

Health and Wellbeing Board

19 March 2024

Delivery of the Mental Wellbeing Strategy through the Walsall Multi-agency Mental Wellbeing Stakeholder Partnership

For Assurance

1. Purpose

The report is to update the Health & Wellbeing Board on progress made by the Walsall Multi-agency Mental Wellbeing Stakeholder Partnership in delivery of the [Walsall Mental Wellbeing Strategy](#) (2022 – 2032) - "Together We Can".

2. Recommendation

To note the content of this bi-annual progress report.

3. Report detail

- 3.1 This report is a bi-annual progress report on activities undertaken to date in delivery of the Walsall Mental Wellbeing Strategy. A report to Health and Wellbeing Board in March 2023 outlined new governance arrangements for the Mental Wellbeing Stakeholder Partnership.
- 3.2 The Walsall Multi-Agency Mental Wellbeing Stakeholder Partnership is committed to taking forward:
- a. A universal partnership approach to promote good mental health and emotional resilience and prevent mental ill health for all age groups and populations.
 - b. A focused and partnership approach to community-based early help and support for emerging mental illness.
 - c. A proportionately targeted approach to reduce inequalities in mental wellbeing and health, to consider the clear mental health inequalities, both in terms of who experiences the greatest risk of poor mental health and in terms of unequal access to intervention.
 - d. To lobby and link mental health and wellbeing into wider population health and partnership activity across Walsall.
- 3.3 The Partnership has been meeting monthly and is co-chaired by The Head of Mental Health Transformation & Integration from Black Country Healthcare Foundation Trust (BCHFT) and Consultant in Public Health responsible for Mental Wellbeing at Walsall Council. It includes wide ranging membership across the partnership from the Council, the third sector (including One Walsall and community associations), social housing (whg) and Walsall Together (health and care place-based partnership).

- 3.4 Current priorities identified for the Walsall Multi-Agency Mental Wellbeing Partnership and allied partnerships are highlighted in the diagram below: these are in the process of being updated for 2024/2025.

Mental Wellbeing Priorities for 6-12 months – May 2023	
1	Improving knowledge and understanding of mental wellbeing through engagement and communication
2	Improving some of the economic and housing challenges that impact residents' mental wellbeing
3	Improving social connections
4	Taking therapies
Mental Health Partnership Priorities for 6-12 months – May 2023	
6	Improving physical wellbeing, and improving physical health of people with mental illness
7	Primary Care / Mental Health Interface
8	Dual Diagnosis
9	Improving Partnership working linked with Mental Health

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4. Implications for Joint Working Arrangements:

The Walsall Multi-Agency Mental Wellbeing Stakeholder Partnership reports to both Walsall Place (accountable to the Health and Wellbeing Board with regular updates also being fed into Walsall Together Partnership Structures) and BCHFT Lead Provider governance. The Community Mental Health Partnership (of commissioners, statutory and voluntary sector provider organisations) is accountable to the Stakeholder Partnership, and there is appropriate information sharing with a number of other allied groups, including the Children and Young People's Emotional Wellbeing Strategy group.

5. Health and Wellbeing Priorities:

- 5.1 Mental Wellbeing is one of the three current priorities outlined in the Health and Wellbeing Strategy. Below is a summary of activities undertaken over the last 6 months linked to delivering the Walsall Mental Wellbeing Strategy and the above priorities.

Mental Wellbeing Priorities

- 5.2 Birmingham Mind is continuing to deliver suicide prevention and mental wellbeing training and has been reaching into communities. A wide range of multi-agency stakeholders continue to receive training, which receives positive feedback.
- 5.3 The Where I Am Men's programme ITQ tender evaluation is complete. This programme aims to coordinate initiatives which focus on improving the mental wellbeing of Walsall men.

- 5.4 8 Steps to Wellbeing plans continue to be delivered in communities to improve the population's mental health and wellbeing and tackle stigma and are being delivered through multi-agency partners, community engagement and through a range of other services.
- 5.5 The Walsall Suicide Prevention Strategy is currently being refreshed. A multi-agency consultation event led by the Public Health team took place to inform the strategy refresh.
- 5.6 Mental wellbeing grant funded projects are being delivered to Walsall residents focused on the general public and also on men. Projects delivering include: Caldmore Village; Mettaminds; MindKind Projects; Nash Dom CIC, Aaina and Walsall Black Sisters. A number of men's mental wellbeing projects are also being established through Crowdfunding,
- 5.7 A Neurodiversity Wellbeing Programme, which aims to develop interventions that improve wellbeing for people who are neurodivergent is due to be launched in collaboration with Thrive NHS.
- 5.8 Four Young People's enterprise projects have been commissioned and are mobilising.
- 5.9 The Thrive Mental Wellbeing Mobile unit continues to successfully deliver across Walsall, supporting people with challenges which influence their mental health and wellbeing. This partnership between Bloxwich Community Partnership, Manor Farm Community Association, Citizens Advice Sandwell and Walsall and Walsall Community Transport has supported 3183 people, delivering over 3000 8 Steps to Wellbeing plans between May 2023 and Jan 2024, achieving income improvements for Walsall residents of £397,373 between Aug 2023 and Jan 2024.
- 5.10 Community Bereavement and Counselling services continue to deliver and receive positive feedback..

Mental Health partnership priorities

- 5.1 Brownhills Community Association will be leading a consortium of local providers to deliver a programme of support for the Wider Determinants of Health:

Walsall

The proposed projects encompass a range of well-being activities, such as outdoor pursuits like cycling, nature walks, and local excursions using public transport to explore community-focused initiatives. Additionally, there will be indoor activities like Chair Yoga and exercise programs promoting 10,000 steps, as well as table tennis and badminton to encourage regular physical exercise. ESOL (English for Speakers of Other Languages) and Digital Literacy classes will also be offered to foster new skills, independence, and empowerment, along with providing valuable advice and support.

Lead Organisation:
Brownhills Community Association

Provider partners:
The Walsall Community Network
Aiana Community Hub
Aspire4U
Brownhills Community Association
Citizens Advice Bureau
Manor Farm Community Association
MindKind
Rethink Walsall
Walsall FC Foundation.

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- 5.2 Recovery College commissioned additional course provision from local VCSE providers in Walsall to expand the offer in diverse communities. The initial evaluation has shown that the VCSE commissioned courses had a higher uptake from BAME communities, and a business case is being developed to look at opportunity to build on this pilot in 24/25.
- 5.3 Ablewell have been commissioned by BCHFT to improve access to Welfare Rights support for Severe Mental Illness.
- 5.4 Across the Black Country there has been an intensive period of coproduction for a new Talking Therapies (TT) model for the Black Country which will maintain the core NHS Talking Therapies model and then expand to include a Plus offer which will support people with a more holistic offer provided by multiple provider partners (TTPlus).
- 5.5 There are several VCSE organisations who have collaborated on the proposal for TTPlus in Walsall and have requested that One Walsall act as Lead Organisation. 2024/25 will be seen as a pilot year with a robust evaluation which will support planning for 25/26 and beyond.
- 5.6 We now have seven Primary Care Mental Health Workers, funded jointly from primary care and BCHFT in post. They will act as a “first point of contact” for those contacting primary care with mental health needs.
- 5.7 Work is in progress to develop an improved pathway for those with Severe Mental Illness (SMI) to enable them to better access health checks.
- 5.8 We have developed and are implementing a dual diagnosis pathway for those accessing secondary care having both mental health and drug and alcohol issues
- 5.9 The development of a partnership strategy for dementia is in progress, including a needs assessment, current and future commissioning arrangements and involvement of the third sector.

Background papers

None

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