



Chester-le-Street
District Council

Report to:	Executive
Date of Meeting:	01/09/2008
Report from:	Director of Development Services
Title of Report:	Communities for Health Mental Health project – Interim Evaluation

1. Purpose and Summary

- 1.1 To present Members an interim evaluation of the Communities for Health Mental Health project delivered by MIND on behalf of the Council.
- 1.2 It is recommended that Members note the contents of the report and delegate responsibility to the Communities for Health Sub-group to oversee the full evaluation of the first year of the Mental Health project.

2. Consultation

- 2.1 Consultation took place at the project development stage and included the Director of Development Services, Executive and the Communities for Health sub group.

3. Transition Plan and People and Place Priority

- 3.1 The proposed programme supports the Transition plan and People and Place priority as it is designed to leave a lasting legacy in the locality and its organisations through increased awareness of mental health issues, policy development and appropriate staff training.

4. Implications

- 4.1 Financial Implications and Value for Money Statement

There are no financial Implications arising from this report as the funds allocated to the project have been granted by DoH as part of the Communities for Health programme

4.2 Local Government Reorganisation Issues

There are no LGR issues affecting the project except the need for the new authority to take over project management form April 2009.

4.3 Legal

There are no legal implications arising from this report

4.4 Personnel

There are no staff implications arising from this report

4.5 Other Services

Other Council services have benefited through the training element of this programme. MIND will continue to provide support to Council departments as and when required.

4.6 Diversity

The project supports equal opportunities for all in its delivery. In addition tackling discrimination against mental health sufferers is integral to the training provided.

4.7 Risk

MIND has had a long history of delivering projects successfully. Equally, the success of the scheme in terms of take up in a very short space of time and the positive evaluations from participants suggest that the project can be considered very low risk.

4.8 Crime and Disorder

No direct links to the crime and disorder agenda. However, the project does promote greater understanding of mental health issues and as such will help people to diffuse situations which can be perceived as anti-social behaviour when in fact a person might be in need of mental health support.

4.9 Data Quality

Every care has been taken in the development of this report to ensure that the information and data used in its preparation and the appendices attached are accurate, timely, consistent and comprehensive. The council's Data Quality Policy has been complied with in producing this report.

4.10 Other Implications

There are no other implications from this report.

5. Background, Position Statement and Option Appraisal

5.1 At the Executive meeting of 2nd April 2007, Members delegated authority to the Communities for Health (C4H) Sub-group to allocate the Department of Health's Communities for Health funds as appropriate to tackle health inequalities in the District.

5.2 After careful consideration, the Communities for Health Sub-Group decided to allocate £42,000 to MIND to increase awareness on mental health issues and to deliver training across a wide range of organisations in the District.

5.3 The project objectives, as set by the C4H Sub-group were as follows:

- To engage agencies and organisations in District, in mental health awareness
- To improve knowledge and awareness of mental health issues and existing services in agencies across all sectors
- To equip agencies with the knowledge and information to enable them to address the mental health needs of their staff and customers/clients.

5.4 The project has been operating for just over 6 months and the C4H sub-group met with MIND on 31st July to examine the project's performance over two quarters.

5.5 Naturally, with the project being in operation for such a small period of time, only an interim evaluation could be undertaken concentrating on the project's performance against set objectives.

5.6 Both from performance figures submitted by MIND, but also from anecdotal evidence and feedback from organisations who benefited from the project, it is apparent that the project has been successful in a short space of time. In addition, the demand on the service has remained high

- and the needs of agencies for support from the service has increased and become more diverse.
- 5.7 The project continues to provide a range of quality training (including the newly introduced Mental Health First Aid) based on the initial training needs analysis. It is also supporting a small number of organisations on the development and establishment of policy, practice and service development.
- 5.8 In Appendix 1, members can find all the performance figures submitted by MIND. As a summary, however, it is worth noting the following:
- The project has already met its target of contacting 147 organisations.
 - More importantly, MIND has managed to engage 96 or 65% of the above organisations in training, against a target of 35%. This in itself is evidence of the high demand for the support the project offers and the importance of mental health issues more generally.
 - The overwhelming majority of those trained rated the training provided as good or excellent. Against an 80% target, the project achieved ratings ranging from over 90% and up to 100% of clients rating the training as very good or excellent.
 - Although it is very early to judge performance on outcome targets, initial responses also show excellent results. For example, against a target of 25% of organisations taking a proactive approach (e.g. implementing relevant policies), initial results have been at 100%. Equally, against a target of 50% reporting that information has been cascaded within their organisation initial results also point to a figure of 100% (though final figures will be confirmed as part of the full year evaluation).
- 5.9 Overall, the results of these first 6 months of the project have shown that the local organisations were “thirsty” for both awareness and training on mental health issues. The project has managed to engage with a very large number of organisations from both public and private sector. The organisations involved range from the Council itself, Fire Service and GPs, to schools, Business Link and the Beamish museum. The full list can be found in Appendix 2.
- 5.10 The C4H Sub-group is satisfied that the work of MIND in this project has already delivered tangible outputs and that there are early signs of achievable outcomes too. It has been agreed with MIND that a closer examination of outcomes achieved will take place as part of a fuller evaluation of the first year of the project.

5.11 Meanwhile, the Sub-group agreed with MIND the approach to be taken over the next six months of the project. This is as follows:

- To continue to provide Mental Health First Aid training as appropriate
- Work with Regional Mind Mental Health First Aid service to ensure that Chester-le-Street and local community gain access to training
- Support the development of policy, practice and service issues with local agencies
- Follow up those agencies where initial contact was made and where discussions took place to further clarify the needs of the organisations.
- Circulate information to workplaces based on the discussions with and support of Business Link North East.

The group also discussed a potential workprogramme for year 2 of the Project (attached as Appendix 3), though this and related targets have not been formally agreed yet. As members may recall, a C4H allocation of £16,000 for Year 2 was agreed by Executive on 12th May 2008, and authority was delegated to the C4H sub-group to agree with MIND the relevant activities and targets.

6. Recommendations

1. It is recommended that Members note the contents of the report and delegate responsibility to the Communities for Health Sub-group to oversee the full evaluation of the first year of the Mental Health project.

Nick Tzamaris
Assistant Director of Development Services
Tel: 0191 3872494
Mobile: 0791 7642974
Email: nicktzamaris@chester-le-street.gov.uk

This page is intentionally left blank