

REPORT FOR: HEALTH AND WELLBEING BOARD

Date of Meeting: 12 January 2017

Subject: **INFORMATION REPORT** – Update on the Mental Health and Employment Trailblazer Project in Harrow

Responsible Officer: Andrew Howe, Director of Public Health, Harrow Council

Exempt: No

Wards affected: Harrow and Wealdstone Opportunity Area
Greenhill
Roxbourne
Marlborough

Enclosures: None

Section 1 – Summary

This report sets out a progress update on the Mental Health and Employment Trailblazer project in Harrow.

FOR INFORMATION

Section 2 – Report

As part of the Growth Deal in 2014, the West London Alliance (WLA), and three other areas in England, agreed to be trailblazers for a programme of support for unemployed people claiming Job Seekers Allowance (JSA), and Employment and Support Allowance (ESA) experiencing common mental health problems*. The WLA is responsible for managing the West London Trailblazer, and Ealing Council the accountable body for the programme.

The programme budget is over £2m, with £1.2M secured from the DCLG Transformation Challenge Award (TCA) and matched from the European Social Fund (ESF). The funds will support over 1,000 west London residents with Mental Health issues. The pilot programme is expected to run until December 2018, possibly longer if the reclaim period for ESF is extended. The funds allocated to Harrow are £224,000.

A joint procurement with Barnet took place in December 2015-January 2016 and the appointed provider for both Barnet and Harrow – Twining Enterprise - already has local connections as a provider of Improving Access to Psychological Therapies (IAPT) based support. The project start date has been significantly delayed because of complications with the ESF due to a range of national and London issues. The contract was signed with the provider in late October 2016 and mobilisation processes have started using the already established Harrow Task and Finish group for the project with several meetings planned in the coming weeks.

The pilot will use an Individual Placement Service (IPS) to support beneficiaries. IPS has been used elsewhere in the UK and the USA to support clients with severe and enduring conditions and has a good evidence base. This pilot will test its use in supporting people with *common mental health conditions** and will include a randomised control trial.

IPS principles include

- Access to supported employment for people with mental illness who want to work
- Employment support integrated with mental health treatment
- Competitive employment as a goal
- Access to personalised benefit counselling
- Job search soon after the person expresses an interest in working
- Employment specialists engaging systematically with employers
- Continuous job support
- Clients preferences are honoured

Participation on the programme is voluntary and can be made by self referral. The biggest sources of referral are likely to be JobCentreplus, GP practices, IAPT, voluntary sector groups, and potentially Children's Services (where a working age family member has common mental health problem such as anxiety or depression).

The Harrow trailblazer will target 119 people with the aforementioned conditions in pre determined (i.e. deprived, high ESA recipient) LB Harrow post code areas covering:

- Harrow and Wealdstone Opportunity Area
- Greenhill
- Roxbourne
- Marlborough

*anxiety and depression, obsessive compulsive disorder and post traumatic stress disorder

This project follows on from the 'trailblazing' work that has been led by Barnet Public Health over the past year.

Section 3 – Financial Implications

The project is funded from the bid received from ESF and DCLG. The match funding from Public Health (£37,500) has already been paid and there is no further funding required. This match funding enables £224k to be allocated to Harrow and target 119 individuals.

Additional resource requirements are for officer time to contribute to the monitoring of the project at a local level. This commitment can be contained within the existing staffing establishment.

The contract is monitored by the WLA but any local and engagement issues will need to be supported locally. The monthly Task and Finish Group is chaired and hosted by Harrow and attended by two Harrow Council officers (Mark Billington (Economic Development (chair)) and Anna Kirk (Public Health)).

Section 4 - Equalities implications

A full Equalities and Health Impact Assessment will be completed as part of the pilot in 2017.

Section 5 – Council Priorities

This project supports the council's priorities to make a difference for the vulnerable and communities. The service will work intensively with those people within the community who are unemployed and have common mental health problems to ensure they have all the support possible to gain and maintain employment. This group has a profound vulnerability due to their health issues and this is often compounded by being unemployed. We know long term unemployment makes it harder to find a job and this programme will aim to support people back into work quickly and using evidence based support.

STATUTORY OFFICER CLEARANCE (Council and Joint Reports)

Name: Donna Edwards

on behalf of the
Chief Financial Officer

Date: 24/11/16.

Ward Councillors notified:

YES

Section 7 - Contact Details and Background Papers

Contact: Sarah Crouch, Consultant in Public Health, Public Health, 020 8736 6834

Background Papers: None