
Meeting of the Health Select Committee – 28th March 2024

Report of the Director of Public Health and Wellbeing

All Age Mental Health Needs Assessment

Purpose of report

1. To update the committee on the procurement and progress of the Dudley All-Age Mental Health Needs Assessment.

Recommendations

2. It is recommended that the committee is aware of the needs assessment proposal and timescale.

Background

3. Following a full tender process concluding on 15th November 2023, the All-Age Mental Health Needs Assessment contract was awarded in January 2024.
4. Between January and October 2024, the Institute for Community Research and Development (ICRD) at the University of Wolverhampton and Birmingham Voluntary Service Council (BVSC) Research Unit will be conducting an all-age mental health needs assessment for Dudley.
5. The aim of the needs assessment is to develop a better understanding of the mental health and wellbeing needs among those living in Dudley and identify areas and gaps in which the health and wellbeing of local people can be improved.
6. The findings will inform the development of a system wide mental health and wellbeing strategy.

7. The Needs Assessment will include an:
 - Epidemiological Needs Assessment
 - Literature Review
 - Stakeholder Interviews
 - Community Research and Focus Groups.

8. The needs assessment will cover the full life course and include consideration of:
 - parental and infant mental health in the first 1,001 days
 - childhood and adolescence (0-19)
 - working age adults (20-64)
 - and older people aged (65+)

(An ethics application has been submitted to the University of Wolverhampton FABSS ethics committee seeking approval to interview children and young people).

Current Progress and Plans for Data

9. Epidemiological Needs Assessment:
ICRD are conducting an epidemiological needs assessment to estimate the magnitude of mental ill-health in Dudley. Drawing on national, regional and local data/reports we aim to highlight the demand and unmet need across the Borough and identify high risk groups and/or inequalities.

10. National (OHID Public Health Profiles, ONS; NHS) and local datasets (All About Dudley) have been reviewed and data relevant to mental health extracted. Our assessment will include exploration of inequalities that exist and comparison to other local authorities and regional and national benchmarks.

11. ICRD will explore what data partners and wider stakeholders collect and what is available to share with ICRD for inclusion in the needs assessment. Knowing what data is collected will help us examine the quality of data being collected and identify any gaps that could support improved monitoring and identification of mental health needs in Dudley.

12. The University of Wolverhampton and associate researchers will speak to all commissioners and providers of emotional wellbeing and mental health services within Dudley, including DMBC, NHS organisations, primary care, and the community and voluntary sectors about their data. This will include services where emotional and mental health needs are identified (e.g. Family Hubs, schools, A&E)."

13. At a minimum the request will be for anonymised data on the number of people diagnosed, numbers of people supported; number of people currently on a waiting list (and the demographic breakdown within these); and any feedback from service users about their experience using the service and service outcomes. Waiting list data will help provide an indication (but not complete picture) of demand and unmet needs.
14. Literature review and examples of good practice:
The review is underway and will include a comprehensive literature review and collation of examples of good practice to inform the development of comprehensive prevention programme, service redesign and measures to manage demand on mental health services. It aims to:
 - Understand how wider determinants of health affecting behaviour and mental health and wellbeing can be influenced to prevent poor mental health and improve wellbeing in Dudley
 - Identify approaches associated with increased resilience, wellbeing and prevention of poor mental health in identified subgroups and explore methods for implementation on a wider population level
 - Explore mental health and wellbeing related behaviours and how to utilise behavioural science methods to develop and improve mental health and wellbeing on a population level.

Identifying relevant stakeholders

15. For governance, oversight and structure, public health has established and coordinates;
 - an operational group made up of core technical council staff for unblocking and advising
 - a wider Steering Group made up of whole system partners for connecting and guiding. This group includes members from local mental health providers, NHS, GP and voluntary partners, social care partners, education and council colleagues.
16. These meetings will be used to identify other organisations and/or individuals who can support ICRD to access local data and individuals pertaining to mental health and wellbeing.
17. This activity will be further developed to draw up a list of interviewees to be contacted in February, for in-depth semi structured interviews. The provider will carry out approximately 50 interviews with public sector health professionals and voluntary sector workers already working with the community, as well as identified expert-by-experience service users,

carers and residents. A systemwide and partnership approach will be central as well as capturing views on how mental health can be improved.

Expected outcomes

18. The findings of the needs assessment will support the council and system partners in;
 - Understanding the needs of the Dudley community, both in support for prevention and self-help needs and treatment services
 - Understanding how Dudley compares to its Black Country neighbours and nationally
 - Identifying any gaps in data knowledge or support
 - Formulating a strategy for improving mental health in Dudley
 - Informed commissioning of provision to support the mental health needs of the Dudley community
 - Populate the Joint Strategic Needs Assessment
19. The completed needs assessment will be presented to the Health and Wellbeing Board, as well as other relevant groups and Boards and will be made publicly available.

Finance

20. The contract value is £66,388.45 from the Public Health Grant.

Law

21. Section 73A(1) of the 2006 National Health Services Act gives the DPH responsibility for all of their local authority's duties to take steps to improve the health of the people in its area.
22. The Health and Care Act 2022 requires integrated care partnerships (ICPs) to respond to local needs assessments in the development of its integrated care strategy.

Risk Management

23. A risk register is monitored at biweekly meetings with the provider to ensure mitigation and adherence to timeframe.

Equality Impact

24. All ages and members of the Dudley community can benefit from improvements shaped by the findings of the needs assessment. Lived

experience from engagement with community members will shape the actions from this work. All aspects of the needs assessment will be designed to ensure that there is a focus on equalities and views are representative of all parts of the community.

Human Resources/Organisational Development

25. There are no specific HR or organisational development requirements.

Commercial/Procurement

26. Full tender process was completed.

Environment/Climate Change

27. The provider is local within the Black Country, therefore, travel is minimal and a variety of methods will be utilised to be considerate to climate impact.

Council Priorities and Projects

28. This programme of work supports the key Council priorities including the Borough Vision and Council Plan 2022-25, meeting the wider council priority around offering children the best start in life, increasing attainment and reducing poverty.

29. Dudley the borough of opportunity

- Children and young people benefit from the best possible start in life in our Child Friendly borough.
- All residents benefit from access to high quality, integrated health and social care
- Everyone, including our most vulnerable, have the choice, support, and control of the services they need to live independently.

30. Dudley the safe and sound borough

- Poverty is reducing as we address all forms of inequality, improve social, emotional, and mental health and wellbeing.



Dr Mayada Abuaffan
Director Public Health and Wellbeing

Report Author: James Rees Reader and Deputy Director
The Institute for Community Research and Development

Jill Edwards Public Health Manager Children 5+

Telephone: 01384 816265

Email: jill.edwards@dudley.gov.uk