

**REPORT TO CABINET
20 July 2021**

TITLE OF REPORT: **Public Health England Prevention Concordat for Better Mental Health**

REPORT OF: **Alice Wiseman, Director of Public Health and Wellbeing**

Purpose of the Report

1. This report seeks the support of Cabinet for the Council becoming a signatory to the Public Health England (PHE) Mental Health Prevention Care Concordat¹.

Background

2. Gateshead Council had been a signatory, up to its expiry in June 2020, to the Time to Change Employer Pledge², a commitment to changing the way we think and act about mental health in the workplace. The Pledge supported employers to create a more open and understanding culture around mental health problems in the workplace, underpinned by a 12-month Action Plan. The Prevention Care Concordat Consensus statement and Action Plan will enable the Council to refresh and demonstrate its continued support of its employees' Mental Health, as well as working with local partners in supporting the Mental Health and wellbeing of its residents.
3. Mental disorders are more common in people living alone, in poor physical health, and not employed. Children living in poverty are over three times more likely to suffer from mental health problems. Discrimination is a significant determinant of the mental health of recent migrants, black and mixed ethnicity groups.
4. Poverty and health inequalities are placing an increasing demand on our services, so we need to focus our work, and the money we have to spend, on what matters most. COVID-19 has highlighted pre-existing inequalities and, in some cases, widened them.

Proposal

5. Taking a prevention-focused approach to improving the public's mental health has been shown to make a valuable contribution to achieving a fairer and more equitable society, dovetailing with the aims of the Council's Thrive strategy. We want to help our communities not just survive, but to flourish, prosper and succeed. The Council has committed to five pledges to help and guide us when we make

¹ [Prevention Concordat for Better Mental Health - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk)

² [Employer Pledge | Time To Change \(time-to-change.org.uk\)](https://time-to-change.org.uk)

decisions: this Pledge will support work towards those Five Pledges but has no key legal or financial considerations.

6. The Concordat focuses on prevention and the wider determinants of mental health, to impact positively on the NHS and social care system by enabling early help through using upstream interventions. It supports joint cross-sectoral action to deliver an increased focus on the prevention of mental health problems and the promotion of good mental health at the local level, drawing on the expertise of people with lived experience of mental health problems, and the wider community.
7. It encourages collaborative work across organisational boundaries and disciplines to secure place-based improvements that are tailored to local needs and assets. The Concordat builds the capacity and capability across our workforce to prevent mental health problems.

Recommendations

8. It is proposed that Cabinet recommends to Council:
 - (i) to support Gateshead Council becoming a signatory to the Prevention Care Concordat through Public Health England; and
 - (ii) to commit to support and sign up to the approved Action Plan as part of the submission (See Appendix 2).

For the following reasons:

- (i) To refresh and demonstrate the Council's continued support of its employees' Mental Health, as well as working with local partners in supporting the Mental Health and wellbeing of its residents.
- (ii) To ensure that the Action Plan is taken forward as an integral part of the commitment, ensuring action to underpin the written

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APPENDIX 1

Policy Context

1. As outlined in the Council's strategic approach, Thrive, we want to help our communities not just survive, but to flourish, prosper and succeed. We have committed to five pledges to help and guide us when we make decisions. These are:

- Putting people and families at the heart of everything we do.
- Tackle inequality so people have a fair chance.
- Support communities to support themselves and to support each other.
- Invest in our economy to provide opportunities for employment, innovation and growth.
- Work together to fight for a better future for Gateshead

The Prevention Concordat for Mental Health will help in four of the five areas of the pledge, with "Invest in our economy to provide opportunities for employment, innovation and growth" being the only one which isn't likely to benefit from signing the pledge. The other four are at the heart of our preventative work on Mental Health with partners.

Gateshead Health and Wellbeing Strategy³ (2020) "Good jobs, homes, health and friends" also identifies the impact on Mental Health that the current Austerity measures are having on Gateshead residents.

Background

2. The Prevention Care Concordat was a recommendation from the NHS Five Year Forward View (2014)⁴ and was initially launched by Public Health England (PHE) in 2017 with external partners, including the Association of Directors of Public Health and the Local Government Association. It was referenced in the Prevention Green Paper: "Advancing our health: prevention in the 2020s"⁵.
3. The Prevention Care Concordat is Public Health England's (PHE's) prevention and promotion framework for better mental health, designed for local systems. It is a tried and tested approach to addressing the upstream determinants of Public Mental Health, with 256 signatories by March 2020.
4. Following a review and re-engagement with stakeholders during COVID-19, the programme was relaunched and refreshed for easier sign-up and adapted to make it COVID-19 relevant. It offers access to expertise, resources and a Community of Practice (CoP) and re-opened to application from Local Authorities, ICS/STP and Health Partnerships from 07 December 2020.
5. The Prevention Concordat encourages collaborative work across organisational boundaries and disciplines to secure place-based improvements that are tailored to local needs and assets and builds the capacity and capability across our workforce to prevent mental health problems.

³ [Health and wellbeing strategy 2020.pdf \(gateshead.gov.uk\)](#)

⁴ [Five Year Forward View \(england.nhs.uk\)](#)

⁵ [Advancing our health: prevention in the 2020s - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#)

6. The programme has a five-domain framework for local action planning, with a new focus on reducing mental health inequalities. The domains include:
- Needs and Asset Assessment – effective use of data
 - Partnership and Alignment
 - Translating need into deliverable commitments
 - Defining Success outcomes
 - Leadership and Accountability
7. The Mental Health Prevention Concordat ‘Commitment’ requires signatories to develop a 12-month prevention and promotion action plan and sign the Prevention Concordat consensus statement.
8. The concordat application form contains a new section asking organisations to outline:
- What steps they are taking to address the social and economic disadvantages that underlie mental health inequalities?
 - What steps they are taking to address discrimination, racism and exclusion faced by particular local communities?
 - How are they addressing mental health stigma?

These help the Council in the consideration of its duties in relation to Equality and Diversity.

Consultation

9. The following have been consulted in the preparation of this report:
- Paper and Action Plan shared with the Health Portfolio lead/ Chair of the Gateshead Mental Health and Wellbeing Partnership, Councillor Bernadette Oliphant on 21 June 2021, who supported the proposal.
 - Action Plan scrutinised by the Regional Public Mental Health Lead for Public Health England, Julie Daneshyar.

Alternative Options

10. There are no alternatives available at the present time that give the same potential benefit to the organisation. Public Health England, and other potential funding bodies such as NHS England, have set being a signatory to the Concordat as one of the criteria for consideration in decision making.

Implications of Recommended Option

11. Resources:

- a) Financial Implications** – The Strategic Director, Resources and Digital confirms that there are no financial implications for the Council.
- b) Human Resources Implications** – There are no Human Resource demands arising from the proposals, other than the time of the Officer who will oversee

the work and lead for the Public Health Team. However, the Prevention Care Concordat Consensus statement and Action Plan will enable the Council to refresh and demonstrate its continued support of its employees' Mental Health.

c) **Property Implications** – There are no property implications.

12. **Risk Management Implication** – There are no risks associated with the proposal have been identified and therefore no requirement for measures to be taken to mitigate risks.
13. **Equality and Diversity Implications** - The Concordat application form contains a new section asking organisations to outline what steps they are taking to address:
- The social and economic disadvantages that underlie mental health inequalities?
 - What steps they are taking to address discrimination, racism and exclusion faced by particular local communities?
 - How are they addressing mental health stigma?

Equality and Diversity issues are therefore a requirement of the planning process. The Action Plan takes a population approach covering the Life course from Best Start in Life, through Working Age and Ageing Well.

14. **Crime and Disorder Implications** – There are no crime and disorder implications of the recommended option.
15. **Health Implications** – The Prevention Care Concordat will support a greater focus on preventative support, looking to work with people and avoid the requirement for clinical services. This falls in line with the Council's aspirations for health and wellbeing and the Thrive strategic approach. The potential positive health impacts could be significant and help to address the health inequalities that people with Mental health conditions experience.
16. **Climate Emergency and Sustainability Implications** – There are no Climate Emergency or Sustainability implications.
17. **Human Rights Implications** – There are no Human Rights implications.
18. **Ward Implications** - This focuses on all Gateshead residents across all wards.

Background Information

19. See list of documents that have been referenced as part of the registration document attached to this report i.e.

Prevalence of Severe Mental Illness <https://fingertips.phe.org.uk/profile-group/mental-health/profile/severe-mental-illness/data#page/4/gid/8000030/pat/46/par/E39000039/ati/154/are/E38000212/iid/90581/age/1/sex/4>

¹Adults with depression <https://fingertips.phe.org.uk/profile-group/mental-health/profile/common-mental->

[disorders/data#page/4/gid/1938132720/pat/46/par/E39000039/ati/154/are/E38000212/iid/848/age/168/sex/4](https://fingertips.phe.org.uk/profile-group/mental-health/profile/common-mental-disorders/data#page/4/gid/1938132720/pat/46/par/E39000039/ati/154/are/E38000212/iid/848/age/168/sex/4)

¹ Estimated Depression and anxiety prevalence <https://fingertips.phe.org.uk/profile-group/mental-health/profile/common-mental-disorders/data#page/4/gid/8000026/pat/46/par/E39000047/ati/154/are/E38000212/iid/90647/age/168/sex/4>

¹ Prescribing rates <https://fingertips.phe.org.uk/common-mental-disorders#page/4/gid/8000042/pat/46/par/E39000039/ati/154/are/E38000212/iid/90527/age/168/sex/4>

Rate of emergency psychiatric admissions <https://fingertips.phe.org.uk/profile-group/mental-health/profile/severe-mental-illness/data#page/4/gid/8000039/pat/6/par/E12000001/ati/102/are/E08000037/iid/21001/age/1/sex/4>

Hospital admissions for self-harm <https://fingertips.phe.org.uk/profile-group/child-health/profile/child-health-young-people/data#page/4/gid/1938132999/pat/6/par/E12000001/ati/102/are/E08000037/iid/90813/age/245/sex/4>

¹ Hospital admissions for self-harm 10-24 years <https://fingertips.phe.org.uk/profile-group/child-health/profile/child-health-young-people/data#page/4/gid/1938132999/pat/6/par/E12000001/ati/102/are/E08000037/iid/90813/age/245/sex/4>

Annual Population Survey, ONS, 2017/18 <https://fingertips.phe.org.uk/common-mental-disorders#page/4/gid/8000026/pat/6/par/E12000001/ati/102/are/E08000037/iid/22304/age/164/sex/4>

¹ Annual Gateshead Lifestyle Survey 2016

¹ Coronavirus and the social impacts on Great Britain <https://www.google.com/url?sa=t&rct=j&q=&esrc=s&source=web&cd=&cad=rja&uact=8&ved=2ahUKEwi78YgkkLTrAhUwTxUIHWpNAukQFjAAegQIARAB&url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.ons.gov.uk%2Freleases%2Fthesocialimpactsofcoronaviruscovid19%2F9april2020&usq=AOvVaw0wEQeigWlyWrieZ5fltHvM>

This also includes the Gateshead Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (JSNA), the Gateshead Health and Wellbeing Strategy and the Councils strategic approach Making Gateshead a Place where everyone thrives. A Mental Health Impact Assessment was also conducted in July 2020 which is being further developed at Regional level to help inform the focus of prevention work as we move out of the pandemic.