

Scrutiny Review – Scoping Document

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| Review Title: | Mental Health Services |
| Scrutiny Board: | Health and Adult Social Care Scrutiny Board |
| Date of Review: | 2021/22 |

Reasons for undertaking the review:

At the last review of mental health support undertaken in Autumn 2020, it was predicted that the Covid-19 pandemic would lead to a steady increase in people presenting with common mental disorders. There has also been a noticeable rise in social isolation because of the pandemic.

Therefore, the Health and Adult Social Care Scrutiny Board has considered it essential that a new enquiry is conducted to investigate whether mental health services are keeping in touch with residents' increasingly complex needs and are responding to rising demand.

The most recent Sandwell Adult Mental Health and Wellbeing Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (JSNA), completed in 2018, has also identified the need to review:

- the pathways into acute mental health services, so that a single emergency pathway can be established that is understood by everyone, and
- the barriers that residents face to accessing routine mental health and wellbeing services, so that referral pathways can be simplified and waiting times reduced.

Aims of the Review

- To develop a clear understanding of the current pathways for accessing emergency and routine mental health services.
- To map out the role of various health agencies in Sandwell in delivering mental health services and identify where collaboration can be strengthened.
- To capture the views of service users on challenges in accessing mental health services in Sandwell.

- To investigate how to support grassroots community organisations providing mental health support in the borough.
- To look at ways support can be strengthened for people to remain in employment during or following a mental health crisis.
- To tackle inequality of access to mental health services.

Intended Outcomes:

1. To develop a single all-age, all-needs pathway into mental health services in Sandwell.
2. To put in place appropriate mechanisms for cross-referrals of mental health cases between all health partners in Sandwell (local authority, NHS agencies, the voluntary sector), so that service users are quickly directed to the most appropriate service.
3. To ensure community mental health support is available and publicised to all communities in Sandwell.
4. To facilitate access to mental health services for groups at high-risk of mental health problems, and individuals in communities where there is a high level of stigma associated with seeking mental health support.
5. To improve the outcomes in relation to mental health services in Sandwell, such as the proportion of people seen within 20 minutes of the agreed appointment time, and the proportion of people accessing emergency support who have a comprehensive assessment.

Officer Group (including partners):

Dr Lisa McNally
Rashpal Bishop

Links to Vision 2030:



Scoping undertaken by:

Stephnie Hancock

Council Chief Officer (or partner equivalent):

Lisa McNally

Existing data available for consideration:

Sandwell Council data

- [Directory of mental health support groups](#)
- [Healthy Sandwell - Sandwell Better Mental Health Programme](#)

- [Sandwell Adult Mental Health and Wellbeing Joint Strategic Needs Assessment - June 2018](#)
- Key strategies:
 - (a) Suicide Prevention Strategy
 - (b) Sandwell Good Mental Health Strategy.

Voluntary Sector data

- [Sandwell Council of Voluntary Organisations - Database](#)

Regional data

- Regional mental health support programmes such as [Thrive into Work](#) (WMCA programme to help unemployed people who have mental or physical health conditions get back into the workplace).

National data:

- [Mental Health Crisis Care Concordat](#) (national agreement that sets out the principles of how organisations should work together to ensure that people get the help they need when in mental health crisis).

Experts by experience and carers' views

- Data to be gathered from interviews and surveys with current service users and carers providing mental health support to establish what solutions are effective in dealing with mental health crisis and longer term mental health support.

Potential witnesses

Black Country and West Birmingham Clinical Commissioning Group – steering/strategy group
 Sandwell Primary Care Networks
 Black Country Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust
 Healthwatch Sandwell
 Sandwell Council of Voluntary Organisations
 Mental Health Community Support Groups
 Sandwell Council Community Mental Health Team
 Mental Health - Commissioned Services
 Changing Our Lives
 West Midlands Police

Review Work Programme:

| Task | Method | Lead person(s) | Completion by: |
|--|---|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| Health Scrutiny meeting to determine scope of the review | Invite health partners to add their views | | 28 July 2021 |
| Set up a work programme for the review working group | Member/Officer Working Group | | Feb-March 2022 |
| Working Group – Initial Workshop | Member/Officer Working Group and Partners | | Held on 3 March 2022 |
| Focused sessions of review working group | Member/Officer Working Group | | March 2022 onwards |
| Town Level Public Engagement / Evidence Gathering Session(s) | | | TBC |