

**COUNTY COUNCIL MEETING – 10 OCTOBER 2019**

**Question to Alan White  
Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Health, Care and Wellbeing**

**By Ann Edgeller**

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**Question**

“As Mental Health Champion, I have spoken with various people involved in Mental Health and discover there is still no set ‘pathway’ for people’s progressive needs in order for them to progress to better health. What is the County Council doing, working with the CCGs and MPFT, to resolve this issue?”

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**Reply**

The Council continues to work with the NHS, including the CCG and MPFT, to implement the Mental Health Strategy “Mental Health is Everybody’s Business”.

The Council continues to support people to look after mental well-being in the same way as physical health. This includes an awareness raising campaign, training to help people build resilience, and targeted suicide prevention activities for higher risk groups.

There is no single assessment and care pathway: every person is different and has different needs. Some people with mental health conditions require intensive interventions short term to enable them to recover; others may require ongoing therapy and support over a longer period.

The Council works with CCGs and MPFT to ensure that people have an integrated health and social care assessment and support plan. This is illustrated by:

- The recent Cabinet decision to extend the integrated working arrangements with MPFT, which includes Mental Health social care, for a further 3 years;
- The appointment of an Assistant Director for Adult Social Care and Safeguarding / Director of Adult Social care jointly with MPFT;
- The use of the Care Programme Approach to jointly assess people’s health and social care needs and develop appropriate integrated support plans focusing on recovery and well-being outcomes;
- Commissioning of joint mental health services on behalf of the CCGs, jointly with social care services;
- New commissioning arrangements for Supported Living for people with mental health conditions who require support longer term, which will offer the least restrictive care to help people maintain their independence.

We always appreciate feedback and I would be very happy to meet with Cllr Edgeller to explore what further specific changes we could make to improve people’s experience.