

HEALTH AND WELLBEING BOARD

29 JULY 2014

Title:	Impact of Recession Scrutiny (Action Plan)		
Report of the Mental Health Sub-Group			
Open Report	For Decision		
Wards Affected: All	Key Decision: No		
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Sponsor: Jacqui Van Rossum, Executive Director			
Summary: <p>The Health and Wellbeing Board received the findings of the Health and Adult Services Select Committee's scrutiny review on the 'Potential Impact of the Recession and Welfare Reforms on Mental Health' at its meeting on 25 March 2014.</p> <p>The Executive Summary and recommendations are included at Appendix 1 to inform the discussion at the meeting. Board Members who wish to read the full report of the Select Committee can access it from this link:</p> <p>http://www.lbbd.gov.uk/CouncilandDemocracy/Scrutiny/Documents/HASSC%20Final%20Review%20Report%20050214.pdf</p> <p>In response to the review evidence findings the Board tasked the Mental Health Sub Group to produce a plan aimed to meet the seven recommendations for further exploration and action. The summarised recommendations are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Better information and advice is needed for residents, practitioners and those already known to mental health services on issues of welfare reform, advocacy, and support for coping with stress/depression/anxiety• Recovery and resilience can be supported/built up through training and volunteering opportunities• Peer support opportunities must be developed to prevent isolation, provide emotional support, and share knowledge• The primary care depression pathway should be reviewed to ensure it is holistic and not overly reliant on the prescription of anti-depressants• The effects of the austerity and welfare reforms should be measured so that the Council and its partners understand the impacts on residents and levels of need			

- Demand on local services (advocacy, local emergency support, credit unions, welfare rights) should be closely monitored
- The Mental Health First Aid training programme should be delivered to professionals across the partnership and other local employers. Additional mental health awareness training should be provided where appropriate

The attached action plan sets out what the Mental Health Sub Group members will undertake to lead on implementing within their respective agencies and groups.

Recommendation(s)

The Health and Wellbeing Board is recommended to:

- (i) Note and discuss the implementation action plan (Appendix 2) from the Mental Health Sub Group
- (ii) Agree that an update on progress achieved is scheduled for six months thereafter

1. Background and Introduction

- 1.1. The Health and Adult Services Select Committee (HASSC) chose to conduct a scrutiny review on the impact of the recession and welfare reforms on mental health and wellbeing as their scrutiny topic for 2013/14. The review began in June 2013 and the final information gathering session was held in November 2013.
- 1.2. The review sought to answer three key questions:
 - How are economic austerity and the Welfare Reforms impacting on our citizens?
 - Will the austerity measures, reduction in income levels and increases in poverty lead to more mental ill health?
 - What can we do, or what are we currently doing, to mitigate the likely impact?
- 1.3. Over the course of the review, the Select Committee met for formal meetings on four occasions, attended two site visits and hosted a World Mental Health Day event with local residents. Through the evidence gathering the HASSC received information from a wide range of sources.
- 1.4. Following the evidence gathering, HASSC arrived at four broad conclusions:
 - Welfare reforms are a source of anxiety (especially to those with pre-existing mental health issues).
 - Financial hardship is putting strain on residents and is the cause of emotional distress.
 - There is increased demand for voluntary sector services.
 - There is increased demand for health service interventions.

1.5. In response to the evidence and findings the HASSC made 7 recommendations which are summarised as follows:

- Better information and advice is needed for residents, practitioners and those already known to mental health services on issues of welfare reform, advocacy, and support for coping with stress/depression/anxiety.
- Recovery and resilience can be supported/built up through training and volunteering opportunities.
- Peer support opportunities must be developed to prevent isolation, provide emotional support, and share knowledge.
- The primary care depression pathway should be reviewed to ensure it is holistic and not overly reliant on the prescription of anti-depressants.
- The effects of the austerity and welfare reforms should be measured so that the Council and its partners understand the impacts on residents and levels of need.
- Demand on local services (advocacy, local emergency support, credit unions, welfare rights) should be closely monitored.
- The Mental Health First Aid training programme should be delivered to professionals across the partnership and other local employers. Additional mental health awareness training should be provided where appropriate

1.6. The review final report has been shared with stakeholders who participated in the review, the Mayor of London's Office, London Councils, the Centre for Public Scrutiny and LBBD's Strategic Welfare Reform Group.

1.7. Implementation Action Plan and Governance

1.8. The development of the Implementation Action Plan (Appendix 2) has been overseen by the Mental Health Sub Group members.

1.9. The implementation of the plan is intended to positively impact on the wider health and care systems and services to assist performance and quality improvements aimed at minimising the negative impact that current welfare reforms and austerity measures are having on the people experiencing mental health issues.

1.10. Under the Council's agreed scrutiny processes the Health and Wellbeing Board has responsibility for the implementation of the recommendations and action plan.

1.11. The action plan will be monitored at six-monthly intervals by the Board (for quality assurance purposes) and the HASSC (for measuring progress)

2. Mandatory Implications

2.1. Joint Strategic Needs Assessment

The JSNA has a strong mental health section that describes the need to addressing the social determinants of mental health and addressing inequalities – for example, having access to, having and keeping a good job, a decent home, a

good education, good health, a decent income and close relationships. The Annual Report of the Director of Public Health 2013 focuses on mental health and wellbeing recommending building on current work to:

- Improve access to and improve the quality of care and treatment
- Build community awareness and public understanding
- Intervene early and take action to prevent mental health problems
- Promote good mental health and resilience

2.2. Health and Wellbeing Strategy

Championing the public health agenda within the mental health arena is one of the cornerstones of our strategy. We view the causes of our major health challenges with a mental health lens – from obesity to drug and alcohol misuse to smoking. Without a focus on how people think, feel, behave and relate (their mental wellbeing), we will not make the progress we need to.

2.3. Integration

The implications for integration are highlighted in this report and the accompanying Action Plan. The Action Plan is a multi-agency plan and the actions will be taken forward by the constituent organisations of the Health and Wellbeing Board as stated in Appendix 2. The Mental Health Sub Group will be leading on ensuring that the Action Plan is delivered on behalf of the Board.

2.4. Financial Implications

There are no financial implications directly arising from this report. However, there are a number of actions in the Action Plan where a further report may be needed to set out the potential costs and how these are to be funded, unless these are from within existing budgets from which savings will be sought. For example, action 5A is to consider enhancing the floating support services that help residents maintain tenancies and avoid homelessness, and to develop fully costed proposals if required.

Implications completed by: Roger Hampson Group Manager Finance (Adults and Community Services) LBBD.

2.5. Legal Implications

As this report is for noting, there are no direct legal implications relating to the report itself or in the action plan.

Implications completed by: Chris Pickering – Principal Solicitor (LBBD)

3. Background Papers Used in Preparation of the Report:

- Final HASSC Review Report

4. List of Appendices:

- Appendix 1 – Executive Summary and Recommendations of the Scrutiny Review on the Potential Impact of the Recession and Welfare Reforms on Mental Health

— Appendix 2 – Scrutiny Review Action Plan