



Health and Wellbeing Board

22 October 2014

Report of Tim Madgwick, Deputy Chief Constable, North Yorkshire Police

Together York

Summary

1. The Board will receive a presentation in relation to the national mental health intervention scheme “Together: for Mental Wellbeing” and the York implementation of this scheme at today’s meeting.

Background

2. In common with practically every area in the UK, the emergency services and partner agencies in York regularly encounter a core group of people, who often present in crisis and with a variety of vulnerabilities. Whilst each agency endeavours to support the individual and resolve the matter in hand, responses are often poorly coordinated and deal with symptoms, rather than causes. Many individuals experiencing mental distress do not meet service thresholds for ongoing support and intervention, resulting in repeat presentations to emergency services, increased costs, and worsening distress.
3. Together: for Mental Wellbeing has developed a model of intervention called the Pathways Approach with the aim to provide *early, targeted assessment and intervention for those experiencing mental distress and complex needs*, Working in partnership with emergency services, and with key voluntary and statutory agencies in York, the approach seeks to achieve key objectives of the Crisis Care Concordat, delivering:
 - Psychologically informed practical support around individuals’ key concerns, using a therapeutic intervention tool.
 - Better use of mental health services, both acute and emergency, through reducing inappropriate and costly demand on services

- Prevention of crises through timely identification, pathway facilitation and support
- Facilitation of increased interagency liaison, collaboration, planning and delivery to improve wellbeing, prevent crises, and manage and learn from crises together.

Main/Key Issues to be Considered

4. The target cohorts will be those experiencing mental distress:
 - at first contact with emergency services, or at risk of contact with emergency services
 - frequently in contact with emergency services who may have longstanding difficulties, referred by Police, Ambulance, Fire, Psychiatric Liaison teams, and the Street Triage Team.
5. The project will be supported by a high level Strategic Board, bringing together local commissioners and senior decision-makers to provide the robust governance required to ensure services and systems meet the needs of the most vulnerable.

Consultation

6. During the formulation of the pilot model, there has been extensive and continuous consultations with a full range of stakeholders, including:
 - City of York Council
 - Vale of York CCG
 - Leeds and York Partnership NHS Foundation Trust
 - Yorkshire Ambulance Service
 - York Healthwatch
 - North Yorkshire Fire and Rescue Service
 - York Teaching Hospital
 - Arclight Centre
 - North Yorkshire Police
 - Service users

- York CVS
- York Family Focus Programme
- York MIND

Feedback from these discussions has been used to construct a model that integrates with and augments existing care and support systems in the area.

Options

7. Not applicable.

Analysis

8. Not applicable.

Strategic/Operational Plans

9. This presentation is linked to the priority in the Health and Wellbeing Strategy on “Improving Mental Health and Intervening Early”.

Implications

10. Consideration has been given to each of the below areas as follows:

- **Financial**

The funding arrangements for this pilot are complex, and as yet not wholly resolved. To ensure there is an opportunity to begin to evaluate results, the minimum duration of the pilot must be at least twelve months (although two years would provide a more comprehensive overview of outcomes).

To provide a twelve month pilot, initially operating during office hours before extending to coverage over seven days, would require a minimum funding commitment of £137K.

Currently, there is a funding commitment of £50K p.a. from Vale of York CCG covering the 2014/15 and 2015/16 financial years for, but currently no commitment to fund beyond that.

There is an active bid to a major national charitable foundation, which has generated a significant amount of positive feedback. In November 2014, the foundation is due to confirm whether they will support the pilot and if so, the scale and duration of the contribution they will commit.

North Yorkshire Police made a bid to the Home Office Police Innovation Fund in April 2014, which was unsuccessful on this occasion, but which received encouragement to reapply at the next opportunity.

Therefore, at this stage there remains a projected deficit in funding of £37K over the twelve months of the pilot.

- **Human Resources (HR)**

There is a limited requirement for staff engagement from each agency in identifying the cohort of people to be referred into the project, although this is minimal.

- **Equalities**

The pilot supports the needs of mentally vulnerable people, and is open to all adults. There are no equalities implications.

- **Legal**

Referrals will be made with the consent of the individual, enabling effective engagement and information sharing.

- **Crime and Disorder**

The project focuses on mental distress, drugs and alcohol abuse issues in people who are in contact (or at risk of contact) with emergency services. By addressing the underlying reasons behind the person's presentation, the project may have a consequential impact on alcohol / drugs-related behaviours.

- **Information Technology (IT)**

Co-location of the Pathways Team with other services will maximise opportunities for information-sharing, and minimise the requirements for IT interoperability.

- **Property**

As above, by co-locating the team with other services, there will be greater opportunities to support collaboration and negate the requirement for new estate provision.

- **Other**

Evaluation of the pilot will identify its efficacy, and options for cost-effective assessment are being progressed. A related Criminal Justice Liaison and Diversion scheme with Together in collaboration with the Probation Service in London has been evaluated by Sheffield Hallam University. It was found to *“enhance services and add(s) value and... this represents a cost-effective solution”*.

If similar successes are achieved through this pilot, the Board may wish to consider how a service may be commissioned and procured in future.

Risk Management

11. Risks, issues and options for resolution will be reported to the Strategic Board.

Recommendations

12. The Health and Wellbeing Board are asked to note the content of the presentation and to consider the implications for the Board and its respective members.

Contact Details

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Wards Affected:

All

For further information please contact the author of the report