



REPORT OF CHAIR OF THE HEALTH AND WELLBEING BORAD

THE ROLE OF THE NOTTINGHAMSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL MENTAL HEALTH CHAMPION

Purpose of the Report

1. To provide an overview on:
 - The role of the Nottinghamshire County Council Mental Health Champion
 - The Mental Health Champion key actions to date and future plans

Information and Advice

2. Mental health problems are very common. At least one in four adults and one in ten children will experience a mental health problem in any one year and are responsible for more workplace sickness absence than any other illness. Mental health problems can exacerbate social inequalities because it impacts on employment and housing status.
3. In order to improve mental health outcomes in Nottinghamshire a proactive approach is required. In October 2014 the Nottinghamshire Health and Wellbeing (HWB) Board signed off the No Health without Mental Health, Nottinghamshire Mental Health Framework for Action (FfA) 2014-2017. The key actions within this FfA are to build mental resilience, prevent mental ill health, intervene early, improve physical health and promote recovery for those with mental health problems.
4. A key programme in preventing and supporting mental health in the workplace is the Nottinghamshire County 'Wellbeing at Work' Workplace award scheme, led by Nottinghamshire County Council Public Health. The scheme works across key statutory, private and voluntary partners and community businesses to effectively reduce absenteeism by reducing stress and promoting mental wellbeing in the workplace.
5. In 2015, the HWB Board allocated each board member to act as a Champion for each of the HWB Board strategic priorities. Councillor Joyce Bosnjak was allocated the HWB Board champion role for Mental Health.
6. Therefore, in driving the FfA, the 'Wellbeing at Work' Workplace award scheme and HWB Board mental health priority forward both within the council and the wider Nottinghamshire County communities the key role of a Mental Health Champion includes:
 - Providing leadership within the council to raise the profile of mental health
 - Identifying at least one priority each year for focused work
 - Seeking the views of people with lived experiences of mental ill health when identifying priorities and concerns

- Working respectfully, sensitively and empathically with people with mental health problems at all times.

7. The Mental Health Champion achievements to date include:

- Raised awareness of mental health issues by:
 - Supporting the development Nottingham County Council's (NCC) Mental Health, Suicide Prevention and Workplace Health FfAs
 - Led on two themed HWB Board workshop events with the focus on Children, Young People and Young Adults Mental Health and Wellbeing. These events enabled the HWB board to understand the needs and concerns of mental health service users and voluntary groups locally
 - Tackled myths and misperceptions about mental health in the local community through mental health, suicide prevention and stress management in the workplace media campaigns
 - Agreed and supported the Public Health commissioning of the Mental Health and Suicide Prevention awareness and training provider
- Led on discussions on mental health issues within NHS organisations in the local area; e.g. led on the Confirm and Challenge on the proposed mental health rehabilitation bed closures
- Provided leadership to the HWB Board to ensure that mental health is given equal status to physical by identifying and supporting specific 'all ages' mental health priorities
- Represented the council as the NCC signatory for the Mental Health Crisis Concordat Partnership.

8. The Mental Health Champion future plans include:

- Provide local presence and leadership for mental health within council
- Continue to tackle myths and misperceptions about mental health in the local community through mental health, suicide prevention and stress management in the workplace media campaigns
- Support the on-going development of the NCC's Mental Health, Suicide Prevention and Workplace Health FfAs associated action plans
- Seek the views of people with lived experiences of mental ill health when identifying priorities and concerns
- Ensure the County Health Scrutiny and Joint Health Scrutiny Committee has a view to mental health in their work plans
- Develop an understanding and confidence that will enable councillors to talk to constituents who may be experiencing mental health problems

Other Options Considered

9. None

Reason/s for Recommendation/s

10. A proactive coordinated approach is required that will promote mental wellbeing and reduce associate stigma. The role of the NCC Mental Health Champion is in a position at a strategic level, to promote mental wellbeing for everyone.

Statutory and Policy Implications

11. 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.

RECOMMENDATION/S

That the Policy to Committee:

- 1) Notes the content of this report.
- 2) Supports the work of Council's Mental Health Champion.
- 3) Agree that further update reports be submitted to the Health and Wellbeing Board on an annual basis

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Constitutional Comments (ADK6 01/12/15)

12. The Policy Committee has delegated authority within the Constitution to note and agree the recommendations in the report.

Financial Comments (KAS 01/12/15)

13. There are no financial implications contained within the 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.

- No Health without Mental Health, Nottinghamshire Mental Health Framework for Action – 2014-2017 (published)
- Nottinghamshire Suicide Prevention Framework for Action – 2015-2018 (published)
- Nottinghamshire Workplace Health Framework for Action – 2015-2020 (published)

Electoral Division(s) and Member(s) Affected

All