
Report to: Cabinet **Date of Meeting:** 27 March 2014

Subject: Local Authority Mental Health Challenge - Appointment of Mental Health Champion

Report of: Director of Public Health **Wards Affected:** All

Is this a Key Decision? No **Is it included in the Forward Plan?** No

Exempt/Confidential No

Purpose/Summary

To obtain approval from the Cabinet to the appointment of a Mental Health Champion, as described in the LA Mental Health Challenge below. The LA Mental Health Challenge was approved by Council on 21 November 2013

Recommendation

That the Cabinet Member – Older People and Health (Councillor Cummins) be appointed as Council's Mental Health Champion.

How does the decision contribute to the Council's Corporate Objectives?

	<u>Corporate Objective</u>	<u>Positive Impact</u>	<u>Neutral Impact</u>	<u>Negative Impact</u>
1	Creating a Learning Community	X		
2	Jobs and Prosperity	X		
3	Environmental Sustainability		X	
4	Health and Well-Being	X		
5	Children and Young People	X		
6	Creating Safe Communities	X		
7	Creating Inclusive Communities	X		
8	Improving the Quality of Council Services and Strengthening Local Democracy	X		

Reasons for the Recommendation:

The LA Mental Health Challenge is an objective of the national mental health strategy ‘No Health Without Mental Health’ and is being adopted by local authorities across Cheshire and Merseyside. The roles and activities are detailed in section 1.5 of the report.

What will it cost and how will it be financed?

(A) Revenue Costs

None

(B) Capital Costs

None

Implications:

The following implications of this proposal have been considered and where there are specific implications, these are set out below:

Legal - None	
Human Resources - None	
Equality	
1. No Equality Implication	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
2. Equality Implications identified and mitigated	<input type="checkbox"/>
3. Equality Implication identified and risk remains	<input type="checkbox"/>

Impact on Service Delivery:

No impacts on service delivery

What consultations have taken place on the proposals and when?

The Head of Corporate Finance and ICT has no comments on this report because the contents of the report have no direct financial implications for the Council (FD2887/13) and Head of Corporate Legal Services (LD2192/14) has been consulted and has no comments on the report

Are there any other options available for consideration?

No .

Implementation Date for the Decision

Following the expiry of the “call-in” period for the Minutes of the Cabinet

Contact Officer: Dr Janet Atherton

Tel: 0151 934 4866

Email: janet.atherton@sefton.gov.uk

Background Papers:

There are no background papers available for inspection.

1. The Local Authority Mental Health Challenge

- 1.1 Improving mental health and community wellbeing and resilience are priorities for Sefton as identified in Sefton's Health and wellbeing Strategy 2013-2018. The national strategy 'No Health Without Mental Health' calls on local authorities to appoint a mental health champion.
- 1.2 Councils and individual councillors have a key role in helping to implement the national mental health strategy, and an opportunity to promote mental wellbeing through strategic roles in the council as well as supporting individuals and communities.
- 1.3 This national initiative is co-ordinated by leading mental health organisations (the Centre for Mental Health, the Mental Health Foundation, Mind, Rethink Mental Illness, the Royal College of Psychiatrists and YoungMinds). Andy Bell from the Centre for Mental Health visited Merseyside and Cheshire on December 17th 2013 to encourage local councillors to sign up to this initiative.
- 1.4 Councillor Paul Cummins, Sefton Council's Cabinet Member for Older People and Health, chaired this meeting that was hosted by Champs (Cheshire and Merseyside public health collaborative service). The event provided an opportunity to inform the audience of current good practice and to encourage further uptake of the challenge. This has resulted in the majority of Cheshire and Merseyside local authorities signing up to the challenge.

1.5 The Challenges states:

This Council notes:

- 1 in 6 people will experience a mental health problem in any given year.
- The World Health Organisation predicts that depression will be the second most common health condition worldwide by 2020.
- Mental ill health costs some £105 billion each year in England alone.
- People with a severe mental illness die up to 20 years younger than their peers in the UK.
- There is often a circular relationship between mental health and issues such as housing, employment, family problems or debt.

This Council believes:

- As a local authority we have a crucial role to play in improving the mental health of everyone in our community and tackling some of the widest and most entrenched inequalities in health.

- Mental health should be a priority across all the local authority's functions, from public health, adult social care and children's services to housing, planning and public realm.
- All councillors, whether members of the Executive or Scrutiny and in our community and casework roles, can play a positive role in championing mental health on an individual and strategic basis.

This Council resolves:

- To sign the Local Authorities' Mental Health Challenge run by Centre for Mental Health, Mental Health Foundation, Mind, Rethink Mental Illness, Royal College of Psychiatrists and YoungMinds.

We commit to:

1. Appoint an elected member as 'mental health champion' across the Council
2. Identify a 'lead officer' for mental health to link in with colleagues across the Council
3. Follow the implementation framework for the mental health strategy where it is relevant to the Council's work and local needs
4. Work to reduce inequalities in mental health in our community
5. Work with the NHS to integrate health and social care support
6. Promote wellbeing and initiate and support action on public mental health
7. Tackle discrimination on the grounds of mental health in our community
8. Encourage positive mental health in our schools, colleges and workplaces
9. Proactively engage and listen to people of all ages and backgrounds about what they need for better mental health
10. Sign up to the Time to Change pledge.

- 1.6 The Council at its meeting held on 21 November 2013 considered the Sefton Public Health Annual Report, produced by the Director of Public Health and during the debate on the report an amendment was moved by Councillor Brodie-Browne, seconded by Councillor Brennan, that the Motion be amended by the addition of the following text:

“approval be given for the Council to sign up to the Local Authorities' Mental Health Challenge run by the Centre for Mental Health, the Mental Health Foundation, Mind, Rethink Mental Illness, the Royal College of Psychiatrists and YoungMinds.”

Following debate thereon, the Council resolved unanimously that:

- The report be received and approval be given to its publication
- Approval be given for the Council to sign up to the Local Authorities' Mental Health Challenge run by the Centre for Mental Health, the Mental Health Foundation, Mind, Rethink Mental Illness, the Royal College of Psychiatrists and YoungMinds.

2. Member Mental Health Champion

2.1 As indicated above, one of the requirements of the Mental Health Challenge is to appoint a Member Health Champion and the role of the Member Champion will be to oversee the implementation of the commitment points as set out in 1.5.

Key activities might include:

- Raising awareness of mental health issues in the development of council policies and strategies, and in public forums;
- Ensuring the overview and scrutiny committee have a view to mental health in their workplans;
- Leading discussions on mental health issues with NHS organisations in the local area;
- Speaking with schools, businesses and community groups about mental health;
- Linking with mental health service users and voluntary groups locally to understand their needs and concerns;
- Tackling myths and misperceptions about mental health in the local community.

2.2 It is considered that Cabinet Member – Older People and Health (Councillor Cummins) should be appointed as Council's Mental Health Champion