

APPENDIX 1: Update on the Action Plan to mitigate the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic on mental wellbeing in Walsall. (Based on the WHO pyramid for mental health and psychosocial support in emergencies).

KEY: **Blue** = completed; **Green** = completed and further development for the next phase of work; **Amber** = Not fully complete; **Red** = yet to start/delayed timeframe.

Advocacy for safe basic services which are socially appropriate				
What is the activity?	Who will be doing this?	Who will this impact? Adults of working age Older people School age children Children aged 0-5	Progress	Initial target date
1. Secure Champions from elected members to promote the approach across Walsall	All directors	Adults, Older people, Children Children 0-5	12 Councillors completed mental health awareness and suicide prevention training	End of July 2020
2. Confirm aligned recovery plans with Walsall organisations include actions to address the impact of Covid-19 on mental wellbeing	Council, Housing, NHS, Voluntary sector	Adults, Older people, Children Children 0-5	All organisations cover mental wellbeing in their recovery plans	Aug 2020
3. Explore opportunities for bids for national funding (including supporting community associations and voluntary groups to bid).	Regeneration + Programme Management	Adults, Older people, Children Children 0-5	Joint bid submitted to MHCLG Futures Fund (Jan 2021)	Oct 2020
4. Generate list of funding opportunities & establish teams channel for dissemination.	Regeneration + Programme Management	Adults, Older people, Children Children 0-5	External funding teams from LA, OneWalsall and Black Country Trust working together on horizon scanning bidding opportunities.	Aug 2020
5. Explore how bringing forward crowdfunding proposals for Walsall can support the community associations and voluntary groups to deliver mental health objectives.	Regeneration + Programme Management	Adults Older people Children Children 0-5	Crowdfunding process set up. Launch 23 rd Feb 2021.	Aug 2020

6. Agreement on appropriate information to collate on local effects on residents e.g. school attendance, referrals to services.	Council services + agencies + residents	Adults, Older people, Children Children 0-5	Initial list generated. Discussion with services and schools to pick up after national lockdown.	Aug 2020
7. Review and reporting of information collated on local effects on residents and businesses	Council services + partners	Adults	Residents' survey completed.	Sept 2020
8. Access schemes to improve skills for work Work with employers to maximise employment opportunities.	Regeneration + Programme Management	Adults	Range of programmes e.g. Walsall Works.	Mar 2021
9. Guidance for employers on staying safe through the pandemic	Council services	Adults	Regular business newsletter, workshops, Thrive at Work toolkit. Visits to premises. PH advice line Sun-Sat 8am-8pm.	June 2020
10. Provide guidance for employers and employees on managing through the pandemic	Council departments	Adults	Over £10M paid out to Walsall businesses.	June 2020
11. Work with housing groups and landlords to support national policies on tenant management and support	Customer Engagement team	Adults	Work to reduce fuel poverty e.g. 208 private homes have improved energy rating.	Oct 2020
12. Collaborate with national bodies (e.g. Mental Health Foundation, LGA) to secure evidence and resources to improve mental wellbeing	Public Health + L&D	Adults, Older people, School age children, Children 0-5	Regular contact with national charities and advisory bodies.	July 2020
13. Guidance and support for Head Teachers as schools re-open.	Children's, public health, health & safety teams.	Children Children 0-5	Weekly updates at Headteachers forum, regular bulletins and advice line.	June 2020
14. Maintain services to provide help for those in social isolation	Community Help	Older people	Making connections Walsall providing practical support. Access to grants and	June 2020

			national funds.	
15. Lead the development of a mental wellbeing strategy.	Public Health + ASC	Adults, Older people, Children, Children 0-5	Mental Wellbeing IMT Cell in place and will be directing priorities.	July 2021
16. Ensure inclusion of mental wellbeing in plans for the environment, transport and town centres.	Regeneration + public health	Adults, Older people, Children	Request for inclusion submitted	June 2021
Activating social networks, providing supportive spaces				
17. Build on increase in volunteering offers in order to support community mental wellbeing	Resilient Communities	Older People Adults Children	Initial rise in volunteer numbers has plateaued.	Oct 2020
18. Secure offer for training for volunteers e.g. mental health first aid.	Learning & Development	Older People Adults Children	Training sessions offered, monitoring uptake. Additional slots planned to meet demand.	Sept 2020
19. Focus on maintaining or rebuilding the voluntary sector	Resilient Communities + partner agencies	Older People Adults	Mental Wellbeing IMT Cell has priority of supporting voluntary sector.	Nov 2020
20. Work with communities to capture information on local effects on residents	Council services + local agencies and communities	Older People Adults, Children Children 0-5	Residents' survey findings being utilised for future plans.	Oct 2020
21. Review plans for activities and events in leisure and outdoor spaces	Place and environment	Older People, Adults, Children Children 0-5	Plans put on hold due to national lockdowns. New activities to be offered in line with national restrictions.	Sept 2020
22. Promotion of activities and events for leisure and outdoor spaces	Place and environment + communications	Older People Adults Children, Children 0-5	Augmented Reality - 'Love Exploring' app installed in 3 parks.	July 2020
Basic emotional and practical support for specific individuals and families				

23. Support residents to access financial advice and support	Council teams lead with clarity on signposting provided to other agencies	Adults Older People	£988k spend on discretionary housing payments (rise of 44% since Dec '19). £177k in test & trace isolation payments.	Oct 2020
24. Secure training in mental health first aid for extended range of schools and children's settings.	Children's services + L&D	Children 0-5 Children – school age	Training provided for 150 staff.	Sept 2020
25. Clarify level and range of bereavement services required locally.	Bereavement + intelligence hub	Older People Adults Children	Initial review has identified gaps in services and need for sustainable funding.	Oct 2020
26. Offer community mental health and suicide prevention training for staff and businesses in Walsall.	Learning & Development	Older People Adults Children	Training provided for 300+ individuals in 2020. Further courses offered for 2021. Volume to be increased.	Aug 2020
27. Communicate and review impact of this for residents on how to stay well through the pandemic	Communications, Public Health, service areas	Older People Adults Children	Regular communications through a range of channels. Need to evaluate impact and reach.	July 2020
28. Generate support materials for specific groups within communities e.g. those with sensory impairment, long term conditions	Communications, Equality & cohesion, Public Health teams	Older People Adults	Regular communications sent – work underway to refine the offer for residents with visual impairment and LD	June 2020
29. Refresh campaign for the autumn/winter to promote wellbeing	Communications, Public Health, ASC, NHS	Older People Adults Children	National stay well campaigns promoted	Sept 2020
30. Liaise with Arts societies and providers to promote benefits on mental wellbeing	Leisure services	Adults Children	Initial discussions only so far. Mental wellbeing IMT agenda in March 2021.	May 2021

32. Recruitment and training of mental wellbeing champions across agencies in Walsall	Resilient communities	Adults Children	12 Councillors trained and committed to the champion role. Other agencies in process.	Feb 2021
33. Strengthening services to support family relationships to include suicide prevention training across communities	Social care, Domestic Abuse for a, suicide prevention steering group	Adults Children Older People	Local services maintained within restrictions. PCC funded training for community groups – Jan 2021.	Oct 2020
Specific clinical mental health care, provided by primary healthcare or specialist mental health staff				
34. Confirmation of offer for mental wellbeing and counselling in primary care	Public Health + Social care with NHS partners	Older People Adults	Services continue but referrals at 80% of 2019 levels for psychological therapies. Anticipate increase after lockdown.	Nov 2020
35. Agree offer for children and young people experiencing anxiety on school return	Public Health + Children's Services	Children	Advice and training to schools staff provided. Sharing of Every Mind Matters and other resources.	July 2020
36. Agreement on recovery plan longer term service planning	Social care with public health + NHS (Black Country Trust)	Older People Adults Children	Input from ASC and Public Health to NHS plan for investments (new) in community mental health services	Dec 2020
37. Process to ensure identification of residents requiring early support is streamlined	Resilient Communities, Public Health + Social care, NHS	Adults Children Older People	Resilient communities model in place.	Jan 2021
38. Ensure Occupational health and employment support services have flexibility to meet increase in demand if required	HR team	Adults	Employee support in place and regularly promoted. HWBB staff wellbeing subgroup progressing.	Jan 2021