

QUESTION 3

COUNTY COUNCIL MEETING – 10 FEBRUARY 2022

**Question to Cllr Jessel
Cabinet Member for Health and Care**

By Cllr Charlotte Atkins

Question

What is the role of the County Council in promoting good mental health? How has this role changed over the last five years? How have the County Council's mental health commissioning decisions been impacted upon by Covid and budget pressures?

Reply

The County Council has a role in improving mental health for the population as well as supporting people with assessed eligible needs for adult social care due to mental health problems. This role has not changed over the last five years.

The Council promotes mental health, for example the five ways to mental well-being:

- Connect with other people
- Be physically active
- Learn new skills
- Give to others
- Pay attention to the present moment

We also and signpost to a range of support in the community. We work with a range of partners to prevent suicide.

The Council commissions a range of care and support for people with assessed eligible needs for adult social care due to mental health problems. These include home care services that look after individuals in their own homes; Supported Living, which looks after groups of people in dedicated accommodation; and residential and nursing care homes. The total gross cost of these in 2021/22 is around £12m.

Like all adult social care services these have been affected by Covid with requirements for enhanced infection prevention and control measures and increasing difficulties with recruitment and retention. They have had additional funding during the pandemic with a share of £35m of Government Grants given to Staffordshire care providers in 2020/21 and 2021/22. Any fee uplift for next year will seek to recognise ongoing cost pressures whilst remaining affordable within the Council's Medium Term Financial Strategy.