

MAIDSTONE BOROUGH COUNCIL

CABINET

WEDNESDAY 9 APRIL 2014

REPORT OF THE COMMUNITY, LEISURE SERVICES AND ENVIRONMENT OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Report prepared by Tessa Mallett

1. ACCESSING MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES BEFORE THE POINT OF CRISIS (RESPONSE)

1.1 Issue for Decision

1.1.1 To consider the recommendations within the 'Accessing Mental Health Services Before the Point of Crisis' report attached at **Appendix A** and the SCRAIP response attached at **Appendix B**.

1.2 Recommendation of Community, Leisure Services and Environment Overview and Scrutiny Committee

1.2.1 That Cabinet considers and responds to the recommendations in the report as set out below and the responses in the SCRAIP:

1 That from July 2014 a joint mental health services meeting be held on a six monthly basis between Maidstone Borough Council, Kent County Council and the West Kent Clinical Commissioning Group to communicate and share information to ensure mental health and mental health services remain an on-going priority. This group to develop an action plan to include the following:

- a. That a single point of access to mental health services is developed providing access to all cases of mental health and not just the more severe cases;
- b. That the Maidstone Borough Council Community Development Team ensure there is continued engagement between the West Kent Clinical Commissioning Group, Kent County Council Public Health and the Community, Charitable and Voluntary sectors and Maidstone Borough Council to ensure mental health services are commissioned on a well-informed basis;

- c. That the plausibility of a central county self-assessment team or unit for mental health be investigated with a view to providing a cost effective and viable service for Kent;
 - d. Building on the success of the Street Triage Pilot, that the above group work with Kent Police and NHS Mental Health Teams to provide access to a 24 hour mental health service advice line for all police officers;
 - e. That the Community Development Team promote the Live it Well website as a priority via its communication channels to ensure its profile is raised and maintained.
- 2 That Maidstone Borough Council's Community Development Team ensure professionals and the community can access information on child and adolescent mental health services provided by NHS Kent and Sussex via the Council's website 'In the Stone' and the borough update;
 - 3 That the Maidstone Borough Council Community Development Team continue to support the Suicide Awareness for Everyone (SAFE) project via funding and their various communication channels, for example 'In the Stone' website;
 - 4 That Maidstone Borough Council's Community Development team together with their partners encourage prevention and early intervention in mental health and well-being by developing a pilot project aimed at primary school children and their parents to develop coping strategies when moving to secondary school;
 - 5 That a letter of support from the Chairman of the Community, Leisure Services and Environment Committee is send to Patrick Leeson, Corporate Director of Education, Learning and Skills at Kent County Council supporting the 'Coping and Resilience Strategy' and 'Early Intervention and Prevention Strategy' being adapted to include children of primary school age and PSHE programmes raising awareness of mental health and well-being in schools.

1.3 Reasons for Recommendation

- 1.3.1 Mental health needs of Maidstone residents has been the focus of scrutiny since 2012. A number of significant changes to the NHS took effect in April 2013 affecting how decisions about NHS services were made and how services were commissioned. Local Primary Care Trusts (PCTs) and Strategic Health Authorities (SHAs) were replaced by Clinical Commissioning Groups (CCGs) giving local authorities a more influential role in respect of mental health services. Local authorities were expected to work more closely with other health care providers to tackle the challenges.

1.3.2 The Community, Leisure Services and Environment Overview and Scrutiny Committee undertook a number of evidence gathering sessions during 2013-2014. Witnesses included service users, representatives from West Kent CCG, Kent County Council Public Health, Kent Police, Kent County Council Community Wardens, Sussex Partnership NHS Foundation Trust, Kent and Medway Social Care Partnership Trust, Maidstone Borough Council Community Development Team, Maidstone Mind and Suicide Awareness For Everyone. The recommendations are a result of the evidence gathered from these meetings.

1.3.3 The review report and recommendations were agreed at the Community, Leisure Services and Environment Overview and Scrutiny Committee at their meeting on 11 March 2014.

1.4 Alternative Action and why not Recommended

1.4.1 The Cabinet could decide not to consider the recommendations within the 'Accessing Mental Health Services Before the Point of Crisis' report, however the recommendations are based on evidence from a wide range of sources and support the Council's objectives with regard to Maidstone being a decent place to live outlined in 1.5.

1.5 Impact on Corporate Objectives

1.5.1 The Council's Strategic Plan 2011-2015 lists 'For Maidstone to be a decent place to live' as a key priority, under which sits the outcomes 'Developing sustainable communities' and 'Increasing choice and improving the quality of life for vulnerable people'. The recommendations within the report are considered to contribute to the fulfilment of these outcomes.

1.6 Risk Management

1.6.1 Where recommendations included in the review are the responsibility of other agencies there is a risk that the Council is not able to influence those agencies to implement these recommendations.

1.7 Other Implications

1.7.1

- 1. Financial
- 2. Staffing
- 3. Legal
- 4. Equality Impact Needs Assessment

X
X

- 5. Environmental/Sustainable Development
- 6. Community Safety
- 7. Human Rights Act
- 8. Procurement
- 9. Asset Management

1.7.2 Financial – Some of the recommendations seek to change policy or practice at a County or regional level. This will require significant investment and will have financial implications for those agencies responsible for mental health services.

1.7.3 Staffing – the majority of recommendations are for the Council’s Community Development Team and can be delivered within existing staffing resources of Maidstone Borough Council. However, where recommendations currently seek to change policy or practice at a County or regional level this will have staffing implications for other agencies.

1.8 Relevant Documents

1.8.1 Appendices

- 1 **Appendix A** – Accessing Mental Health Services Before the Point of Crisis report
- 1 **Appendix B** – SCRAIP from Community, Leisure Services and Environment Overview and Scrutiny Committee dated 11 March 2014 including response from Community Development Team Leader, Maidstone Borough Council.

1.8.2 Background Documents

None

IS THIS A KEY DECISION REPORT?

THIS BOX MUST BE COMPLETED

Yes

No

If yes, this is a Key Decision because:

.....

Wards/Parishes affected:

.....