



Mental Health Challenge, and Prevention Concordat for Better Mental Health

SUMMARY

- 1.1 As a local system leader, the Health & Wellbeing Board has 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.
- 1.2 Mental health should be a priority across all member organizations' areas of responsibility, including health and social care, housing, community safety and planning.
- 1.3 A great deal of attention and resource has been dedicated locally to improving access to services and support for people with mental health conditions. This includes the Future in Mind programme for children and young people, the Mental Health element of the STP, the Crisis Care Concordat Plan, and IAPT. We also have a Suicide Prevention Strategic Framework owned by both City and County Health & Wellbeing Boards, with an implementation plan sitting underneath it.
- 1.4 However, arguably we could do more to prevent mental health problems developing, and to promote positive mental wellbeing for all. This paper presents two opportunities for Derby to better realise this potential.

1. Public Health England launched the **Prevention Concordat for Better Mental Health** in August 2017, and is now encouraging local areas to become signatories to the prevention concordat consensus statement (see Appendix 2).

The Concordat is intended to provide a focus for cross-sector action to deliver a tangible increase in the adoption of public mental health approaches across local authorities, the NHS, public, private and voluntary, community and social enterprise (VCSE) sector organisations, educational settings and employers. It acknowledges the active role played by people with lived experience of mental health problems, individually and through user led organisations.

2. The **Mental Health Challenge** has been set by seven mental health charities who are working together to improve mental health across England.

The aim of the challenge is to encourage and support local leadership for mental health and wellbeing through local authority elected members. The challenge asks Councils to appoint a 'member champion' for mental health. In return, the national charities offer champions and their Councils advice, information and a network of peers in similar roles.

Derby City Council has appointed Councillor Repton as its member champion in support of the mental health challenge.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 To adopt and sign up to the Prevention Concordat for Better Mental Health.
- 2.2 To support Derby City Council joining the Mental Health Challenge and provide assistance as appropriate in meeting the challenge.
- 2.3 That members of the board to work together to develop and adopt approaches that will deliver effective prevention planning arrangements. The ambition being to have improved arrangements underway by the end of 2018.

REASON FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

- 3.1
 - 1 in 4 people will experience a mental health problem in any given year.
 - 1 in 10 children experience a diagnosable mental health condition.
 - 9 in 10 people with mental health problems experience stigma and discrimination.
 - 1 in 5 adults have considered taking their own life at some time.
 - 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.
 - Good mental health is associated with better physical health and increased productivity, and is an asset that helps us all deal with the stresses of life.

SUPPORTING INFORMATION

- 4.1 More information about the local authority mental health challenge can be found here: <http://www.mentalhealthchallenge.org.uk/>
- 4.2 A recent LGA Report on the role of Councils in supporting mental health can be found here: <https://www.local.gov.uk/being-mindful-mental-health-role-local-government-mental-health-and-wellbeing>
- 4.3 Details of the Prevention Concordat for Better Mental Health, including a suite of resources designed to help local areas to put in place effective prevention planning arrangements (aimed at health and wellbeing boards, local authorities, clinical commissioning groups and their partners) can be found here: <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/prevention-concordat-for-better-mental->

[health.](#)

OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED

5.1 None.

This report has been approved by the following officers:

Legal officer Financial officer Human Resources officer Estates/Property officer Service Director(s) Other(s)	
For more information contact: Background papers: List of appendices:	Jilla Burgess-Allen, Public Health Appendix 1: Implications Appendix 2 – Prevention Concordat for Better Mental Health – Consensus Statement

IMPLICATIONS

Financial and Value for Money

- 1.1 Mental health promotion and prevention approaches relieve pressure on mental health services, promote productivity and resilience.

Legal

- 2.1 None arising from this report.

Personnel

- 3.1 We are a Disability Confident Employer and part of the criteria for this award is that we guide our employees to information and advice on mental health conditions and train managers in mental health equality awareness.

IT

- 4.1 None arising from this report.

Equalities Impact

- 5.1 Inequities in mental health can be addressed by adopting preventive approaches which tackle stigma and discrimination, ensure access to housing, welfare and employment support, as well as supporting certain groups at greater risk of poor mental health (homeless people, BME, minority ethnic people, lesbian, gay, bisexual and trans people LGBT, survivors of domestic abuse and violence, people living with disability).disabled people, people experiencing bullying and harassment and hate crimes – the list is endless.

Health and Safety

- 6.1 None arising from this report.

Environmental Sustainability

- 7.1 None arising from this report.

Property and Asset Management

- 8.1 None arising from this report.

Risk Management and Safeguarding

- 9.1 Neither the Mental Health Challenge nor the Prevention Concordat are prescriptive about how local areas choose to translate their commitment into action, therefore risk to sign up is minimal. Further, as a Council there is a risk that if we do not sign

up/support the Mental Health Challenge and Prevention Concordat for Better Mental Health then we will not achieve priorities in the Council Plan or the STP.

Corporate objectives and priorities for change

- 10.1 Promoting health & wellbeing is a priority in the Council Plan; Improving health & wellbeing through preventing physical and mental ill health is a priority of the STP.

Prevention Concordat for Better Mental Health - Consensus Statement

This consensus statement describes the shared commitment of the organisations signed below to work together via the Prevention Concordat for Better Mental Health, through local and national action, to prevent mental health problems and promote good mental health.

The undersigned organisations agree that:

1. To transform the health system, we must increase the focus on prevention and the wider determinants of mental health. We recognise the need for a shift towards prevention-focussed leadership and action throughout the mental health system; and into the wider system. In turn, this will impact positively on the NHS and social care system by enabling early help through the use of upstream interventions.
2. There must be joint cross-sectoral action to deliver an increased focus on the prevention of mental health problems and the promotion of good mental health at local level. This should draw on the expertise of people with lived experience of mental health problems, and the wider community, to identify solutions and promote equality.
3. We will promote a prevention-focused approach towards improving the public's mental health, as all our organisations have a role to play.
4. We will work collaboratively across organisational boundaries and disciplines to secure place-based improvements that are tailored to local needs and assets, in turn increasing sustainability and the effective use of limited resources.
5. We will build the capacity and capability across our workforce to prevent mental health problems and promote good mental health, as outlined in the Public Mental Health Leadership and Workforce Development Framework Call to Action¹.
6. We believe local areas will benefit from adopting the Prevention Concordat for Better Mental Health.
7. We are committed to supporting local authorities, policy makers, NHS clinical commissioning groups and other commissioners, service providers, employers and the voluntary and community sector to adopt this Concordat and its approach.

Link: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/prevention-concordat-for-better-mental-health-consensus-statement/prevention-concordat-for-better-mental-health>

¹ [Public mental health leadership and workforce development framework](#). London: Public Health England; 2015 (updated 2016).