

Report to:	Overview and Scrutiny Committee (Adult Social Care and Health) Cabinet Council	Date of Meeting:	7 September 2021 7 October 2021 18 November 2021
Subject:	Mental Health Issues Working Group Final Report		
Report of:	Chief Legal and Democratic Officer	Wards Affected:	(All Wards);
Portfolio:	Cabinet Member – Adult Social Care		
Is this a Key Decision:	Yes	Included in Forward Plan:	Yes
Exempt / Confidential Report:	No		

Summary:

To present formally the final report of the Mental Health Issues Working Group.

Recommendation(s):

That the Overview and Scrutiny Committee (Adult Social Care and Health) be requested to agree that the report and the following recommendations be referred to the Cabinet and thereafter the Council for approval:

1. That the Executive Director of Adult Social Care and Health be requested to develop an action plan that incorporates the following recommendations and that the recommendations are taken forward into commissioning plans:
 - A. Support the development of accurate data to evidence Key Performance Indicators, to include waiting times for services and customer satisfaction, to be presented to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee (Adult Social Care and Health) on a regular basis, in the form of a dashboard.
 - B. Support the development of greater parity of esteem for mental health within the Council's Health and Wellbeing Strategy and other strategic documents.
 - C. Consider methods of increasing feedback from service users, to include case studies and a "secret shopper" approach, in order to encourage an approach of continuous improvement for service user experience.
 - D. Consider methods of increasing service user involvement, particularly in their own crisis planning, in anticipation of reforms to the Mental Health Act.

- E. Consider methods of encouraging service users to become “experts by experience”, particularly through the use of Mersey Care facilities such as the Life Rooms and Crisis Cafes.
 - F. Support the development of Integrated Care Systems for a more holistic approach to issues that can impact on mental health, such as housing, addiction, complex lives issues, etc.
 - G. Support the inclusion of approaches adopted during the pandemic, such as the use of video technology, within the development of the Technology Enabled Care Services Strategy.
 - H. Undertake a review of some of the services traditionally provided, in the light of alternative services provided and service user take-up of those services, during the pandemic.
 - I. Submit a report on the work and outcome of the Sefton Mental Health Review Task and Finish Group, set up between the Council, CCG’s, Mersey Care NHS Foundation Trust and the voluntary sector, to the to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee (Adult Social Care and Health), in due course.
 - J. Review digital entry points for service users to access the Council’s mental health services, in order to ensure that access is as straightforward as possible via the Council’s website and that links to other organisations are readily available.
 - K. Submit a report on the work undertaken in relation to transitions from children’s services to adult services, to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee (Adult Social Care and Health), in due course to include care leavers and other vulnerable user groups.
 - L. Review the Directory of Services available, in order to produce a map of services, to assist service users to navigate the system.
 - M. Report progress regarding the formal assessment of diagnosis for Special Educational Needs and Disabilities/Autism Spectrum Disorder conditions in young people aged 18-25 and adults, within the six-monthly monitoring report, on the outcome of additional funding and training of staff provided by Mersey Care NHS Foundation Trust and the Clinical Commissioning Groups for the reduction of waiting times for diagnosis.
2. That the Senior Democratic Services Officer be requested to liaise with relevant officers in order to ensure that the Overview and Scrutiny Committee (Adult Social Care and Health) receives a six-monthly monitoring report, setting out progress made against each of the recommendations outlined above.

Reasons for the Recommendation(s):

The Working Group has made a number of recommendations that require approval by the Overview and Scrutiny Committee (Adult Social Care and Health), the Cabinet and the Council.

Alternative Options Considered and Rejected: (including any Risk Implications)

No alternative options were considered. The Overview and Scrutiny Committee (Adult Social Care and Health) established the Working Group to review persistent mental health issues and the Working Group has performed this task.

What will it cost and how will it be financed?

(A) Revenue Costs

There are no financial implications arising for the Council as a direct result of this report.

(B) Capital Costs

There are no financial implications arising for the Council as a direct result of this report.

Implications of the Proposals:

Resource Implications (Financial, IT, Staffing and Assets): None								
Legal Implications: None directly. The recommendations take account of the forthcoming amendments to the Care Act.								
Equality Implications: There are no equality implications.								
Climate Emergency Implications: The recommendations within this report will <table border="1"><tr><td>Have a positive impact</td><td>No</td></tr><tr><td>Have a neutral impact</td><td>Yes</td></tr><tr><td>Have a negative impact</td><td>No</td></tr><tr><td>The Author has undertaken the Climate Emergency training for report authors</td><td>Yes</td></tr></table> There are no direct climate emergency implications arising from this report. Any climate emergency implications arising from the consideration of reports referred to in the Work Programme will be contained in such reports when they are presented to Members at the appropriate time.	Have a positive impact	No	Have a neutral impact	Yes	Have a negative impact	No	The Author has undertaken the Climate Emergency training for report authors	Yes
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Have a neutral impact	Yes							
Have a negative impact	No							
The Author has undertaken the Climate Emergency training for report authors	Yes							

Contribution to the Council's Core Purpose:

Protect the most vulnerable:
The recommendations support residents seeking services for issues with their mental health.

Facilitate confident and resilient communities: The recommendations support all residents throughout the Borough seeking services for issues with their mental health.
Commission, broker and provide core services: The recommendations support residents seeking services for issues with their mental health.
Place – leadership and influencer: None directly associated with this report.
Drivers of change and reform: The recommendations support residents seeking services for issues with their mental health.
Facilitate sustainable economic prosperity: None directly associated with this report.
Greater income for social investment: None directly associated with this report.
Cleaner Greener None directly associated with this report.

What consultations have taken place on the proposals and when?

(A) Internal Consultations

The Executive Director of Corporate Resources and Customer Services (FD.6486/21) and the Chief Legal and Democratic Officer (LD.4687/21) have been consulted and any comments have been incorporated into the report.

The Executive Director of Adult Social Care and Health has been involved in Working Group meetings and has been consulted in the preparation of this report.

(B) External Consultations

Consultations and discussions took place with service users and representatives of Mersey Care NHS Foundation Trust during the course of the Working Group review.

Implementation Date for the Decision

Immediately following the Council meeting.

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Appendices:

The following appendices are attached to this report:

- The Final Report of the Mental Health Issues Working Group

Background Papers:

There are no background papers available for inspection.

1. Introduction/Background

- 1.1 At its meeting on 1 September 2020, the Overview and Scrutiny Committee (Adult Social Care and Health) established a Working Group to review the topic of mental health services and the prevention of issues. (Minute No. 7 (2) of 1 September 2020 refers). Councillors Howard and Roscoe; and Mr. Roger Hutchings, Healthwatch Sefton, were appointed to the Working Group. Councillor Roscoe was unable to participate in the latter stages of the review due to her appointment to the Cabinet.
- 1.2 The Working Group agreed the following terms of reference and objectives for the review:
 - (1) data on the number of people waiting to access services.
 - (2) a review of previous strategies – what has worked well and what could be improved.
 - (3) how to recommend greater integration.
 - (4) information on the need for services and the spending profile for services in Sefton.
- 1.3 The Final Report of the Working Group is attached for consideration. The Overview and Scrutiny Committee (Adult Social Care and Health); the Cabinet; and the Council are requested to support the contents of the Working Group Final Report and to approve the recommendations contained therein.