



To: Health & Social Care Scrutiny Panel

Date of meeting: 28<sup>th</sup> June, 2016

Notes of: Committee Administrator

## **SCRUTINY REVIEW OF MENTAL HEALTH IN THE COMMUNITY, CARE HOMES AND MENTAL HEALTH WARDS**

### **Background**

1. At the January meeting of the Health and Social Care Scrutiny Panel, Members received a presentation from representatives of East Lancashire Clinical Commissioning Group (ELCCG) on the mental health services available in East Lancashire.
2. A directory of services can be found on their 'Healthy Minds' website via the following link - <http://www.eastlancshealthyminds.co.uk/>.
3. Then, at our February meeting, we heard from Zoe Woodworth of Access Ability CIC, a community interest company that offered community learning opportunities to unemployed, disabled people living in deprived areas, volunteers and hard to reach individuals.
4. Amongst other things, she provided the Panel with details on the courses they had offered in 2015/16 which included courses on mental health first aid (MHFA) and youth mental health first aid (YMHFA).
5. At that same meeting, the Panel considered statistical information from the Department for Work and Pensions in relation to people in receipt of Employment and Support Allowance, a benefit for people who are unable to work due to illness or disability.
6. The Panel asked if this information could be broken down further to demonstrate those in receipt of Employment and Support Allowance for reasons of mental health only by age and ward. Unfortunately this information is not available.

7. However, the most recent statistics for those in receipt of the benefit are provided at Appendix A. These show that the number of claimants in receipt of Employment and Support Allowance for reasons of mental health has risen overall by 15 during the period August to November 2015. An increase has been seen in areas of Barrowford, Brierfield, Nelson and Colne; however there have been reductions in Reedley, Higham and some areas of Nelson.

## **The National Picture**

8. As part of its Five Year Forward View to build consensus on how to improve services for people of all ages, the NHS commissioned an independent Mental Health Taskforce to give a frank assessment of the state of current mental health care across the NHS and set out recommendations for improvement.
9. The final report was published in February of this year and can be accessed via the following link – <https://www.england.nhs.uk/wp-content/uploads/2016/02/Mental-Health-Taskforce-FYFV-final.pdf>
10. As a summary, the following statistics and brief extracts are provided –
  - \* One in ten children aged 5-16 years have a diagnosable mental health problem
  - \* One in five mothers suffers from mental health problems during pregnancy or in the first year after childbirth
  - \* People with severe and prolonged mental illness are at risk of dying on average 15 to 20 years earlier than other people
  - \* One in five older people living in the community and 40 percent of older people living in care homes are affected by depression
  - \* People in marginalised groups are at greater risk
  - \* As many as nine out of ten people in prison have a mental health, drug or alcohol problem
  - \* Suicide is rising after many years of decline
  - \* Nearly two million adults were in contact with specialist mental health and learning disability services at some point in 2014/15
  - \* Mental health accounts for 23 percent of NHS activity, but NHS spending on secondary mental health services is equivalent to just half of this
  - \* Poor mental health carries an economic and social cost of £105 billion a year
  - \* Between 2013/14 and 2014/15 the number of referrals to Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services increased five times faster than the growth of the workforce in these services
  - \* At present only half of the country offers a 24/7 community-based mental health crisis service
  - \* Only a minority of A&E departments currently have 24/7 liaison mental health services, even though peak hours for people presenting to A&E with mental health crises are 11pm-7am
  - \* It is predicted that one in four people will experience a mental health problem in their lifetime.

11. The findings and recommendations in the report has resulted in the Government announcing that an extra £1 billion is to be invested in mental health care by 2021 and a million more people will get mental health support.
12. This will include supporting tens of thousands of people with mental health conditions to find or return to work. Figures at February 2016 showed only 43% of people with mental health conditions are in employment compared to almost four fifths of the general population and two thirds of people with other health conditions.
13. Young people have also been urged to help shape new peer support networks so they can talk openly about mental health, with the help of a £1.5 million fund.
14. This is part of a wider package of work being done by the Department for Education to improve children's mental health, including a £3 million joint pilot scheme with NHS England for schools and local mental health services to provide more joined up support.

### **National Organisations**

15. Further research has identified a large number of services/initiatives that may also be of interest to the Panel, details of which are provided at Appendix B. Many of these are national campaigns/organisations that are available to people in East Lancashire and is not an exhaustive list of all the services that may be available.
16. The details of many of these services are easily accessible online. However, the Panel may wish to investigate the other methods by which the services are advertised.

### **Future**

17. The evidence gathered so far relates largely to mental health provision in the community and the Panel may now wish to focus their investigations on the mental health care provision in care homes.
18. The Panel is therefore asked to consider the direction in which the review is to take.

### **APPENDICES**

Appendix A - Statistical information from the Department of Works and Pensions  
Appendix B - Mental Health and Support Services

### **REFERENCES**

<http://www.time-to-change.org.uk/>

<https://www.headstogether.org.uk/>

<https://www.gov.uk>

## **REPORTS**

The Five Year Forward View for Mental Health report from the independent Mental Health Taskforce to the NHS in England, February, 2016

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