

Report of: Chair of the People Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Report to: People Overview and Scrutiny Committee

On: 3rd December 2018

Subject: Progress of the Mental Health Task Group.

1. Background.

1.1 The Committee agreed at its meeting in June to look at the issue of Mental Health, with a focus on Young People's Mental Health as a major part of their work programme. This report seeks to inform members of the progress of the task group and the recommendations that the Committee would wish to put forward.

1.2 Mental Health is a major issue for the population as a whole and young people in particular. The People Overview and Scrutiny Committee is made up of Councillors and young people co-opted on to it. The Committee looks at how services relating to people are managed and delivered in the borough and also acts as the Health Scrutiny Committee. As part of its work programme it agreed to look at the issues relating to Mental Health especially relating to young people and the services that we provided to meet this need. The Committee also wished to look at future provision and how this would be shaped to meet the increasing and complex needs of service users. The Committee also looked at strategies that could be introduced that would reduce the incidence of mental health by early intervention strategies.

2. The Task Group

2.1 The Committee met in June 2018 and agreed that they should look at the current provision of services available in the borough to meet the mental health needs of residents, particularly young people.

The Committee established a task group with the following focus:

1. To look at the mental health needs of residents of the borough
2. To look at the services provided in the borough to meet the needs of residents
3. To look at how these can be accessed.
4. To look at the future developments that will affect the service provision in the borough and assess how these will seek to improve outcomes for patients.
5. To consider alternative means of provision and other care models.

2.3 The task group met in July, August and November 2018 and received information from service providers and users.

- Public Health Blackburn with Darwen
- East Lancashire Acute Hospital Trust
- Children's Services Department

- Young Peoples Service
- Youth MP and Deputies
- Pupil Referral Unit
- Councillors

3. The issue.

3.1 The Committee received a presentation on the work of the Mental Health Policy Commission and the University of Birmingham. The introduction to their report summarises the issue:-

No Single Action or single agency, in isolation can ensure that the causes of poor mental health are minimised what is required is a whole system prioritisation of prevention and early action in childhood and adolescence. This means making mental health everyone's business and broadening the focus beyond those who are involved in providing treatment and support. (Mental Health Policy Commission).

3.2 This report called for a radical new strategy focused on preventing, and not just treating, mental ill health in young people. The report highlighted the need for an additional £1.77bn of funding and 23,800 staff to plug the current treatment gap. The report concludes that the only way to stem this rising tide amongst young people is a major drive to tackle the causes rather than putting all the effort into attempting to increase the workforce and funding needed to meet demands for treatment.

4. What have we looked at?

4.1 The Committee have examined the current service provision models in the borough and how these seek to improve outcomes for people with mental health issues. In doing this Members have examined:-

- Integrated Needs Assessment- Children and Young People's Emotional Health and Wellbeing Joint Strategic Needs Assessment
- Bee Yourself CYP Emotional Health Briefing Paper
- Services provided by Partner Agencies
- The views of young people (through the work of the Youth Forum)
- Mental Health First Aid Training and Youth Lite Training
- The development of the Social and Emotional Mental Health Strategy and the work of the Mental Health Nurses supporting schools
- The training undertaken to reduce the stigma of mental health in the workplace (including the council signing up to this)
- Work ongoing in schools, such as the Big White Wall.

5. Recommendations for consideration by the People Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

5.1 The Task Group compiled evidence throughout their work and arising from this a number of recommendations are put forward for consideration by the Full Committee. These recommendations are set out below:

1. Note the outstanding work that is delivered in the Borough by all partners to improve the outcomes for people with mental health issues
2. Request the Leader, Executive Members for Health and Adults and Children's Services to ensure that outcomes highlighted in the Self-Assessment Document are delivered and that outcomes deliver through their portfolio work and also where the work with partners to deliver services
3. That the Lancashire Care Foundation Trust be invited to a future meeting of the Committee to set out their response to the report of the Mental Health Policy Commission and how they would fund any actions they feel necessary in addition to the work that they carry out to meet the current needs of service users
4. That the service providers be requested to produce a concise directory of services available for all areas of mental health and that this be considered for distribution to those who have first line contact with potential service users and that the provision of the directory digitally be examined as a most effective way of publication and maintaining information in the most relevant and up to date means.

Sylvia Liddle

Chair of the People Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

November 2018