

Enhancing partnership working across the private, social and public sectors to improve the mental health and well-being of our citizen's

Introduction

The Mental Health and well-being of our citizens remains a priority for us. Poor mental health and wellbeing is a significant problem for the West Midlands. It impacts on individuals and families, and more widely communities and the economy, costing our region over £12 billion per year. Moreover 1 in 4 of us will experience a mental health problem in our life time; and around 1 in 3 GP appointments involves a mental health component. The prevalence of mental health remains high and we need to do more.

The stigma around mental health continues and our ability to recognise and deal with our own and other peoples' mental health is low. We have a tendency to think it is the role of the professional bodies such as mental health trusts, charities and the local authority to deal with mental health – but it's not. Whether an employer, an educator, a friend or family member, or a public service – we all have a role to play.

In April 2018 the West Midlands Mayor, in conjunction with Grant Thornton and Birmingham and Solihull Mental Health Foundation Trust hosted a dinner debate on 'Mental Health – Everyone's Business'. The debate brought leaders from across Birmingham and Solihull together to discuss how they can make an even bigger impact on the mental well-being of our population. There was acknowledgement that by working together and having a small number of common goals they could make a bigger difference. There were six priority areas that leaders identified and believed they could and should do something about jointly:

1. Meeting young people needs
2. Creating a supportive workplace
3. Developing supportive communities
4. Getting services in the right places
5. Supporting funding streams
6. Maximising leadership

A national thought piece has been published as a result of the local debate: 'Better Mental Health in Birmingham and the West Midlands – Everyone's Business'. The timing of the publication is fortuitous as we have recently seen the release of the national NHS Long Term Plan. Our local report reinforces some of the themes within the plan including the focus on prevention, enhancing partnership working and working with communities to help them take a greater role in their own health care.

We have also recently published our joint Partnerships Strategy for Mental Health outlining what we consider to be the top areas we need to work together on over the forth coming years; the same priority areas are echoed in this strategy.

Developing a cross sector Mental Health Partnership for Birmingham and Solihull

We are now launching a Birmingham and Solihull Mental Health Partnership. The purpose of the partnership (detailed in appendix 1) will be to continue to engage local leaders from the private, social and public sectors in improving the mental well-being of our citizens. The

partnership is intended to provide thought leadership, enhance partnership working and promote innovation across sectors. It will focus on four priority areas that have been identified by the local STP, the Health and Well Being Boards and the Mental Health Clinical senate. These are:

- Suicide prevention
- Prevention of mental illness and crisis
- Supporting peoples recovery from mental illness; and
- The mental health workforce

The Birmingham and Solihull STP supports the launch of an independent Mental Health partnership and will commission it to undertake an independent annual review of their Mental Health work. It will therefore feature as part of the STP governance.

Birmingham Solihull Mental Health Foundation Trust in partnership with Grant Thornton will continue to sponsor and host the partnership. The partnership will come together four times a year; each session will be an interactive think-tank focusing on one of the 4 core topics. The workshops will have a national guest speaker, will be action orientated and look at good practice across different sectors. We hope that it will influence what each of the members of the partnership does as well as extend the role others play in mental health. We will look to continue to produce national thought pieces and promote sector wide practice in mental health.

The Partnership will consist of senior representative from different organisations from across the private, social and public sector. The membership at each session does not have to be the same person, it can be the most relevant person based on the topic, however we ask it is someone who is able to make decisions and influence action as a result of the session. The dates and venues of the events for 2019 are detailed in appendix 2.

For Further information

For further information on the Mental Health partnership or to register your interest in supporting and jointing the partnership please contact:

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Appendix 1: High Level Purpose of the Mental Health Partnership

- To engage partners from across the public, social and private sectors to play a role in delivering the mental health priorities of the STP
- To ensure a flow down from the West Midlands Mental Health Commission into Birmingham and Solihull ensuring all innovations and projects are run well locally and that we optimise further opportunities for devolution or innovation funding in mental health
- To provide an annual 'check and challenge report' on the STP Mental Health work programme to ensure that it is adequately addressing mental health aside physical health, is covering the right priorities and is having impact
- To provide thought leadership for mental health from across sectors
- To provoke and challenge the system and support innovation
- To link to the existing mental health advisory committees for Mental Health including the clinical senate, the nursing advisory committee, the psychological advisory committee and the medical advisory committee
- To effectively engage subject matter experts
- To enhance how we co-produce Mental Health work programmes and work with communities
- To undertake commissioned pieces of work from the Health and Well Being Boards, STP Board and Mental Health Delivery Board as requested
- To ensure that any matters arising that require operationalising and project managing flow through to the STP Mental Health Programme Delivery Group

Appendix 2: 2019 Dates, Times, Topics and Venues

Date	Topic	Guest Speaker	Venue
18 th March 9.30am – 11.30am	Suicide Prevention – A Joint Approach Including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Zero tolerance to suicide • Safe environments • Access to help and support 	TBC	Grant Thornton UK, The Colmore Building, 20, Colmore Circus, Birmingham, B4 6AT
13 th June 9.30am- 11.30am	Prevention of mental illness and crisis Including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mental health in the workplace • Sport and mental health • Good practice in early support 	TBC	Grant Thornton UK, The Colmore Building, 20, Colmore Circus, Birmingham, B4 6AT
19 th September 9.30am – 11.30am	Supporting peoples recovery from mental illness Including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Helping people back to work • Supportive workplaces and communities 	TBC	Grant Thornton UK, The Colmore Building, 20, Colmore Circus, Birmingham, B4 6AT
12 th December 9.30am- 11.30am	The Mental Health workforce Including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New roles in mental health • Working in partnership across sectors • Apprenticeships 	TBC	Grant Thornton UK, The Colmore Building, 20, Colmore Circus, Birmingham, B4 6AT
<i>* The annual review of the STP mental health work programme will feature at the end of each session for those interested in supporting it this will be from 11.30am – 1pm</i>			