

FLINTSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

REPORT TO: **CABINET**

DATE: **TUESDAY, 17TH DECEMBER 2013**

REPORT BY: **DIRECTOR OF COMMUNITY SERVICES**

SUBJECT: **TOGETHER FOR MENTAL HEALTH**

1.00 PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.01 To advise Cabinet of the response of Flintshire with partners to the Welsh Governments Strategy “ Together for Mental Health”
- 1.02 That Cabinet note that Councillor Christine Jones has the responsibilities of Mental Health Champion as part of her agreed role and will carry out these duties in the future.

2.00 BACKGROUND

- 2.01 The vision set out in “ Together for Mental Health “ provides the strategic context for an ambitious mental health agenda for the next 10 years, “Together for Mental Health”. shares responsibility and accountability between the NHS and Local Government for driving forward improvements in mental health provision in North Wales
- 2.02 This strategy highlights a range of factors in people’s lives which can affect mental health and wellbeing. These build on the ‘Areas of Life’ used in Care and Treatment Planning to improve the mental health and wellbeing of the whole population
- To reduce the impact of mental health problems and/or mental illness on individuals, families, carers and their communities
 - To reduce inequalities amongst people experiencing mental illness and mental health problems
 - To increase the feeling of control that people in receipt of assessment, treatment and services have over decisions made that affect them
 - To demonstrate the long term economic advantage of a whole population approach to improving mental health and wellbeing and treating mental illness
 - To improve the values, attitudes and behaviours of staff within the public, independent and Third Sector in relation to mental health

- 2.03 The North Wales Mental Health Partnership Board (NWMHP) was established in June 2013 to oversee the delivery and implementation of *“Together for Mental Health – A Strategy for Mental Health and Wellbeing in Wales 2012 – 2016.”*

Flintshire’s Mental Health Partnership Group has developed an Action Plan which sets out those areas of performance that all Partners will seek to improve over the next 3 years. This provides an opportunity for partners to develop innovative and integrated solutions in a challenging era where demand is increasing and resources are limited

- 2.04 A specific improvement approach identified in the strategy is for Local Authorities to identify a “Mental Health Champion” and give consideration to signing up to the “Time for change pledge Wales “ This is a public declaration that an organisation wants to tackle mental health discrimination and stigma within it’s organisation. The Deputy Minister for Social Services, Gwenda Thomas has underlined her strong view that all Local Authorities and LHB’s should identify such a champion.

3.00 CONSIDERATIONS

- 3.01 Due to the wide range of cross cutting issues involving both Adults and Children and young People it is proposed that the Elected Member with the Portfolio for Social Services is best placed to take on the role of “Mental Health Champion” on behalf of the Council and that the role should include the following responsibilities

- To spend time with people with mental health problems, listening to concerns, issues and needs. To develop an understanding of Flintshire’s Mental Health recovery based approach and the “Involve project,” Flintshire’s in house Recovery focus group as well as becoming a co opted member of the Mental Health Strategic Planning Group. This will increase confidence in ability to champion the issues/ concerns of people with mental health problems with the council.
- To act as a conduit to get views heard and where appropriate ensure issues are dealt with by the appropriate body.
- To consider the effect of council policy, service planning and delivery on people with mental health problems
- To assist in coordinating a corporate response in relation to the implications of signing the “Time for Change Wales pledge” on behalf of the Council

4.00 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 4.01 That Cabinet note that Councillor Christine Jones has the responsibilities of Mental Health Champion as Portfolio holder for Social Services

5.00 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

N/A

6.00 ANTI POVERTY IMPACT

6.01 N/A

7.00 ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT

7.01 N/A

8.00 EQUALITIES IMPACT

8.01 N/A

9.00 PERSONNEL IMPLICATIONS

9.01 N/A

10.00 CONSULTATION REQUIRED

10.01 N/A

11.00 CONSULTATION UNDERTAKEN

11.01 N/A

10.00 APPENDICES

- 10.01 1. Based on a Guide produced by the Royal College of Psychiatrists 2013 – Councillors Guide to Mental Health.
- 10.02 2. “Together for Mental Health” Summary Document

**LOCAL GOVERNMENT (ACCESS TO INFORMATION ACT) 1985
BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS**

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