

HEALTH AND WELLBEING BOARD



TO:	Health and Wellbeing Board
FROM:	Director of Public Health
DATE:	21 st February 2022

SUBJECT: Blackburn With Darwen Prevention Concordat – 12 month Mental Wellbeing Action Plan

1. PURPOSE

To brief members of the Health and Wellbeing Board on the BwD Prevention Concordat action plan.

This is a 12 month, mental wellbeing action plan that was required by the Office of Health Improvement and Disparities, (OHID) as a condition of the non-recurrent Better Mental Health Grant Funding. The Concordat is OHID's prevention and promotion framework for better mental health designed for local systems. There is a specific focus on tackling mental health inequality.

[Prevention Concordat for Better Mental Health - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](http://www.gov.uk)

2. RECOMMENDATIONS FOR THE HEALTH & WELLBEING BOARD

- To note the contents of the National Prevention Concordat for Better Mental Health and sign/confirm our agreement to the consensus statement of the National Prevention Concordat
- To approve BwD's Prevention Concordat Commitment Action Plan (as set out in BwD's Prevention Concordat Submission)
- To instruct officers to return the approved action plan and signed consensus statement to the OHID for approval to enable BwD to be recognised as a Prevention Concordat signatory (and listed as such on the "Prevention concordat for Better Mental health" webpage)"

3. BACKGROUND

3.1 The Mental Health and Inequalities Steering Group formed in August 2021:

To improve the mental wellbeing of the population with a focus on addressing inequalities, taking a life course approach, using evidence, data and local insights.

To provide strategic leadership and coordination of mental wellbeing programmes, initiatives and services to maximise and target resources to improve the equity of mental wellbeing outcomes

With the objectives:

- Work towards OHID's Prevention Concordat for Better Mental Health for All. Including the development and oversight of the action plan
- To development, implement and monitor the Mental Wellbeing & Inequalities framework for BwD

- To receive mental wellbeing programme updates from partners to inform evaluation, impact and recommendations for further action
- To ensure residents and service users are involved in the planning, delivery and evaluation of mental wellbeing programme
- Discuss the data and findings from the “[Beyond Imagination Life Survey](#)” from 1,500 Blackburn with Darwen residents, through a wellbeing lens and provide recommendations.
- To also consider other pieces of work such as the ICS Mental Health Transformation, and the development of the Pennine Lancs ICP to help our place based thinking.

3.2 The Prevention Concordat approach:

- Focuses on prevention and the wider determinants of mental health to impact positively on the NHS and social care system by enabling early help through the use of upstream interventions.
- Supports joint cross-sectoral action to deliver an increased focus on the prevention of mental health problems and the promotion of good mental health at the local level drawing on the expertise of people with lived experience of mental health problems, and the wider community
- Encourages collaborative work across organisational boundaries and disciplines to secure place-based improvements that are tailored to local needs and assets
- Builds the capacity and capability across our workforce to prevent mental health.

4. RATIONALE

Pre-Covid, mental health problems were responsible for over a fifth of the burden of disease in England costing over £105 billion. This burden is expected to increase due to the impact of COVID-19.

COVID-19 has been recognised as a public mental health emergency that exacerbates existing mental health inequalities with differential impacts on a wide range of vulnerable groups. It requires multiple responses over an extended time-frame.

Self-reported mental health and wellbeing worsened during the pandemic and remains worse than pre-pandemic levels.

People with Severe Mental Illness (SMI) are more likely to be susceptible to risk and outcomes of COVID-19.

Prevention of mental ill-health, protection and promotion of better mental health and wellbeing is part of an emergency response.

5. KEY ISSUES

Blackburn with Darwen residents have suffered the highest proportion of Covid cases in the UK. BwD has had long periods of local and national restrictions, so the impact on the mental wellbeing of residents and the workforce is well recognised.

Even before covid, the estimated Blackburn with Darwen prevalence for common mental health disorders was high, in both the over 65 age group (12% compared to 10.2% nationally) and 16 and over population (19.9% compared to 16.9% nationally). Common mental disorders include depression and anxiety ([Public Health Outcomes Framework - PHE](#))

In terms of deprivation the Department for Communities and Local Government published [Index of Multiple Deprivation](#) indicates that some area of Blackburn are in the top 10% most deprived in England.

Blackburn with Darwen is a relatively deprived borough, and the health of people in the borough lags behind the England average on a range of indicators. Life expectancy rates for the borough remain below national levels. [Public-health-annual-report-2018-19-1.2.pdf \(blackburn.gov.uk\)](#)

The COVID-19 pandemic has highlighted the health inequalities within our communities in Blackburn with Darwen. Those living in the most deprived areas are more susceptible to the effects of COVID-19 and this further widens the health inequality gap.

6. POLICY IMPLICATIONS

The Prevention Concordat advocates for the creation of a system which supports improved equity of access to mental wellbeing services and increased opportunities for all communities within BwD to have better mental health.

A review of the Suicide Prevention policy will be required to ensure that this embedded.

Also the approval and ratification of the Mental Wellbeing and Inequalities Framework (developed by the Mental Health and Inequalities steering group and output of What Works for Wellbeing support received in 2021) would be recommended.

7. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

None. All interventions/ activities have already been funded through either (BwD) Public Health funds or the Better Mental Health Grant (OHID).

8. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

This proposal will help improve one of the Council's eight corporate priorities (2019-2023) being: "Reducing health inequalities and improving health outcomes"

9. RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

A Mental Health and Inequalities Steering group has been formed, which includes elected member representation, regional representation from OHID and will be facilitated by the Public Health Team. It will oversee the Prevention Concordat action plan.

10. EQUALITY AND HEALTH IMPLICATIONS

Equality Impact Assessment (EIA) not required – the EIA checklist has been completed.

By taking the approach outlined in the Prevention Concordat, we aim to take a system wide approach to support the mental wellbeing of everyone in Blackburn with Darwen. Through each of the strands of work we will work to target those with greatest need.

11. CONSULTATIONS

- **Mental Wellbeing and Inequalities Steering Group** made up of local partners to shape the development of the Prevention Concordat and ensure that we are addressing the social and economic disadvantages in Blackburn With Darwen.
- **The Health and Wellbeing Board Development Session** on Mental Wellbeing (Jan 2022.) This was to ensure a clear vision for prevention and promotion of better mental health across the partnership.

VERSION: 0.1

CONTACT OFFICER:	Frances Riley (Public Health Development Manager)
DATE:	21/02/22
BACKGROUND PAPER:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Prevention Concordat Submission Document• Mental Health and Inequalities Framework• Prevention Concordat for Better Mental Health: Planning Resource Infographic (publishing.service.gov.uk)• TOR of the Mental Health and Inequalities Steering Group

