,718 people visited Wigan Council's crisis desk due to having no food, no money or no gas or electric so the local campaign will encourage residents to get support if they are worried about falling into debt or are already struggling.

There is lots of local support and advice out there for people but sometimes it can be difficult find help before it is too late. Credit Unions can provide loans for individuals without a good credit history and interest rates start at just 12.7 per cent, compared to payday lenders which charge APR of up to 1,509 per cent. The council is warning residents against using a payday lenders or loan sharks and is instead urging people to apply for a cheaper loan through a Credit Union or seek advice for how to manage their finances.

Lesley O'Halloran, assistant director for customer services at Wigan Council said: "If you find that you are struggling with debt and are unable to manage repayments, it is important to think about which debts you need to deal with first. There can be serious consequences to not paying your bills and we don't want people falling into debt. "At this time of year it can be easy to spend money on things that aren't needed and there is support out there for residents who need help managing their money. There are cheaper and safer alternatives to payday lenders and loan sharks. Although they may seem like the easy option, people don't realise how much interest they charge and it can be so damaging."

Angela Fishwick, chief executive of Unify Credit Union, said: "Residents should take extra care when borrowing money to pay for the cost of Christmas. Always ask how much the repayments are and what is the total cost of credit and only borrow from licensed lenders. Don't be tempted to borrow from doorstep lenders charging on average 400 per cent APR or from payday lenders charging in excess of 1000 per cent APR. If you are struggling to repay your high cost loan, talk to Unify, we are here to help."

For help and advice on how to manage your money, visit: www.wigan.gov.uk/moneyadvice Alternatively, email welfarerightsadvice@wigan.gov.uk for information about the council's welfare outreach sessions.

#TOGETHERWECAN REMOVE THE STIGMA

A new campaign tackling the stigma surrounding mental health has been backed by Wigan Athletic chairman, David Sharpe.

Wigan Council in partnership with local health providers developed the campaign, #TogetherWeCan, which addresses a range of life events and triggers that can be difficult times for people. The campaign focuses on the importance of seeking support and was officially launched on International Men's Day (19th

November). #TogetherWeCan aims to raise awareness about mental health, remove the stigma attached to talking about issues and highlight how although they may feel like it, people are not alone.

The theme of International Men's Day this year is highlighting positive male role models, which is something David believes is important when trying to change attitudes towards mental health.

He said: "We need to raise the profile of mental health and a great way to do that is to encourage people in privileged positions to speak out and support initiatives like this. "One in four people live with a mental health condition. If you think about that statistic and the club's fans, the importance of mental health is really put into perspective. "We have an average attendance of 8,000 people so that's approximately 2,000 people in the stand who are possibly living with poor mental health."

The campaign aims to help people before they reach crisis point by focusing on talking as a starting point but will also target those with more complex mental health needs and those who know of someone in their life that may need help

David added: "People automatically think that seeking help is sitting in a room with a doctor. Yes, this is one way but you could begin with a relaxed conversation with someone close to you like a friend or a family member. "Life events and circumstances affect everybody differently. It doesn't matter what the trigger is, it could be a big change or a number of smaller things that build up and begin to affect you. It's important that you recognise this change or dip in your mental health and find the support in a form that is right for you. "Everybody is fighting a battle we don't know about, we need to be more mindful and accepting of those around us. The main message for me is to realise that just because someone looks strong, doesn't mean they feel it. "The #TogetherWeCan campaign addresses this and I look forward to seeing it develop."

Professor Kate Ardern, director for public health at Wigan Council said: "We want to encourage and support people to maintain positive mental wellbeing and help remove the stigma surrounding mental health within communities. "As The Deal for Health and Wellness outlines, we believe that everybody should be able to live long and healthy lives. "People are not alone on their recovery journey as there is a multitude of support available both on a national and a local scale. By working together, we can really make a difference."

Read David's full interview on the council's website or find out more about the #TogetherWeCan campaign and access support services at www.wigan.gov.uk/togetherwecan.

TOGETHER WE CAN

You may have already seen this on our social media channels but Wigan Council recently launched a campaign to raise awareness about the importance of mental health and wellbeing.

The campaign, #TogetherWeCan, takes into consideration a range of ages and triggers or life events that can be difficult times for people. We want to help people before they reach crisis point but the campaign is also designed to resonate with those who may have more complex mental health needs by reinforcing the message that together, we can help.

The launch of the campaign focused on bereavement and loneliness in older people and the collateral we created (video, poster, flyer and email signature) can be found at www.wigan.gov.uk/togetherwecan underneath the '#TogetherWeCan Campaign' tab. This web address also signposts to support available and we hope to develop the page to include real-life stories.

We will be creating more collateral like this based on other triggers and ages throughout the year and will push extra messaging on our social media channels. We would like to encourage everyone to engage with our campaign by tagging @WiganCouncil on Facebook and Twitter and using #TogetherWeCan.

If you have a positive story to tell or think your group / services could benefit people with mental health needs on either a minor or more complex scale, we would love to hear from you.

We also run free one hour long InMind sessions, which help people to learn more about looking after their mental wellbeing and spotting the signs of negative mental health. The session covers a number of key messages including, noticing changes in yourself, family members or friends, reducing the stigma and having the confidence to have different conversations around mental health.

Please email public.health@wigan.gov.uk to be involved and a member of the team will be in touch.

ADVICE AT HAND EASIER THAN EVER

Starting Point Plus will now have longer opening hours and a new online service when Wigan Council begins offering the highly regarded support which has previously been provided by Age UK Wigan Borough.

To find out more go to www.wigan.gov.uk/startingpointplus.

The new phone lines will be available Monday to Friday 8.45 am to 5 pm and 8.45 am to 1 pm on Saturdays. To contact the service call 01942 489011

THINK YOU CAN FOSTER?

To find out more about fostering and how to become a foster carer in Wigan Borough go to www.wigan.gov.uk/fostering and for more details on 'You Can Foster' go to www.youcanfoster.org

INCREDIBLE EDIBLE WIGAN

What is Incredible Edible?

What Can I Grow?

How to get involved

Is there Funding Available?

Keep up to Date with Events & Workshops

Go to <https://www.wigan.gov.uk/Council/The-Deal/Deal-Communities/Incredible-Edible/index.aspx>

For lots more information

WIGAN COUNCIL'S GOOD TRADER SCHEME

Wigan Council's "Good Trader Scheme" is a directory of over 200 local, reputable businesses. All the listings have star ratings of up to five gold stars that previous customers have awarded them.

Ratings are given based on workmanship and customer service; the more satisfied the customer the higher the rating.

The scheme has been set up to ensure that the residents of the Wigan Borough are getting a fair deal when it comes to work round the home.

Trading Standards check out the traders' trading history before allowing them to be part of the scheme.

Whether it's painting and decorating, joinery, or just tidying up your garden make sure you visit www.wigan.gov.uk/goodtrader. Or ring the Citizens Advice Consumer Helpline on 03454 040506.

If you are aged over 50 or have a disability Wigan Council Starting Point Plus can access the Scheme on your behalf, contact Starting Point on 01942 489011

HEART HEALTH HELPS WITH FIGHT AGAINST DEMENTIA

To find out more about dementia support visit www.wigan.gov.uk/dementia

TOGETHER FOR ADOPTION

To find out more about Together for adoption visit www.togetherforadoption.co.uk

NEW HOMES APPROVED FOR STRATEGIC SITE IN WIGAN

The first stage of a major housing development in Wigan has been given the green light by councillors.

Wigan Council's planning committee has approved the building of 157 homes by Bellway Homes at land south of Landgate Lane in Bryn. Landgate is a strategic site detailed in Wigan Council's core strategy in 2013 and it received outline planning permission for development in 2015. The Bellway application is the first phase covering 7.7 hectares of the site and will feature a mixture of semi-detached and detached houses.

The development will include the construction of the first section of a new road. This will eventually link Wigan Road with Bryn Road as the phases of the wider development are completed. Wigan Council is committed to enable the building of 10,000 new homes within the next decade to match demand – especially from younger people struggling to get on the housing market.

Karl Battersby, the council's director for economy and environment, said: "It is important that we support sustainable development in the borough to match housing needs and support growth in our local economy. "Appropriate developments like this one will enable people to find the right homes to establish themselves and their family in the borough. "Good quality new housing along with improved transport links and employment opportunities provides the right mix to keep our local economy growing"

Careful consideration was given to any potential impact on local schools, health facilities, highways, air quality, pollution and green space and all were considered to be acceptable.

The playing fields at Bryn Rec will be preserved.

The line of a Roman Road passes through the site and a condition will be imposed to secure the archaeological interests of the site through working with the Greater Manchester Archaeological Advisory Service.

ADULT SOCIAL CARE ON BUDGET FOR EFFICIENT WIGAN COUNCIL

Bold reforms in delivering adult social care and strong financial management have helped a pioneering North West council stay on budget despite increasing demand from an ageing population. Wigan Council was one of the worst hit local authorities in the country for budget reductions after the announcement of austerity measures in 2010.

Through its Deal for the Future strategy the council has so far saved £115m through efficiency measures, reforming services and reducing demand. In the council's half-yearly financial report to cabinet members its adult social care department is highlighted as an example of how reforms have helped maintain a strong budget position. This is despite a sustained rise in the volume and complexity of people aged 18-64 requiring support, particularly in the area of learning disability.

Paul McKeivitt, Wigan Council's deputy chief executive and director of resources, said: "The Deal for the Future radically changed the way we deliver services compared to the past and will help us maintain a secure financial position in the future. "Despite an ageing population and an increased volume of complex cases our adult social care is on budget which is testament to the successful transformation of services in this directorate. "This does not mean there are not significant budget challenges ahead but the current and projected position is strong and one which our excellent staff and innovative leadership have all contributed to."

Stuart Cowley, Wigan Council's director for adult social care and health said: "Through the Deal we focus on what really matters to residents who need adult social care support. "Our new model now better connects people into their local communities through activities they enjoy which has reduced our reliance on traditional day services. "The fact that our different approach has not only improved many people's lives but also helped us maintain a strong budget position is a double success and one we are very proud of."

Overall the half-yearly report states the council is on track to hit its £16m savings target for 2017/18. Further good financial news for Wigan Council can be revealed with the authority receiving a £1.9m dividend boost through its shares in Manchester Airport Group.

The council along with the nine other Greater Manchester councils are shareholders in the airport, which thanks to its growth and success, is delivering healthy annual dividends. Mr McKeivitt added: "The dividend from the airport is a welcome additional income for the council and will help us realise savings and support vital services."

Wigan Council is shortlisted for the national Local Government Chronicle Awards 2018 for most efficient council of the year. It has achieved its required savings early through an accelerated plan saving on potential borrowing and inflationary costs.

As a result the savings target for the next three years up to 2020 has reduced from an original £45m to £38.6m. For the next three years the savings targets are: 2017/18 £16m, 2018/19 £12m and 2019/20 £10.6m The council has also kept Council Tax low – with it being the second lowest out of the ten Greater Manchester councils.

Pressures on the budget for the next three years include the introduction of the National Living Wage in the care sector potentially costing the council up to £3.4m and on-going residential costs for looked after children

NEW SEXUAL HEALTH SERVICE IN WIGAN BOROUGH

Sexual health services in Wigan Borough will be more accessible and community-led thanks to a new partnership.

Wigan Council awarded Spectrum Community Health CIC, a values-driven, not-for-profit social enterprise company, a five year contract to deliver all sexual health services across the borough. After a review identified opportunities for sexual health improvement, the local authority did a consultation to find out what services residents wanted to access, what challenges they currently faced and who they wanted to access services from.

Out of the responses received, 90 per cent strongly agreed that there should be one organisation responsible for care co-ordination and 88 per cent strongly agreed that there should be increased outreach in communities.

Professor Kate Ardern, director for public health at Wigan Council said: “We are dedicated to providing effective services and it is important that our residents shape how those services are delivered. “We need to do things differently to get ahead of the curve and encourage a pro-active, preventative approach. We are extremely excited to welcome Spectrum CIC and believe that this new way of working will reduce the stigma and taboo nature of talking about sexual health.”

Spectrum CIC will deliver both adult and young people’s sexual health services and will be in the heart of communities through nurse-led clinics in seven areas across the borough. They will also adopt a digital focus, which could see service users self-testing for sexually transmitted diseases at home and accessing help online.

Dr. Linda Harris, chief executive at Spectrum Community Health CIC, said: “We’re absolutely delighted with the news of being chosen by Wigan to deliver their sexual health services and are excited by the opportunity to support the ambitions the council has to develop innovative citizen centred sexual health and wellbeing services. “We are very much looking forward to working with the council and the people of Wigan Borough to shape the services they want and need.”

The new partnership will be official from March 2018. For more information about sexual health, visit www.wigan.gov.uk

WIGAN SCOOPS NATIONAL AWARD FOR INNOVATIVE STREET LIGHTING PROGRAMME

A council’s cost-effective project to invest in high quality street lighting has been recognised as the best in the country. Wigan Council won Best Street Lighting Team at the national APSE awards last night, which recognises excellence in public services.

Over the last three years the council has replaced around 31,000 lights for more environmentally-friendly LED lights, significantly reducing the council’s energy consumption and lowering our carbon footprint. The project will be fully complete in April 2018.

The major roll-out of LED lighting means highly efficient and environmentally-friendly lamps are now fitted on nearly 6,000 roads in the borough. It has improved the overall efficiency and quality of the street lighting and will help to save up to £1m a year through reduced energy and operating costs.

The LED lights have a number of big benefits in comparison with traditional sodium street lamps. They have a longer lifespan, require less maintenance and use nearly 60 per cent less energy. The lights give off virtually no heat and contain no hazardous substances, do not need replacement lamps and can be controlled by a central computer system. And they still provide bright, high-quality lighting onto the street.

Mark Tilley, assistant director for infrastructure and regulatory services, said: “We’re delighted to be recognised for our innovative street lighting programme. “We are always looking to do things more efficiently and for less cost to local people as part of The Deal. “Some authorities are switching lights off to save money but we knew that wasn’t what the people of the borough would want. We recognise that street lighting is important to residents, not only as an amenity but also for security and road safety.

“This investment in improving the street lighting will mean our lighting is much more efficient and effective in the years to come. A big well done to the officers involved including our operational teams who repair, replace and maintain the borough's street lighting infrastructure come hail, rain or shine!”

You can now report a fault with a streetlight direct to the street lighting team, visit www.wigan.gov.uk and search for street lighting for more information

COUNCIL TAX EXEMPTION DECLARED FOR ALL CARE LEAVERS IN WIGAN BOROUGH

Young adults who have left care are to be exempt from paying council tax in Wigan Borough. Wigan Council's cabinet this week approved plans to exempt anyone aged between 18 and 21 who has previously been cared for by Wigan Council from paying council tax.

It is hoped the move will help support care leavers to establish independence and reduce the risk of these young people from getting into debt and rent arrears at this crucial time in their life. The change has been introduced by the council immediately and will be back-dated to April. Care leavers in full time education up to the age of 25 are already exempt.

James Winterbottom, Wigan Council's director for children's services, said: “Care leavers are among the most vulnerable groups in our community but also have many individual skills and talents that benefit our communities in many ways and we want to make sure that we support them to make best use of these.

“As corporate parents and through our commitment in The Deal the council wants to ensure that young people's experiences of leaving care and moving into independent living are positive and improve their life chances – just as any parent does. “We are proud to have introduced this change and know through speaking with our young care leavers and through the research available that this will make a big difference to their lives.”

Wigan Council supports young people through the Deal for Children and Young People and its children and young people's service was rated as ‘Good’ by Ofsted earlier this year. Most children who come into care have experienced complex trauma and faced significant challenges early in life.

National research shows that care leavers often experience debt and arrears of rent, council tax, household bills and transport costs and feel insufficiently prepared for independent living when they left care. Care leavers are often in a position where the transition from care to independent living is swift and at a younger age than their peers.

There are 142 care leavers aged between 18 and 21 living in Wigan Borough and the exemption will currently directly affect 31 care leavers in the borough who are paying council tax

SCHOOL READY IN WIGAN

The number of children ready for school in Wigan Borough has almost doubled in the last five years. As the Mayor of Greater Manchester urges organisations to sign up to a new pledge to help get children ready for school, Wigan's school ready journey is already well underway.

Figures released by the Department for Education showed that last year 12,157 children in Greater Manchester started school not ready to learn. This represents 32.5 per cent of children who started school last year in the city-region. In Wigan school readiness figures have improved significantly over the last five years from 37 per cent in 2013 to 69 per cent in 2017 – higher than the 67 per cent North West average.

Thanks to its proactive approach Wigan Council was invited to speak at the October Greater Manchester School Readiness Summit by Mayor Andy Burnham. At the summit the Mayor said more needed to be done to bring neighbourhood services like health visitors, school visitors, GPs and schools together to identify and support those children at risk. This approach is already being utilised in Wigan through its Start Well model.

Mike Chew, Assistant Director For Children's Integration at Wigan Council, said: "The model was set up two years ago after residents told us they wanted services to be more accessible and joined up. "On the back of that we commissioned five Start Well Family Centres to be based in those areas facing the most difficult challenges in a bid to improve outcomes for children and families by supporting them to live well and healthy lives. This place-based model puts the emphasis on communities, ensuring services are accessible and visible. The aim is to wrap services around local communities to improve links between organisations."

Nowhere is the impact of this approach more evident than in the Norley Hall estate in Wigan. The local school, GP practice, church, charity and Start Well Family Centre is working together to improve outcomes for children.

The GP practice holds drop in sessions for parents to give them the opportunity to discuss any concerns they have about their child's behaviour or development as well as medical needs. Fur Clemt, a charity that intercepts food deemed for landfill, is helping to provide low cost meals to ensure families on a budget can afford to eat. And the church runs a number of sessions including toddler sessions, debt support advice and a youth club.

The Strategic Lead for Westfield Start Well Family Centre is Ruth Houghton, who is also the assistant head teacher for foundation phase at Westfield Community School. Ruth said: "Working in this place-based way ensures that we take our services to our families where and when they need them. Our work as a Family Centre is based very much on the principle of the community supporting us, not us supporting them; with everyone working together from the roots of our community to create better outcomes for families and young people."

The next phase of Start Well will bring health visitors and school nurses together under one roof, further integrating health and social care for the benefit of local children.

WIGAN BOROUGH'S NEW DRUG AND ALCOHOL RECOVERY SERVICE

A national charity will take the reins on Wigan Borough's drug and alcohol recovery programme next year in a bid to make services even more visible and available in local areas.

Addaction, a service supporting people of all ages to make positive behavioural changes has been awarded a five-year contract by Wigan Council to deliver all drug and alcohol services across the borough. It is the first time that adult and young people's services will be integrated, which will provide a smoother recovery journey, especially those transitioning into adulthood.

Professor Kate Ardern, Director For Public Health at Wigan Council said: "We understand that the recovery process is different for everybody and can also be extremely sensitive, so we want to work with Addaction to provide a bespoke plan for service users based on goals individuals set for themselves. "This is an exciting new partnership, which will build on the existing successes of our current drug and alcohol recovery programme and will put a larger focus on early help, prevention and self-reliance.

“We are innovative and flexible in our approaches and value community knowledge. In addition to providing our own services, we are proud to support a number of local groups with our Deal for Communities Investment Fund, such as Greenslate Farm in Orrell, who also help bring recovering individuals back into society by giving them skills and routine.”

The current main bases in Wigan (Coops) and Leigh (Kennedy House) will remain and there will be dedicated officers in each of the seven service delivery footprint areas who will work within the community to truly understand residents’ needs.

Siobhan Peters, service manager at Addaction said: “We are very happy to have been awarded this contract and are committed to working with Wigan Council to support people with their recovery. “Although we have a thorough understanding of the borough’s needs as a result of our work within the current service delivery model, we are keen to deepen this understanding through our community orientated approach.”

Wigan Council is leading the way with its drug and alcohol recovery service by working with primary care providers and communities to combat addiction to all drugs, including over the counter medication. For more information about Addaction, visit: www.addaction.org.uk