

**Durham's Mental Health Strategy and  
Concordat 2018-2021**

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Sponsored by Amanda Healy, Director of Public Health**

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**Purpose of the Report**

- 1 The Mental Health Strategic Partnership Board (MHSPB) developed a one-page Strategic Plan last year which was subsequently consulted upon across a range of community groups. This report highlights the consideration that has been given to the comments received during that consultation, the impact of these on the future work of the MHSPB and its delivery workstreams, the initiatives being planned for 2018/19, and the emergence of a new mental health strategy and concordat.

**Background**

- 2 The mental health Strategic Plan was developed from the emerging priorities of its five workstreams, dementia strategy implementation, children and young people, suicide prevention, adults' wellbeing, and the Crisis Care Concordat.
- 3 The Plan set out a range of priorities being taken forward by each workstream along with details of key interventions and outcome indicators. It also included five cross-cutting themes: Think Family, Evidence and Intelligence, Workforce, Governance, and Communication and Engagement.
- 4 The Strategic Plan was presented to the Health and Wellbeing Board in November last year, following which two consultations have been undertaken on its content. The first pertaining to the all age Strategic Plan which ended in March 2018, the second pertaining to the work relating to children and young people which ended in September 2018. Consideration has since been given to the comments received and a number of changes made to the programme of work and strategy development that is being overseen by the MHSPB.

**Consultation and Responses**

- 5 With regard to the all age consultation, the Strategic Plan was disseminated via the DCC Transformation and Partnerships Team to a range of partners as well as the Area Action Partnerships (AAPs). Discussions were also facilitated at meetings of the Mental Health Provider Forum and the Mental Health Service User Forum. A total of 20 responses were received including collective comments from the above fora; 6 from AAPs; North Durham CCG; County Durham and Darlington Foundation Trust; Tees, Esk and Wear Valleys Foundation Trust; Job Centre Plus; and Durham and Darlington Fire and Rescue Service. The responses related to the following:

- (a) General comments on style and level of detail contained within the plan
- (b) The impact of personal finances and poverty on mental health
- (c) Funding and service provision
- (d) Access and the importance of interfaces between services
- (e) The importance of prevention.

- 6 It was clear that whilst the brevity and simplicity of the Strategic Plan was welcomed, there were some who felt that it lacked detail and a number of comments referred to elements and interventions that, whilst being taken forward within the five workstreams, were not included in the overarching Strategic Plan and therefore appeared to be an oversight. The wording of the Strategic Plan has therefore been reviewed to ensure it is more representative of the breadth of work being undertaken within the workstreams.
- 7 With regard to the children and young people's consultation, responses were received from 77 young people aged 8-21, 14 parents and a range of professionals in the education system. These are considered more fully in the document '***The children and young people's mental health, emotional wellbeing and resilience local transformation plan on a page (CYP MH LTP) consultation***' which is also to be discussed on the agenda.
- 8 Additional responses specific to the remaining four workstreams were also received and these were considered by the chairs of each workstream, resulting in significant changes being made to the work programme for the Adults Wellbeing workstream. The group has since been renamed 'Resilient Communities' to better reflect its work which is now focused upon,
- a the promotion of mental wellbeing in adults but with particular reference to those from vulnerable groups;
  - b addressing the wider determinants of mental health such as housing, employment and poverty;
  - c reducing entry and re-entry into health and social care services through reviewing support for those with severe and enduring mental illness
  - d reducing social exclusion by addressing stigma and discrimination.
- 9 These changes are reflected in the amended Strategic Plan in Appendix 2 with revised priorities being identified for the coming year. The Strategic Plan infographic has also been updated (see Appendix 3).
- 10 It was also noted during the consultation, that in the past 12 months, a number of objectives had been achieved. These included:
- a Dementia; an information guide has been prepared and is now out for consultation; the Dementia Advisor Service has been re-commissioned for two years and due to the number of referrals being received the number of advisors has been increased to five; the number of dementia friendly communities has been achieved and a further 5 are now being planned; 21% of new carers registering with Durham County Carer's Support during March

17-April 18 are caring for someone with dementia and everyone undergoes a Carer's assessment.

- b Children and young people\_- the successful roll out of YouthAwareMental health to ten schools has been followed up by a universal offer of YAM to all mainstream secondary schools (YAM is a universal programme aimed at 13-14 year olds and delivered by a multi-agency team of professionals with the aim of developing coping skills and self esteem). In addition, a perinatal pathway to ensure systematic identification, early intervention and appropriate referrals to specialist mental health services is now in place, and all midwives and health visitors are being trained in perinatal and infant mental health.
  - c Suicide prevention: a suicide prevention alliance has now been established and is now working to develop a refreshed programme of work with an associated action plan. In addition, the DCC public health team have appointed a suicide prevention co-ordinator who will be undertaking an audit of suicide to determine what lessons can be learned from these and a review of the current early alert system has commenced. Finally, additional national funding has been made available to South STP Areas (Durham to North Yorkshire) to expand current service provision relating to suicide prevention; this work is being lead by North Durham CCG.
  - d Crisis care concordat: following the successful pilot of a private ambulance service to convey individuals in mental health distress to places to safety, this work is currently being tendered for across 5 CCGs (including North Durham and DDES CCG). This service currently provides a 2hr response from an ambulance being requested; post tender this will be improved to a 1hr response time. This has had an impact on those who are subject to section 136 of the Mental Health Act<sup>1</sup>, but has also had impact on the police who now spend less time on these types of calls. Street Triage has also been introduced which provides Mental Health Nurse support directly to police between 2pm and midnight 7 days per week.
  - e Adults wellbeing: The contract for the Wellbeing for Life service was extended for 12 months and will undergo further review of the working model with regard to its potential role in relation to mental health as well as other services.
- 11 During this time Durham has also become one of 14 pilot areas chosen for the Local Government Association (LGA) national "Prevention at Scale" offer involving support and advice to deliver "at scale" a preventative approach to significantly change health outcomes for local people. Mental health was identified as the primary priority locally with the focus of the work being "the reduction of deaths by suicide with a focus on work force and anti-stigma and discrimination".
- 12 A County Durham Partnership event was held on World Mental Health Day on 10<sup>th</sup> October. Over 200 people attended. All partners were committed to "Time to Change" which shows an organisations commitment to think and act about mental health in the workplace.

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<sup>1</sup> Section 136 of the Mental Health Act gives the police the power to remove a person from a public place, when they appear to be suffering from a mental disorder, to a place of safety.

## Current Priorities

- 13 Following the outcome of the consultation and further reflection across the workstreams, there are now 19 high level priority areas, each of which is underpinned by key areas of focus/ interventions. These can be seen in Appendix 1 of the Mental Health Strategy and Concordat.
- 14 Work will be focused within each of the workstreams to take forward these priorities with regular updates on progress being shared with the MHSPB, Health and Wellbeing Board and partners. However, it should be noted that these priorities do not represent the totality of work being overseen by the workstreams, but are a subset representing the more detailed work programme being undertaken by the groups and their partners.

## Mental Health Strategy and Concordat

- 15 In January 2018, the MHSPB had a development day to undertake a stocktake of its work and that of the five workstreams. A decision was also made to develop a strategic narrative to support the next iteration of the Strategic Plan, and that this would also support and set out our commitment to the national *Prevention Concordat for Better Mental Health*<sup>1</sup>.
- 16 The Durham Mental Health Strategy and Concordat has therefore been developed as a means of framing the work of the MHSPB, and reaffirming their commitment to work together across the Partnership. This is contained in Appendix 4.
- 17 Alongside their 19 priority work areas, the five cross-cutting themes that had emerged across the workstreams have been incorporated into the strategy and concordat. This includes the approach to being guided by the evidence base, to work alongside partners and communities, their commitment to workforce development and, the importance of ensuring a whole family approach to all that they commit to do.

## Monitoring Progress

- 18 The Durham County Council commissioning service has developed a robust performance framework to help monitor and report progress on implementing our Strategic Plan. Quarterly highlight reports will be prepared and progress will be monitored through both longer term national outcome indicators and short term output indicators derived from the interventions and programme of work that are currently in place to take these objectives forward. For example, in the case of the Dementia workstream, the Public Health Outcomes Framework will be used to monitor the estimated dementia diagnosis that is reported through the public health outcomes framework on an annual basis, but in the short term, we will also measure outputs from the work of the subgroup such as the number of dementia friendly communities that are established.

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<sup>1</sup> The Prevention Concordat for Better Mental Health is a planning resource published by Public Health England, the Local Government Association and NHS England and intended to provide local partners with a guidance to support collaborative action on local prevention planning and commissioning arrangements.

## Conclusion and next steps

- 19 This paper has set out a revised set of priorities and objectives for the Mental Health Strategic Partnership Board in the form of a Strategic Plan or single '*plan on a page*' for mental health. It includes a set of underpinning indicators that will measure progress in achieving their objectives over time and which will be monitored through the Durham County Council commissioning team.
- 20 In addition, the paper highlights the development of the Mental Health Strategy and Concordat which provides additional narrative to support the work of the MHSPB and affirms its commitment to work together to support those with mental health needs, their families and carers.

## Recommendations and reasons

- 21 Members of the Health and Wellbeing Board are recommended to:
- (a) Consider the content of this report noting the outcome of the consultation and the response of the Mental Health Strategic Partnership Board;
  - (b) Approve the Mental Health Strategic Plan and infographic in Appendices 2 & 3; and
  - (c) Approve the Mental Health Strategy and Concordat in Appendix 4.

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## **Appendix 1: Implications**

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### **Finance**

There are no financial implications arising from this strategy at present. However, significant pressures exist for all partners therefore more coordinated and joined up approaches are essential. The value in setting out the Concordat supports that approach.

### **Staffing**

There are long-term issues about developing and equipping the workforce to be able to develop specialist and population level interventions. These will be considered further through the establishment of a workforce development task and finish group.

### **Risk**

Partnership support will be required to take forward this programme of work and failure to identify appropriate support may result in a risk to performance. Monitoring will be undertaken on a quarterly basis and considered by the MHSPB for appropriate remedial action.

### **Equality and Diversity / Public Sector Equality Duty**

All partners will meet their statutory duties.

### **Accommodation**

N/A

### **Crime and Disorder**

The implications are described in the fuller plans being developed by the MHSPB sub groups.

### **Human Rights**

N/A

### **Consultation**

Consultation on the programmes delivered through the workstreams will be through the mental health user and consultation forums along with other key stakeholders including schools.

### **Procurement**

As work progresses, some services may require revision and procurement and these will be overseen through officers supporting each workstream.

### **Disability Issues**

N/A

### **Legal Implications**

This plan complies with the Council's legal obligations under the Health and Social Care Act 2012, giving Local Authorities responsibility for improving the health of their local populations.

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## **Appendix 2: Mental Health Strategic Plan on a Page, 2018-21**

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Attached as a separate document

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**Appendix 3: Mental Health Strategic Plan on a Page, 2018-21  
(infographic)**

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Attached as a separate document

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## **Appendix 4 - Mental Health Strategy and Concordat, 2018-21**

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Attached as a separate document