

Update Report: Mental Health Partnership

Summary

1. This report presents an update from the mental health partnership about their activities to date. It covers the following areas:
 - i. establishing the mental health partnership
 - ii. action planning to deliver the mental health strategy
 - iii. delivering the mental health priority in the joint health and wellbeing strategy
 - iv. performance and monitoring
 - v. local area sign up to the prevention concordat
2. The Independent chair of the partnership will be in attendance at the meeting to present this report.

Background

3. The [joint health and wellbeing strategy for 2017-22](#) identifies four principal themes to be addressed. One of these themes is mental health and wellbeing with the key priority for that theme being 'to get better at spotting the early signs of mental ill health and intervening early'. Other aims in the joint health and wellbeing strategy in relation to mental health are:
 - Focus on recovery and rehabilitation
 - Improve services for young mothers, children and young people
 - Ensure that York becomes a Suicide Safer city

- Ensure that York is both a mental health and dementia-friendly environment
 - Improve the services for those with learning disabilities (to be addressed in its own strategy)
4. These are expanded and explored in more detail in the Health and Wellbeing Board's [all age mental health strategy 2018-2023](#).

Consultation

5. Consultation with a wide audience took place when developing both the joint health and wellbeing strategy and the mental health strategy.

Establishing the mental health partnership

6. The mental health partnership first met in April 2018 and has, to date, met on a total of 3 occasions. It is chaired by an independent chair, with the vice-chair being the current interim director for health, housing and adult social care. The independent chair is also keen to raise awareness of the importance of good mental health and wellbeing more generally and has, for example, given his time to visit voluntary sector organisations/forums and attend the suicide prevention conference to increase his own knowledge in the field.
7. Terms of reference have been agreed by the partnership; including a core membership (**Annex A refers**).
8. To date agenda items have included starting the action planning process for delivering against the mental health strategy; priority setting; learning about the ways to wellbeing service and advising on and considering joint strategic needs assessment work in relation to mental health
9. Additionally there are a number of relationships between the partnership board and other existing groups in the city that need to be strengthened; these include the VCS forum for mental health; the YorOK Board; the two safeguarding boards and the strategic partnership for emotional and mental health (children and young people). Work is ongoing to ensure that the partnership works effectively and in a complementary way with these groups.

10. Work needs to start on mapping what is already happening in the city; looking at what the other groups' work streams are to avoid duplication and looking at whether there are other strategic and/or operational groups in the city with a focus on this agenda that we need to liaise with.
11. The partnership acknowledges that to make a significant difference a more collective approach is required to start making the cultural shifts to fully aligned delivery. There is an ambition to work in a more integrated way using community strength based approaches at a neighbourhood level.

Action planning to deliver the mental health strategy

12. The partnership has started to develop an action plan to deliver against the all age mental health strategy. At the moment this is at a very early stage and more work needs to take place to make the action plan manageable and focused; with the understanding that it is a live document and will need to be flexible and responsive. All partnership members are encouraged to own the action plan and at least one individual action within it.
13. However, from early discussion the mental health partnership have identified three priority areas to concentrate on, namely:
 - self harm
 - housing/supported accommodation
 - long term prevention
14. Additionally they have considered their role in sending positive messages via corporate communication channels as well as promoting occasions such as world mental health awareness day.
15. Also coming through as an important element of action planning is the need to promote the wealth of good quality information available in the city focusing on a suite of complementary resources such as:
 - Healthwatch York's mental health and wellbeing guide
 - Live Well York website
 - Family information service

➤ Carer's centre website

16. It should also be noted that the chair of the mental health partnership took an active role in the recent suicide prevention conference which was very well attended.
17. Further information about these can be found in Annex B to this report.

Delivering the mental health priority in the joint health and wellbeing strategy

18. We know that there is a lot of work already happening in the city. With a focus on the higher level priorities in the joint health and wellbeing strategy 2017 to 2022 **Annex B** sets out a brief overview of some of the more significant pieces of work that are helping to deliver against these. This information will be used by the Mental Health Partnership to complement the priorities in the all age mental health strategy and to begin to build a bigger picture of what is happening in the city and where any gaps might be.
19. One key area to report on is the priority of York becoming a suicide safer city. The York suicide safer community strategy was open for public consultation over the summer and received generally positive feedback. The strategy contains the seven key objectives of the national suicide prevention strategy plus two additional local objectives (training and preparedness/post incident management).
20. The Living Works Suicide Safer Community concept, which is a joint health and wellbeing strategy objective, is the central theme alongside fundamental principles of partnership working, suicide prevention being the responsibility of everyone rather than primary or secondary health services and of the need to talk more openly about suicide. The strategy does not set targets other than to reduce suicide, initially to below national and regional average levels and will be accompanied by a multi-agency operational delivery plan which requires commitment, contribution and resources of Health and Wellbeing Board partner organisations and the community.
21. Raising awareness of the ambition and objective was a primary aim of the York Suicide Safer Community multi-agency workshop held in July 2018 and of the conference in September 2018, both

of which received excellent feedback from delegates and press interest.

22. Another objective, that of improving support for people bereaved through suicide is demonstrated through the continued suicide postvention offer from the Major Incident Response Team (MIRT), the introduction of a new SOBS York branch (Survivors of Bereavement through Suicide) and the second York service of reflection for people bereaved through suicide held at All Saints Church on early September”.

Performance and monitoring

23. The mental health partnership has considered the suite of performance indicators included within the all age mental health strategy. The latest update is included at **Annex C** to this report.

Local area sign up to the prevention concordat

24. Finally the Chair and Vice-Chair of the Health and Wellbeing Board along with the Director of Public Health for the city of York and the Chair of the Mental Health Partnership have agreed that the York Health and Wellbeing board should sign up to the [Prevention Concordat for Better Mental Health](#).
25. The concordat is underpinned by an understanding that taking a prevention focused approach to improving the public’s mental health makes a valuable contribution to achieving a fairer and more equitable society. The concordat promotes evidence based planning and commissioning to increase the impact on reducing health inequalities.
26. Any further work and implementation associated with the concordat will be delegated to the mental health partnership.

Options

27. There are no specific options for the Health and Wellbeing Board to consider; however board members are asked to:
 - In relation to the sign up to the prevention concordat for better mental health: to delegate the completion of necessary documentation to the Chair of Health and Wellbeing Board and the Director of Public Health for city of York

- make a commitment, both as leaders within their own organisations and as leaders across the York health and social care system, to do what is required to transform the mental health of people living in York.

Implications

28. It is important that both the priorities around mental health and wellbeing in both the joint health and wellbeing strategy and the all age mental health strategy are delivered. The establishment of a mental health partnership should enable this to be achieved.

Recommendations

29. The Health and Wellbeing Board are asked to:
- delegate the completion of the necessary documentation for sign up to the prevention concordat for better mental health to the Chair of the Health and Wellbeing Board and the Director of Public Health
 - Make a commitment both as leaders within their own organisations and as leaders across the York health and social care system, to do what is required to transform the mental health of people living in York.

Reason: To give the Health and Wellbeing Board oversight of the work of the new mental health partnership

Contact Details

Author:

Tim Madgwick
Independent Chair of the
Mental Health Partnership

**Chief Officer Responsible for the
report:**

Michael Melvin
Interim Director for Health, Housing and
Adult Social Care; City of York Council

**Report
Approved**



Date 05.10.2018

Specialist Implications Officer(s)

None

Wards Affected:

All



For further information please contact the author of the report

Background Papers:

None

Annexes

Annex A – Terms of Reference

Annex B – Progress on the mental health theme of the joint health and wellbeing strategy

Annex C – Performance monitoring