

<b>Housing Select Committee</b>			
<b>Report Title</b>	Mental Health and Housing Update	<b>Item No</b>	5
<b>Contributors</b>	Head of Strategic Housing		
<b>Class</b>	Part 1	<b>Date</b>	31 January 2018

**1. Purpose of paper:**

- 1.1. This report serves as an update to the work carried out in response to Housing Select Committee's In Depth Review of Mental Health and Housing in the borough.

**2. Recommendations:**

- 2.1. It is recommended that Housing Select Committee notes the work to date and approves officers to continue facilitating the working group as outlined in this report.

**3. Policy Context:**

- 3.1. The contents of this report are consistent with the Council's policy framework. It supports the achievements of the Sustainable Community Strategy policy objectives:

- Ambitious and achieving: where people are inspired and supported to fulfil their potential.
- Empowered and responsible: where people can be actively involved in their local area and contribute to tolerant, caring and supportive local communities.
- Healthy, active and enjoyable: where people can actively participate in maintaining and improving their health and well-being, supported by high quality health and care services, leisure, culture and recreational activities.

- 3.2. The proposed recommendations are also in line with the Council policy priorities:

- Decent homes for all: investment in social and affordable housing, improve housing conditions and tackle homelessness.

- Caring for adults and older people: working with health services to support older people and adults in need of care.
  - Inspiring efficiency, effectiveness and equity: Ensuring efficiency, effectiveness and equity in the delivery of excellent services to meet the needs of the community.
- 3.3. It will also help meet the Council's Housing Strategy 2015-2020 in which the Council commits to the following key objectives:
- Helping residents at times of severe and urgent housing need
  - Building the homes our residents need
  - Greater security and quality for private renters
  - Promoting health and wellbeing by improving our residents' homes

#### **4. Background:**

- 4.1. In 2016/17 Housing Select Committee carried out an in-depth review of housing and mental health. At its meeting on 7 March 2017, Housing Select Committee held discussions on the Housing and Mental Health Review Draft Report (final version contained in Appendix A) and agreed the recommendations therein.
- 4.2. Officers in the Strategic Housing Division were asked to provide a response to these recommendations, and this response took the form of a report which was submitted for the review of both Mayor and Cabinet and Housing Select Committee on 19 July and 6 September respectively.
- 4.3. At these meetings the response was noted and approved.

#### **5. Update on work to date:**

- 5.1. Following the review, officers convened a working group to approach the recommendations and improve partnership working.
- 5.2. This working group has met five times since its inception, the first meeting being delayed by the events of the summer which meant housing partners were required to focus elsewhere. Meetings have taken place on a monthly basis since 2 August and are due to continue throughout early 2018.
- 5.3. Membership of the working group is robust though attendance has proved variable. Approaches were made to partners across the voluntary and community sector, mental health, social care, commissioning and housing. There is representation from the following agencies and teams:
- Advice Lewisham
  - Family Mosaic

- Housing Strategy and Programmes, LBL
  - Lewisham and Bromley Mind
  - Lewisham Homes
  - London and Quadrant
  - Mental Health Joint Commissioning
  - Neighbourhood Coordinators, LBL
  - Phoenix Community Housing
  - Prevention, Inclusion and Public Health Commissioning, LBL
  - Private Sector Housing Agency, LBL
  - SCAIT, LBL
  - Single Homeless Intervention and Prevention, LBL
  - South London and Maudsley NHS Trust
- 5.4. Meetings are formatted for an hour and a half, with an agenda based on the Committee's recommendations and the decisions of the working group. A representative from Lewisham and Bromley Mind has been established to act as chair.
- Initial meetings
- 5.5. At the initial meetings the main outcome was providers leaving with better knowledge of what else was being offered in Lewisham. It was notable that industry partners were not as aware of each other, or the variety of services on offer, as might have been expected. As such, a sharing and mapping process dominated the first few meetings to enable the group to understand the landscape in which they were operating. A copy of a document produced as part of this is contained in Appendix B.
- 5.6. The engagement of the partners in this way allowed the group to troubleshoot some typical case types and also attend to some specific cases. Where previously partners struggled to open lines of communication with each other, this group facilitated that interaction and early meetings saw active relationship building between key stakeholders.

#### Handbook

- 5.7. A recommendation arising from the Committee's review was that:
- 'Housing providers and local partners, including the Council, SLAM, Mind, and other local organisations that regularly deal with mental health issues, should work together to develop an agreement/protocol on dealing with cases of low level mental health.'*
- 5.8. The group considered protocols produced by other local authorities and concluded that a handbook would be more appropriate in order to focus on this lower level of mental ill health and establish a shared understanding of

service provision. It was also agreed that the handbook should not be dependent on any external infrastructure to avoid the shortcomings of similar documents, like the 2013 Hoarding Protocol.

- 5.9. The handbook will serve as a resource which is not reliant on external panels or boards, but rather exists as a common reference point at the interface of housing and mental health for providers who would work in these fields.
- 5.10. It is hoped to serve as part of the induction for any individuals joining this area of work. In essence, it is a common operating picture which should help to minimise variation in experiences and outcomes for residents, and improve the knowledge and partnership working of professionals.
- 5.11. A draft handbook has been produced, currently consisting of a skeleton framework, which is being populated by the group itself. An updated draft will be discussed at the next meeting of the working group.
- 5.12. The handbook covers an introduction to mental ill health and the borough, the role of housing providers, a guide to local mental health pathways and community services, information sharing processes, information on capacity and the Mental Health Act and a directory of partners who may be involved in a resident's care.

## **6. Next steps**

- 6.1. The work of the group is due to conclude at the end of March.
- 6.2. Between now and then, the group seeks to complete and publish the handbook on the Council website. It will include by this time high-level multi-agency agreements to facilitate more partnership work going forward.
- 6.3. The work will also be shared with stakeholders at a borough event planned in February 2018 on mental health more broadly.
- 6.4. During the final meetings of the group, further discussion will be facilitated regarding the need in this area and any unfulfilled recommendations. The group will also establish methods for updating the handbook and ensuring responsibility is allocated for maintaining the integrity of the directory and guide to services.
- 6.5. The working group has proven fruitful for developing and fostering important links across service providers, and has highlighted areas where further work can develop. Officers will ensure they are linking into any other relevant work on mental health and housing going forward, making use of the connections the group has fostered.

- 6.6. Officers will report back to the Committee with a closure report updating on the remaining actions and any additional findings when the group disbands.

## **7. Financial implications**

- 7.1. The purpose of this report is to update Members on the ongoing work being undertaken following on from the Committee's In Depth Review of Mental Health and Housing in the borough. As such, there are no specific financial implications arising from the report itself.

## **8. Legal implications**

- 8.1. There are no specific legal implications associated with this report

## **9. Equalities implications**

- 9.1. The working group is focussing on mental health, with a view to improving provision for those with low level mental ill health in the borough through a housing-related focus.
- 9.2. The products this group continue to work towards and the recommendations that come out of this work are being designed to have a positive impact and to reduce inequalities arising from mental ill health, specifically around housing.
- 9.3. The nature of the group itself improves knowledge, understanding and collaboration between partners, and this will have a positive impact on practices of local agencies, reducing inconsistency in resident experience and promoting good practice.
- 9.4. No other protected characteristics as laid out by the Equality Act 2010 are explicitly impacted by this work, other than disability, but an improvement for one characteristic is likely to lessen the marginalisation of those with intersectionality of protected characteristics or other inequalities.
- 9.5. The only apparent negative, not arising from this work but which this work has identified, is a gap in provision at present for those experiencing low levels of mental health need who do not meet the threshold for secondary care but who do have a current need which is not being met.

## **10. Background documents:**

- 10.1. Please see relevant background documents in the table below:

<b>Short title of document</b>	<b>Date</b>
<a href="#"><u>Housing and Mental Health</u></a>	7/3/2017
<a href="#"><u>Housing Select Committee Minutes</u></a>	7/3/2017
<a href="#"><u>Response to HSC's Housing and Mental Health Review</u></a>	19/7/2017

10.2. Two appendices are included as below:

<b>Appendix</b>	<b>Name</b>
A	Housing Select Committee In-Depth Review: Housing and Mental Health
B	Partner Map

10.3. For further information please contact Natasha Valladares, Housing Strategy and Programmes National Management Trainee, on x46277.