Community Mental Health Programme - Voluntary Community and Social Enterprise (VCSE) Organisation

“I’ve been assessed by every service in the trust, but I don’t belong anywhere”

Introduction

- Healthier Together, who provide health and care support across Bristol, North Somerset and South Gloucestershire (BNSSG), is developing a new Community Mental Health Programme (CMHP) that will transform the way that mental health services work together to support people.
- They are keen to share their plans with VCSE organisations and to listen and include the ideas that those organisations may have about the programme.
- The feedback and output from the engagement will help to form a high level specification for the programme and inform the NHS England submission which will be submitted on 20th January 2021. There will be further opportunities to feed into the practical detail of the programme after this point.
- The two main engagement opportunities will be:
  - An engagement event on Zoom on Wednesday 6 January.
  - An online survey.

Aims of the Community Mental Health Programme

The aim of the CMHP is to transform community mental health services and build healthy communities that enable people to live happy, healthy, thriving lives. A key part of this is to bring together services as one team – across physical and mental health; community, social, primary and secondary care, and VCSE partners.

This will complement the Community Services Transformation Programme which began in 2019/20 and which aims to:
- coordinate care around people;
- meet physical, mental and social needs;
- make community-based care central;
- support people to take control of their own health and care; and
- enable professionals to work together across boundaries.

The CMHP aims to set out a model of care which fits with the Community Services Transformation Programme, and which helps people to access the support they need by offering:
- Care that wraps around people and can be flexibly stepped up and down, with staff from across organisations working as one team
- A good-quality assessment wherever people present - no ‘wrong doors’.
- A named lead and patient held records to remove repeated assessments.
Clinical and wider community support, for example:
- help to access work
- a safe home
- money and good food
- support to feel part of their community.

Trauma-informed approaches so people feel psychologically safe.
Accessible information in translation and easy read where appropriate
Care delivered with cultural sensitivity in a range of locations.
Full involvement for patients in their care.
Personalised and preventative support that is timely and evidence-based.

Core focus of the Community Mental Health Programme
The CMHP will focus on improving support for people with moderate to severe mental health illnesses, with focused work on:
- personality disorders
- eating disorders
- mental health rehabilitation
- transitioning - for example young people moving into adult mental health services or adults to older people’s services

We will aim both to prevent poor mental health and support people with mental illness to recover and stay well, committing to make improvements most quickly for those experiencing the worst outcomes.

Role of the Voluntary Community and Social Enterprise (VCSE) Sector
The VCSE sector is embedded in the communities it supports and has significant experience of challenging inequalities at the level both of the individual and the community. It will therefore be a crucial delivery partner. At our meeting on the 6 January, and in our accompanying survey, we would like the VCSE to answer the following questions:
- What areas of work or approaches to delivery do VCSE organisations believe Healthier Together should prioritise within this model?
- How do VCSE organisations believe that they can support the Community Mental Health Programme in achieving its aims?
- What do VCSE organisations need in order to support the Community Mental Health Programme in achieving its aims?
- How can this programme provide an opportunity to integrate working between VCSE and statutory sector?
- How can we ensure that this model allows for participation and access to individuals who may be experiencing some of the worst mental health outcomes within our current system?