



COUNCIL MEETING

21 September 2017

GATESHEAD METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL

NOTICE OF MOTION

Councillor M Foy will move the following motion:

The Council recognises the impact that mental health issues have on residents and employers in Gateshead. Mental illness brings with it costs not only to individuals and their families, but also to society as a whole with the costs of mental ill health to the economy in England estimated at £105 billion.

Mental health is an issue Gateshead Council can't afford to ignore; just over 27% of staff absences were related to Stress Anxiety and Depression from April 2016 to 31 March 2017.

Looking after the mental health of your employees makes business sense and tackling stigma can make a real difference to; sickness absence rates, presenteeism levels, staff wellbeing and productivity, and retention. Time to Change <https://www.time-to-change.org.uk/> gives a framework to tackle stigma with the employer signing a pledge and developing a Seven Point action plan. Since signing the Employer Pledge, 95% of employers said it had a positive impact on their organisation.

The Council notes the potential health benefits to its residents and employees from engaging with Time to Change and recognises the support they will provide to develop an action plan and over the first year to get our workforce talking about mental health.

The Council commit to normalising the conversation about mental health in the workplace and additionally the Council commits to sign a Time To Change pledge, marking the commitment with a public signing of the pledge at an event at St James's Park, Newcastle on 09 October 2017.

Proposed by: Councillor M Foy

Seconded by: Councillor M Brain

Supported by: Councillor J Adams
Councillor G Haley
Councillor M McNestry