

## **Appendix 3 – Creating a Mentally Healthy City Forum Highlight Report**

### **1.1 Context**

1.1.1 The aim of the Creating a Mentally Healthy City Forum (CMHC) is to work with strategic partners, stakeholders, Third and Voluntary sectors, Academics, and Faith Groups to improve mental wellbeing including access to mental health services for the most vulnerable and disadvantaged groups through the programmes mentioned in the Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (JSNA), the call to action in the Prevention Concordat, and the Suicide Prevention Strategy, along with other HWBB Forum: Creating a City without Inequality; Creating a Healthy Food City; and Creating a Physically Active City.

1.1.2 The scheduled bi-monthly meetings were disrupted by the COVID-19 pandemic. The Forum met on 10<sup>th</sup> June, but since communication has been virtually via the LinkedIn group as Public Health resource has been diverted to focus on health protection and on a work programme at population level, aimed at reducing the risk of becoming seriously ill from COVID-19. The forum is currently stepped down until January 2021.

### **1.2 Current Circumstance**

1.2.1 The focus of mental health work has been on strengthening partnerships and building momentum with the Creating a Mentally Healthy City Forum virtually to support the mental health needs created by Covid-19. In addition to email communications, work is focused to establish the LinkedIn group, encouraging members to post information updates, events and publications from their own organisations. Via the LinkedIn platform, the public health team are providing information around mental health, inequalities and Covid-19 for organisations to share with their networks. As a result of increased activity on the platform, additional requests have been received for membership of the LinkedIn group, which currently has over 100 members.

1.2.2 The interviews for the joint Suicide Prevention Coordinator were held on Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> October. Aarti Kumari has been appointed to the role and has substantial experience in Suicide Prevention having worked as Regional Manager for Papyrus across London and Essex. The coordinator will work two days a week for Solihull MBC and three days a week for Birmingham City Council. The aim is to have the coordinator in post by the beginning of December

The Suicide Prevention Data Sharing Agreement is now with the Coroner's Solicitor and we are working through the Data sharing Agreement with our legal team for the Real Time Surveillance System Pilot. The agreement and subsequent data flow will enable the Public Health Division to have an accurate picture of sudden death classified as suicide across Birmingham and enable us to target prevention services more effectively.

### **1.3 Next Steps and Delivery**

- Follow the mapping exercise, with an updated report, on mental health and wellbeing support across the City
- Closer working relationship with Birmingham and Solihull CCG to maximise input and building relationships for collaborative work, which will also involve input from our partners in CMHC
- Suicide Prevention initiate working with hospitals to ensure GPs are notified when vulnerable patients self-discharge. This to ensure they have continued support in the community as they often fall out of the system
- Finalise the Prevention Concordat sign off and galvanise work programmes to support and improve mental wellbeing, as Strategic Partners and Public Health resources increase from supporting the emergency Covid-19 response.