

Appendix X – Creating a Mentally Healthy City Forum Highlight Report

1.1 Context

- 1.2 The 'Creating a Mentally Health City Forum' (CMHC) has an explicit focus on the mental wellbeing of citizens in Birmingham, with an emphasis on upstream prevention and promotion of better mental health. This includes also Suicide Prevention which has its own Advisory Group Strategy and Action Plan. It is one of five Fora created within the Public Health Division with reporting responsibility to the Health and Wellbeing Board. These reports are based on the activities set out in the Delivery Plan.
- 1.3 The aim of the CMHC Forum is to work with partners, stakeholders, academics, voluntary and third sector organisations, faith groups, and importantly our local communities to ensure that we are creating a City where all our citizens have equal opportunities to thrive and build a life that will enable them to achieve their potential and prosper.

1.4 Current Circumstance

- 1.5 The second draft of the Prevention Concordat for Better Mental Health at Commitment Level is now completed, incorporating feedback received from both Public Health England and the Director of Public Health. There has been a delay with completion while work was being completed on the Prevention and Promotion fund for Better Mental Health. The document will now be sent to CMB for approval, then to CLT after which it will be disseminated to Forum members for their approval. The final stage will be to seek approval/sign off from Public Mental Health at Commitment Level.
- 1.6 The Terms of Reference, now in its third year, is currently being refreshed under its terms. In doing so, we have taken the impact of the pandemic and looked at organisations (including local communities working on inequality in some of our most deprived areas), that are committed to 'making a difference' to citizens who are disadvantaged. These community organisations can add value to the work we are dedicated to, and resolute in, addressing within the Forum, e.g. mental health and wellbeing, suicide prevention, domestic abuse, and justice health. We have also invited representatives from organisation that are involved in the Better Mental Health fund to be members. Within the Concordat, we are committed to working with partners in community settings, charities, sporting and VCS organisations. The new membership will reflect these changes.
- 1.7 The contracts from the Better Mental Health funds have now been assigned to successful bidders who put forward specific projects that covered the life course; however, these were largely for children and young people addressing mental health issues. There were 11 successful bids. The non-recurring fund for £792,972 was subsequently increased by £20,700 giving a total of £813,672. The successful Bids were selected as they were seen as having lasting legacies beyond the fixed-term funding; they can be evidenced; and will build upon established work programmes that focus on skills and

resources development, show value for money with exceptional return on the investment.

- 1.8 In addition to the projects in 1.7, Public Health is also funding projects from their core budget that were not included in the 11 but on merit were equally as beneficial to addressing mental health and wellbeing. These are currently being put through the finance system within the organisation.
- 1.9 The Suicide Prevention Advisory Group took place on Thursday 21 October at 13.00-15.00. The focus was on updating the members on the Prevention and Promotion Fund for Better Mental Health as a number of these Bids sit with providers who are members of this Forum.
- 1.10 We are still actively collecting information from our providers against the actions on the Suicide Prevention Action Plan and this was updated with the latest available information. The Coroner made an appearance at the meeting.
- 1.11 Interviews for a Wave 3 Suicide Prevention Co-ordinator for Birmingham and Solihull took place on Friday 1 October 2021. This was to replace the incumbent Co-ordinator but unfortunately no appointment was made. The post will once again be advertised.
- 1.12 The Zero Suicide Alliance Basic Suicide Awareness Training was launched on the Learning and Development Service and can be accessed both internally and externally on their portal via:
<https://tlds.learningpool.com/course/view.php?id=1358>
- 1.13 **Next Steps and Delivery**
 - Prevention Concordat will be sent to the Chair of the Forum and the Director of Public Health before going to CMB and CLT, and Forum members
 - Terms of Reference will be refreshed and sent to the Chair of the Forum and the Director of Public Health for their feedback
 - A video recording on completing the reporting spreadsheet that is required by Public Health England will be sent to all 11 commissioned organisations to assist them with their monthly reporting returns
 - The Public Health Mental Health Delivery Plan update to be reported to the CMHC Forum
 - The Suicide Prevention Action Plan with updated recommendations to be presented at the 25 November CMHC Forum