

Part A

Report to: Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Date of meeting: Thursday, 24 October 2019

Report author: Democratic Services Officer

Title: Mental Health Task Group - final report

1.0 Summary

1.1 This report provides Overview and Scrutiny Committee with the final report and recommendations of the Mental Health Task Group. The full report is attached as Appendix 1.

1.2 Overview and Scrutiny Committee is asked to review the report prior to its presentation to the Health and Wellbeing Forum on 13 January 2020.

2.0 Risks

2.1 No direct risks to the council have been identified as a result of the task group's recommendations.

3.0 Recommendations

3.1 that the final report and recommendations of the Mental Health Task Group be agreed and forwarded to the council's Health and Wellbeing Forum.

Further information:

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Report approved by: Group Head of Democracy and Governance.

4.0 Detailed proposal

4.1 At its meeting on 21 March 2019, Overview and Scrutiny Committee agreed a scrutiny suggestion from Mayor Taylor to look at current mental health provision in the borough and consider what more Watford Borough Council could do to support those living with mental health difficulties.

4.2 Under new scrutiny arrangements approved by Council on 19 March 2019, the Group Head of Democracy and Governance, in consultation with the Chair of Overview and Scrutiny, agreed the chair and composition of the task group:

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|----------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| Councillor Glen Saffery | Chair, Councillor for Woodside Ward |
| Councillor Dawn Allen-Williamson | Councillor for Callowland Ward |
| Councillor Amanda Grimston | Councillor for Meriden Ward |
| Councillor Rabi Martins | Councillor for Central Ward |
| Councillor Bilquees Mauthoor | Councillor for Leggatts Ward |

4.3 The task group met on three occasions, including one meeting dedicated to understanding the role of the council's Mental Health Champion. Additional insight and understanding was provided for the task group by Councillor Jennifer Pattinson, drawing on her professional expertise.

4.4 As a part of its work, the task group undertook a basic survey of organisations dealing with mental health issues in the borough to understand the extent of current provision and identify any gaps. A summary of the findings is attached to the final task group report.

4.5 Overview and Scrutiny Committee is asked to review the final report and the task group's recommendations prior to its presentation to the Health and Wellbeing Forum on 13 January 2020. A copy of the final report will also be sent to the Mayor and Portfolio Holder for Community.

5.0 **Implications**

5.1 **Financial**

5.1.1 The Shared Director of Finance comments that there is no current budget provision for the Mental Health Champion. Should this recommendation be pursued a request for funding will need to be submitted as part of the normal budget process.

5.2 **Legal Issues (Monitoring Officer)**

5.2.1 The Group Head of Democracy and Governance comments that should the recommendation regarding giving the Mental Health Champion a budget be recommended and adopted any budgetary provision would need to be agreed by Council. Also the recommendation to have a mental health member champion appointed for a period of four years should be tied to a member's term of office and automatically terminate should the member resign or not be re-elected.

5.3 **Equalities, Human Rights and Data Protection**

5.3.1 Mental ill health can affect all sectors of the community and all ages. The aim of the task group's recommendations is to improve understanding of current mental health provision in the borough and consider what more Watford Borough Council can do to support those living with mental health difficulties.

Appendices

- Appendix 1 – Mental Health Task Group report

Background papers

There are no specific background papers for this report. All background information used during the task group's work is referenced in the final report.