



REPORT OF THE DEPUTY LEADER

MENTAL HEALTH CHALLENGE

Purpose of the Report

1. To seek agreement to support the “Mental Health Challenge” initiative funded by the Department for Health

Information and Advice

2. The “Mental Health Challenge” is funded by the Department of Health and set up by the Centre for Mental Health, Mental Health Foundation, Rethink Mental Illness, Royal College of Psychiatrists and Young Minds.
3. The aim of the challenge is to encourage upper tier local authorities to champion mental wellbeing by adopting 10 recommended actions
4. The ten actions are
 - Appoint an elected member as mental health champion for the council
 - Identify a lead officer for mental health to link in with colleagues across the council.
 - Follow the implementation framework for mental health strategy set out within the challenge where it is relevant to the Council’s work
 - Work to reduce inequalities in mental health in the community
 - Work with the NHS to integrate Health and Social Care
 - Promote wellbeing and initiate support action on public mental health for example through the joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy
 - Tackle discrimination on the grounds of mental health in our community
 - Encourage positive mental health in our schools colleges and workplaces
 - Proactively engage and listen to people of all ages and backgrounds about what they need for better mental health
 - Sign up to the “Time to Change” pledge
5. As a first step councils are being requested to appoint a member champion for mental health. In return the Authority and the member champion will receive support and information in undertaking the role. This will include providing resources to help councils take local action to support the strategy. Networking opportunities and peer support and recognising and acknowledging publicly the councils and member champions who sign up to the challenge
6. Member champions will be required to raise awareness of mental health issues in the development of Council policies and strategies, lead discussions on mental health issues with the NHS, speak to schools, businesses and community groups about mental health

issues and link with mental health service users and voluntary groups locally to understand their needs and concerns.

Other Options Considered

7. Members could decide not to sign up to the mental health challenges

Reason/s for Recommendation/s

8. By signing up to the Mental Health Challenge the Council evidences its commitment to support the most vulnerable groups in society

Statutory and Policy Implications

9. This report has been compiled after consideration of implications in respect of crime and disorder, finance, human resources, human rights, the NHS Constitution (Public Health only), the public sector equality duty, safeguarding of children and vulnerable adults, service users, sustainability and the environment and ways of working and where such implications are material they are described below. Appropriate consultation has been undertaken and advice sought on these issues as required.

Financial Implications

10. There are no financial implications arising from this report directly. There is no cost to signing the pledge but resources are provided to participants as set out in the report. Many of the actions required under the challenge are already planned or underway and resources have been duly allocated to them.

Public Sector Equality Duty implications

11. By signing up to the pledges set out under the Mental Health Challenge the Council is evidencing its commitment to support vulnerable groups within society.

Safeguarding of Children and Vulnerable Adults Implications

12. The Council would be evidencing its commitment to supporting vulnerable adults and children by signing up to the pledges.

RECOMMENDATION/S

- 1) That members agree to signing the pledges set out under the Mental Health Challenge.
- 2) That Cllr Joyce Bosnjak is appointed member champion for the Mental Health Challenge.
- 3) That reports on the progress of and activities undertaken as part of the Mental Health Challenge are reported to the Health and Wellbeing Board on an annual basis.

Councillor Joyce Bosnjak
Deputy Leader of the County Council

For any enquiries about this report please contact:

Jayne Francis-Ward, Corporate Director, Policy, Planning and Corporate Services

Constitutional Comments (SLB 25/04/2014)

13. Policy Committee is the appropriate body to consider the content of this report.

Financial Comments (SEM 25/04/14)

14. There are no specific financial implications arising directly from this report.

Background Papers and Published Documents

Except for previously published documents, which will be available elsewhere, the documents listed here will be available for inspection in accordance with Section 100D of the Local Government Act 1972.

- None

Electoral Division(s) and Member(s) Affected

- All