

**RHONDDA CYNON TAF COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL
MUNICIPAL YEAR 2014/15**

**COMMUNITY AND CHILDREN'S
SERVICES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**

17TH MARCH 2015

Agenda Item 4

**'Together for Mental Health'
Annual Report 2014**

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1. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

The purpose of this report is to present the local 'Together for Mental Health' Annual Report, provide an overview of local arrangements for the delivery of the 'Together for Mental Health' Strategy, our achievements to-date and priorities for the coming year.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that Members:

- (i) Note the contents of this report;
- (ii) Scrutinise and comment on the information provided.

3. BACKGROUND

3.1 The 'Together for Mental Health' Strategy Wales was published in 2012. Welsh Government required all Health Boards to form a 'Together for Mental Health' Partnership Board involving key stakeholders from local partners including statutory partners representing all age groups, third sector mental health services and service user and carer representatives. The partnership board is responsible for production of an annual report on their progress in implementing the Delivery Plan and local performance against key outcome measures.

3.2 Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council is a partner on the Cwm Taf 'Together for Mental Health' Partnership Board and it currently includes representation from Children's Services, Adult Social Care Services, Education and Housing. The other partners are Cwm Taf Health Board, Merthyr Tydfil County Borough Council, Interlink, VAMT, South Wales Police, Probation Service, Department of Work and Pensions and Service User and Carer Representatives.

- 3.3 Members of the committee will note that whilst good progress has been made in against the majority of key actions there remain a number of challenges that partners must work together to address in order to improve the mental health and emotional well being of the population of Cwm Taf.

4. **SUMMARY OF 'TOGETHER FOR MENTAL HEALTH' ANNUAL REPORT 2013-14**

- 4.1 This year's annual report contained a vast amount of detail outlining work that has gone into delivering the outcomes required within the Together for Mental Health Strategy. Outlined below are some of the key achievements involving Rhondda Cynon County Borough Council:

4.1.1 **Achievements**

- Delivery of a range of projects within schools and the community to address the emotional health and resilience of children and young people (including support for those with autism and attention deficit disorder and their families).
- The development of 'Valleys Steps' an innovative approach to providing psychological education and self management to provide alternatives to anti-depressants and improve community resilience.
- Partnership work to effectively support Communities First, the third sector and the older peoples forums to promote '5 Ways to Well Being' and address emotional health needs within their communities.
- Work by Community Mental Health Teams to ensure service users have Care and Treatment plans to improve their experience and the quality of the service they receive.
- Signing of the 'Time to Change' campaigns Corporate Pledge to challenge stigma and raise awareness of mental health issues among our staff and within the wider community.
- Commissioning and delivery of a range of welfare and debt advice services for people with mental illness to support them through the benefit reforms.
- Recruitment of paid service user and carer representatives to the 'Together for Mental Health' Partnership Board to ensure service users and carers are involved in the planning, delivery and monitoring of local services.

While the Partnership Board are pleased with the progress that we've made to date we also recognise that further work is required not least because of the insightful contributions and determination

of our service user and carer representatives who are ensuring that the Board remain focused on both the high level outcomes identified in the strategy and the priorities they have identified locally.

4.1.2 Ongoing priorities for 2015

- The 'Together for Mental Health' Partnership Board must undertake further engagement with service users (of all ages), their carers and families to identify local priorities.
- Work to support the development of 'Valleys Steps' and promote the services it will offer to GPs, primary care, community workers and the general public.
- Develop and coordinate the range of interventions and improve access to appropriate recovery focused services for secondary care services user of all ages.
- Further work is required to develop the provision of services that support children and young people to maintain their emotional and develop resilience, this must link with outcomes from the Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS) review and the reconfiguration of services for children who experience mental illness
- Further work is required to improve access to appropriate accommodation for people of all ages who have needs related to their mental health and other co-occurring needs
- The development of 'dementia friendly communities that support the delivery of a range of meaningful activities for people whether they live in the community or in residential and nursing care.
- Further multi agency work, based on the 'Talk to Me 2' Suicide and Self Harm Prevention Strategy, to reduce suicide and self harm among people of all ages.
- Within Cwm Taf we recognise there is still further work to do to engage our service users, carers and the wider community to ensure we are able to meet our commitments to working in partnership, co-producing solutions to our priorities and wherever possible developing understanding of and support for prudent approaches to the delivery of local Mental Health Services.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972

AS AMENDED BY

THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT (ACCESS TO INFORMATION) ACT 1985

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'Together for Mental Health' Annual Report 2014

Background papers:

- **'Together for Mental Health' Annual Report 2014**
- **'Together for Mental Health' Strategy Wales**

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