

MAIDSTONE BOROUGH COUNCIL

**COMMUNITIES, LEISURE SERVICES AND ENVIRONMENT
OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**

TUESDAY 11 MARCH 2014

REPORT OF HEAD OF POLICY AND COMMUNICATIONS

Report prepared by Tessa Mallett

**ACCESSING MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES BEFORE THE POINT OF
CRISIS - REVIEW REPORT**

1.1 Introduction

Before embarking on this review inquiry, members of the Communities, Leisure Services and Environment Overview and Scrutiny Committee had been approached by residents informing them of their difficulties accessing treatment for mental health issues. The Committee therefore decided to investigate what services were available and how they could be accessed. A Working Group was appointed to lead the review.

Members were aware that national and local media reports were reporting a growing number of people at crisis point. The Committee felt it was essential to an individual's long term mental well-being that services were easy to access and focused on early intervention; early intervention is important in the prevention of further deterioration of a condition. However members found their starting point was understanding how, why and if services were being accessed at the point of crisis.

1.2 The desired outcomes specified at the start of the review were:

- To ensure the Mental Health needs of Maidstone's residents are being met before the point of crisis in line with the Government's agenda for prevention and in an efficient, effective and holistic manner and through adequate signposting.
- To put forward through the review recommendations to Kent County Council, the NHS and the West Kent Clinical Commissioning Group that will raise Mental Health awareness within the borough and to ensure Mental Health is part of the commissioning priorities for Maidstone residents.

1.3 Draft Report Recommendations

- The report makes 11 recommendations (see page 17 of the report) and include the four below as an example:
 - That the plausibility of Central County Self Assessment team or unit for mental health be investigated in terms of providing a cost effective and viable service for Kent – to prevent time wasted travelling across the county.
 - That a mental health helpline to link to the NHS for the police is supported as an outcome of the Street Triage Pilot.
 - That the Community Development team signpost via the Council's website the 'In the Stone' website and the borough update to the newly branded Children and Young people's services provided by the NHS Sussex Partnership.
 - That the SAFE project be promoted on the 'In the Stone' website and in the Borough Update and by Kent County Council via its website.

2. Recommendation

- 2.1 The Communities, Leisure Services and Environment Overview and Scrutiny Committee are recommended to consider the Accessing Mental Health Services Before the Point of Crisis – Review Report and make amendments and suggestions as appropriate.
- 2.2 Following any requested amendments to the report, the Committee are recommended to approve the report for submission to the appropriate Cabinet Member and external bodies.

3. Impact on Corporate Objectives

- 3.1 The Council's Strategic Plan 2011-2015 lists "For Maidstone to be a decent place to live" as a key priority. The recommendations within the report contribute to the fulfillment of this objective.

4. Risk Management

The recommendations contained within the report will need to be risk assessed as part of reviewing whether they should be accepted or not.

5. Other Implications

Other implications arising from this report will need to be considered as part of reviewing whether they should be accepted or not.

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Financial 1. Staffing 2. Legal 3. Equality Impact Needs Assessment 4. Environmental/Sustainable Development 5. Community Safety 6. Human Rights Act 7. Procurement 8. Asset Management | <table border="1" style="border-collapse: collapse; width: 50px; height: 100%;"> <tr><td style="width: 50px; height: 25px;"></td></tr> <tr><td style="width: 50px; height: 25px;"></td></tr> <tr><td style="width: 50px; height: 25px;"></td></tr> <tr><td style="width: 50px; height: 25px;"></td></tr> <tr><td style="width: 50px; height: 25px;"></td></tr> <tr><td style="width: 50px; height: 25px;"></td></tr> <tr><td style="width: 50px; height: 25px;"></td></tr> <tr><td style="width: 50px; height: 25px;"></td></tr> <tr><td style="width: 50px; height: 25px;"></td></tr> <tr><td style="width: 50px; height: 25px;"></td></tr> </table> | | | | | | | | | | |
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<u>IS THIS A KEY DECISION REPORT?</u>	<u>THIS BOX MUST BE COMPLETED</u>
Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
If yes, this is a Key Decision because:	
.....	
Wards/Parishes affected:	
.....	

6. Relevant Documents

Appendix A - Accessing Mental Health Services Before the Point of Crisis – Review Report