

SCRUTINY REVIEW UPDATE

Scrutiny review:	Mental Health
Committee/Task Group:	Mental Health Task Group
Committee/Task Group Chair:	Councillor Glen Saffery
Final report published:	October 2019
Forwarded to H&WBF:	October 2019 and to the Mayor, Portfolio Holder for Communities and the Group Head of Community and Environmental Services
Health and Wellbeing Forum update:	18 March 2021

Recommendation:	Mental health and wellbeing should be brought under the auspices of Watford Borough Council's Health and Wellbeing Forum (H&WBF). Membership of the forum should, by default, include Watford Borough Council's Mental Health Champion.
Health and Wellbeing Forum response:	This arrangement is in place. The council's current Mental Health (MH) Champion, Councillor Martins, is a member of the council's H&WBF. The MH Champion provides regular updates to the meetings.

Recommendation:	A formal role profile should be agreed for Watford Borough Council's Mental Health Champion to maintain focus and direction.
Health and Wellbeing Forum response:	A role profile has been drawn up in conjunction with the current MH Champion and was agreed at the last H&WBF meeting on 22 February 2021.

Recommendation:	The H&WBF should establish a meaningful measure of performance and success in tackling mental health and wellbeing amongst council staff.
Health and Wellbeing Forum response:	The Executive Head of HR and OD has provided an update on staff health, wellbeing and absence levels at all three H&WBF meetings in 2020/21. He has agreed to provide further such updates on an ongoing basis, as agreed with members of the forum. The updates have covered a range of measures including absence levels, wellbeing resources and services, and other staff wellbeing initiatives. Quarterly reports on absence levels are monitored by Leadership Board as well as the results of staff surveys and any action plans arising out of them.

Recommendation:	The H&WBF should bring together organisations with an interest in mental health issues to promote sharing and best practice.
Health and Wellbeing Forum response:	This work is on-going e.g., the Herts Valleys CCG and HCC attended on the H&WBF on 17 November 2020 and Watford Women’s Centre attended on 22 February 2021.
Recommendation:	The H&WBF should invite representatives from local secondary schools to talk about how mental health issues are being tackled.
Health and Wellbeing Forum response:	Yael Leinman, Strategic Lead for mental health in schools, Herts Valleys CCG and Deborah Sheppard, CAMHS Senior Commissioning Manager, Hertfordshire County Council attended the H&WBF on 17 November 2020 to provide an overview on the work being undertaken in schools to tackle mental health issues. It was agreed that they should be invited to provide an update later in 2021.
Recommendation:	Further and ongoing training should be provided for councillors on mental health awareness to assist them in their work in the community.
Health and Wellbeing Forum response:	MH awareness training for councillors took place on 9 and 10 March. A further course is planned in July to capture new councillors and any other councillors who were unable to attend in March.