
Health and Wellbeing Board

8th November 2017

Report of the Corporate Director of Housing, Health and Adult Social Care & the Accountable Officer NHS Vale of York Clinical Commissioning Group.

Developing an All Age Mental Health Strategy for York 2017-2022

Summary

1. This report presents progress against producing an all age mental health strategy for York. The Board are asked to note the report and the feedback received during the consultation period.

Background

2. 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
 - Improve the services for those with learning disabilities
 - Ensure that York becomes a Suicide Safer city
 - Ensure that York is both a mental health and dementia-friendly environment
3. Earlier in 2017 Health and Wellbeing Board were asked to approve a draft mental health strategy for consultation. The draft mental health strategy expanded on the themes in the paragraph above and its vision was based on the Department of Health's 2011 publication "No Health without Mental Health"

- More people will have good mental health
- More people with mental health problems will recover
- More people with mental health problems will have good physical health
- More people will have a positive experience of care and support
- Fewer people will suffer avoidable harm
- Fewer people will experience stigma and discrimination.

Consultation Feedback

4. Consultation on the draft mental health strategy ran from Tuesday 8th August to Sunday 8th October 2017 and was predominantly by way of an online survey hosted by Healthwatch York. Additionally general comments on the draft mental health strategy were received by e-mail and left on the generic comments page of Healthwatch York's website.
5. Prior to the start of consultation officers attended the VCS Forum for Mental Health to discuss the draft and to hear their views. Officers also met with some key stakeholders during the consultation period to discuss the draft mental health strategy and presented the draft strategy at the Health, Housing and Adult Social Care Policy and Scrutiny Committee.
6. There were 21 responses to the online survey and 9 general comments left on the Healthwatch website. Independent of the survey written feedback was received from members of the Strategic Partnership, Emotional & Mental Health (Children & Young People); York Older People's Assembly; Tees, Esk and Wear Valleys NHS Foundation Trust and the Green Party. There were three other responses: an e-mail from a carer; an e-mail from a voluntary sector organisation and a telephone call from a member of the public.
7. The online survey asked the following questions:

Question 1: What do you think the Mental Health Strategy will deliver?

Question 2: From the strategy, what would be your short, medium, and long term priorities?

Question 3: What do you think is missing from the Mental Health Strategy?

Question 4: What one thing would make the biggest improvement to your mental health and wellbeing?

Question 5: What already works well in the city?

Question 6: What should we do more of?

Question 7: Do you have any further comments or feedback.

8. Taking the responses received as a whole some common themes emerged from the consultation feedback:

- the vision in the draft strategy needs to be more inspirational and the strategy, in general needs to be more ambitious;
- the whole system approach and the model used in Trieste needs to be better explained; including how the city can achieve a shift to this model of provision in the long term;
- the mental health strategy for York should be short and succinct. At the moment the strategy states too much of what is already happening rather than concentrating on the strategic direction for the future. Action plans need to be developed independently of the strategy;
- equalities and diversity needs to run through the whole strategy
- the strategy needs to be presented in a similar style and format to the joint health and wellbeing strategy
- outcomes and delivery; 'how will we know the strategy has made a difference'

9. There were also a wide variety of references to more specific themes, some of the more frequently occurring of these are listed below:

- self harm, suicide prevention;
- student mental health, transitions; children and young people;

- links to other local and national strategies;
 - links to York as a Human Rights City and a City of Sanctuary;
 - co-production
 - links to primary care
 - access to services and waiting times
 - workforce
 - early intervention and prevention
 - safeguarding
 - understanding resilience and what makes people vulnerable to experiencing mental ill health
 - building community resilience
10. Having taken all the feedback into consideration it is apparent that the draft mental health strategy still needs considerable work before a final version is ready. Work has started on redesigning the strategy and incorporating as much of the feedback received as possible into it; however significant changes are required not just in content but in reformatting, redesigning and making sure that consistent and accessible language is used throughout. It is also important that all key stakeholders have enough time to input into and comment on what will be a radically changed document from the consultation draft.
11. It is therefore proposed that the final version of the all age mental health strategy be signed off at the January 2018 meeting of the Health and Wellbeing Board.

Delivering the All Age Mental Health Strategy for York

12. At the July 2017 meeting Health and Wellbeing Board agreed to split the Mental Health and Learning Disabilities Partnership Board into two discrete groups; one focusing on learning disabilities and one on mental health (each to be the delivery mechanism for their related strategies).
13. Since then the Mental Health and Learning Disabilities Partnership Board has held two workshops to look at how this can be

achieved. Discussions are ongoing as to how to create the new mental health partnership and the following have been identified as key factors:

- co-productive and inclusive of those who use mental health services
- regular attendance by all; including those that can influence the wider determinants of mental health such as planning, housing, education and businesses
- having a clear purpose and an agreed strategy
- has the right people at the table to enable change

14. As part of their second workshop the partnership started to develop some early action plans based on both the joint health and wellbeing strategy and the draft all age mental health strategy. These are focused around the following themes:

- Recovery and rehabilitation
- Suicide Safer City
- Peri-natal mental health; children and young people's mental health; student mental health
- Early signs of mental ill health (intervening early)
- Mental health and dementia friendly city

15. These early action plans include ideas on what the key actions might need to be under each of the above headings; what the milestones might be and how successful delivery can be identified. The plans also look at what is already happening in the city and who needs to be involved in delivery.

16. The current draft of the all age mental health strategy contains some actions and these will need to be separated from the strategic elements of the document and added to the action plans.

17. A date has yet to be set for the first meeting, membership still needs to be agreed and a chair and vice-chair are still to be identified.

18. The above paragraphs are provided to the Health and Wellbeing Board as assurance that work is well underway even though a new mental health partnership has yet to be established.

Options

19. Health and Wellbeing Board are asked to note this progress report.

Implications

20. It is important that the new all age mental health strategy for the city is written in clear and accessible language; is fully inclusive and promotes parity of esteem with physical health.

Recommendations

21. The Health and Wellbeing Board are asked to note the feedback from the consultation and progress made on producing an all age mental health strategy for the city and establishing a new mental health partnership.

Reason: Health and Wellbeing Board oversight of the development of an all age mental health strategy.

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Report
Approved



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Specialist Implications Officer(s)

None

Wards Affected:

All

For further information please contact the author of the report

Background Papers:

Draft Mental Health Strategy

Annexes

None