

Staffordshire Health and Wellbeing Board – 10 December 2020

Staffordshire Joint Mental Health Strategy (2021 – 2025)

Recommendations

The Board is asked to:

- a. Approve a joint approach, by Staffordshire County Council and Staffordshire Clinical Commissioning Groups (CCGs), to the coordination, contribution to and development of a new Staffordshire Joint Mental Health Strategy to replace the existing “Mental Health is Everybody’s Business”.
- b. Engage with and contribute to the development of the new Strategy, including the formal sign off for any draft version as part of the overarching governance process.
- c. Endorse the proposed scope of the new Strategy attached at Appendix 1.

Background

1. The existing Mental Health Strategy: “Mental Health is Everybody’s Business”, went live in 2014 and is joint between the County Council, Staffordshire and Stoke on Trent CCGs and Stoke City Council.
2. The Strategy has a wide remit, which includes key interdependences with both protective and risk factors such as education, housing, employment, public health, law enforcement
3. Mental Illness, also called Mental Health disorders, refers to a wide range of mental health conditions – disorders that affect mood, thinking and behaviour (for example – depression, anxiety disorders, schizophrenia, eating disorders and addictive behaviours)
4. Many people have mental health concerns from time to time, but a mental health concern becomes a mental illness when ongoing signs and symptoms cause frequent stress and affect the person’s ability to function.

New Staffordshire Joint Mental Health Strategy

5. Due to the time that has elapsed since the current Strategy was established, and due to other factors such as the potential impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the mental health and wellbeing of the population and the introduction of the NHS Long Term Plan / NHS Mental Health Implementation Plan 2019/20 – 2023/24 (July 2020), it has been identified that now would be an opportune time to develop a new Mental Health Strategy.
6. It is envisaged that the new Strategy will maintain a similar wide remit (see Appendix 1) to the existing one and it is proposed that the County Council and the Staffordshire CCGs work in partnership to coordinate and contribute to the development of this new Strategy, including key contributions from a range of other

partners (for example – District/Borough Councils, Law Enforcement agencies etc). Please note that, at the time of writing this report, confirmation is awaited as to whether Stoke City Council wish to be partners to this new joint Strategy.

7. The new Strategy will look to improve outcomes and wellbeing for people living with mental illness (and their carers/family) by supporting them to:
 - a. Be healthier and Independent for longer;
 - b. Have access to more good jobs and share the benefits of economic growth (where appropriate and possible);
 - c. Feel safer, happier and more supported in their community
 - d. Have improved quality of life by timely access to appropriate mental health information, support and services that meet their needs
8. To help inform the development of the new Strategy, the intention is to undertake a period of meaningful engagement and work in partnership with people with lived experience (of mental illness), as well as a range of organisations across the public sector, private sector and the voluntary and community sector.
9. It is currently anticipated that the new Strategy will be fully agreed and signed off through relevant governance processes and ready to 'go live' in August 2021.

List of Background Documents/Appendices:

Appendix 1: Proposed Scope of the new Staffordshire Joint Mental Health Strategy (2021-2025)

Contact Details

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