

BRIEFING REPORT

Health and Wellbeing Board

Date of Meeting:	29 November 2022
Report Title:	Progress Update on the Cheshire East All Age Mental Health Partnership Board
Report of:	Nichola Thompson, Director of Commissioning

1. Purpose of Report

- 1.1. The purpose of this report is to provide a progress update to the Health and Wellbeing Board on the activities of the Cheshire East All Age Mental Health Partnership Board.

2. Executive Summary

- 2.1. The Cheshire East All Age Mental Health Partnership Board has been in place since December 2019.
- 2.2. The board meets on a bi-monthly basis and has a strong membership from across adult social care, childrens services, health, the voluntary sector, housing, public health, police and people with lived experience.
- 2.3. This report details the background in relation to the establishment of the partnership board.
- 2.4. It then covers the aims and objectives of the partnership board, before looking at the work programme around the All Age Mental Health Strategy (in future this will be developed as the Cheshire East Place – Mental Health Plan) that has been undertaken by the board.
- 2.5. The report also focuses on some of the challenges that the board faces and what the next steps which will be undertaken.

3. Background

- 3.1. The Cheshire East All Age Mental Health Strategy (2019) highlighted that there would be a scoping exercise conducted with a view to establishing a Cheshire East Mental Health Partnership Board.
- 3.2. At the time, Cheshire East had no borough wide partnership board to focus on mental health and wellbeing, or to encourage improved partnership working with key stakeholders in the local area to promote good quality mental health services.
- 3.3. Initial scoping meetings to discuss the establishment of a Mental Health Partnership Board took place between a wide range of stakeholders from health and social care, as well as representatives from local mental health forums including carers and service users. These meetings were very positive and highlighted that there was an appetite for a Mental Health Partnership Board to be established to encourage the development of greater integrated partnership working across Cheshire East and to enable us to deliver the priorities and actions within all age strategy.
- 3.4. On 19 September 2019 the Peoples DMT approved the establishment of an All Age Mental Health Partnership Board.
- 3.5. The first meeting of the board took place on 11 December 2019.
- 3.6. Over the last few years, the partnership board has met regularly (virtually) on a bi-monthly basis.
- 3.7. The board membership has representation from across adult social care, childrens services, health, the voluntary sector, housing, public health, police and people with lived experience (adults and young people).
- 3.8. Charing responsibility has been undertaken jointly by both Cheshire East Council and statutory health partners.

4. Briefing Information

- 4.1. The vision of the Cheshire East All Age Mental Health Partnership Board is outlined in the Terms of Reference:

“To improve the Mental Health and Wellbeing of people who live in the borough of Cheshire East”

- 4.2. The Cheshire East Mental Health Partnership Board works with key partners to ensure that services are in place to:
 - Improve mental health and wellbeing
 - Respond early, effectively and efficiently to meeting the needs of people experiencing mental ill health and/or distress and also support their carers
 - Support people through recovery to achieve their maximum potential to lead active lives.

4.3. The main objectives of the partnership board are to

- Monitor progress and actions against agreed priorities within the NHS Long Term Plan and the Cheshire East All Age Mental Health Strategy
- Work to identify and develop action plans against the strategic priority areas that would benefit from a partnership approach, identifying lead organisations and related outcomes
- Promote the development of good quality service provision and equity of access across Cheshire East.

Monitoring Progress and actions against the Cheshire East All Age Mental Health Strategy

4.4. The Cheshire East All Age Mental Health Strategy is firmly aligned to the NHS Long Term Plan. It promotes a whole system approach to improve the mental health and wellbeing of individuals and their families, supported by integrated health and social care services, resilient communities, inclusive employers and services that maximise independence and choice.

4.5. Monitoring of the strategy has been undertaken and presented to the partnership board to provide feedback and look at actions where partnership working could be required to support the implementation of priority areas (see Appendix 1).

Strategic Partnership Approach

4.6. The partnership board has worked to identify three key priority areas from the strategy, that it has taken forward to look at delivering improved outcomes through a partnership approach.

4.7. A joint meeting was held on 5 March 2021 between the mental health partnership boards in Cheshire East and Cheshire West and Chester. At this meeting both partnership boards agreed that priorities around early intervention, prevention and crisis would be taken forward in the form of sub-groups.

4.8. A Mental Health and Wellbeing and Social Prescribing Sub-Group has been established to tackle early intervention. Some of the areas the group has been focusing on are a baseline review of social prescribing services across the care communities and improving access and signposting so people can better access support.

4.9. A Prevention Sub-Group has been established to improve partnership working across preventative services. Part of the work of this group has included a Peer Support Project that looks at providing help and assistance to wider support groups across Cheshire East. Promotion of physical activity is another area the group is focusing on to promote the benefits of exercise and movement for wellness and happiness.

- 4.10.** A Pan-Cheshire Crisis Sub-Group was established but this was put on hold due to the current changes within health and social care and the move to the integrated care system placing additional resources requirements on staff. Members of the group attend the Cheshire and Warrington Crisis Care Concordat Meeting and provide regular updates to the board on initiatives across the sub region.
- 4.11.** Each of the sub-groups report regular progress updates to the partnership board on a bi-monthly basis and feedback is provided back from partnership board members.

Promoting the development of good quality service provision

- 4.12.** Another key remit of the partnership board has been to promote the development of good quality service provision.
- 4.13.** The board has contributed to commissioning activity across the borough as part of a co-production approach. Over the last 12 months the board has provided contributions towards the commissioning of the Cheshire Advocacy Service and Crisis Cafes.
- 4.14.** The board is also linked in with the work around the Community Mental Health Transformation project that is being delivered by Re-think on behalf of Cheshire and Wirral Partnership. Regular updates and feedback between the board and Re-think have taken place to ensure a partnership approach is firmly established.

Challenges

- 4.15.** One of the key challenges that the partnership board has faced was establishing itself just before the COVID pandemic took place. This meant that the board has only met twice in a face-to-face capacity. The board has overcome this by holding meetings virtually via Microsoft Teams. Attendance from partners has remained healthy during the last few years.
- 4.16.** This impact of COVID and lockdown has resulted in difficulties in retaining and attracting new lived experience representatives. Prior to the lockdown Cheshire East had two vibrant lived experience forums, the East Cheshire Mental Health Forum, and the Open Minds Forum. Both forums have representatives on the board. Due to these meetings having not been held as regularly, this has meant the partnership board has not been able to bring in new representatives from these groups.

Next Steps

- 4.17.** In August 2022 the partnership board will be conducting a review of its Terms of Reference and current board membership. This has changed significantly over the past few years and will be reflected in the review.
- 4.18.** A project group is being established by group representatives to develop a new All Age Mental Health Strategy (the Cheshire East Place – Mental Health Plan). This will be an integrated strategy which will ensure support and input

from all major stakeholders across the borough. As part of the development of the strategy there will be strong links with the ongoing work around the Community Mental Health Transformation.

- 4.19.** Statutory guidance on the preparation of integrated care strategies was published on 29 July 2022. As an integrated strategy this is an opportunity to work with a wide range of people, communities, and organisations to develop evidence-based system-wide priorities that will improve the public’s mental health and wellbeing and reduce disparities.

5. Implications

5.1. Legal

- 5.1.1. There is no statutory requirement to provide a Mental Health Partnership Board. However, having a Partnership Board in place with terms of reference, setting out the vision, purpose and objectives will facilitate partnership working with key stakeholders and demonstrates the Council’s commitment to its wellbeing duties under the Care Act 2014

5.2. Finance

- 5.2.1 Cheshire East Council and health partners have both provided staff to support the administration and co-ordination of the Cheshire Mental Health Partnership Board meetings. This will be from existing council resources with no additional cost to the council or health partners.

5.3. Human Resources

- 5.3.1. There are no human resources implications attached to the partnership board.

Access to Information	
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Appendices:	Appendix 1 – All Age Mental Health Strategy Review 2021/22 Appendix 2 – Terms of Reference – All Age Mental Health Partnership Board
Background Papers:	Cheshire East All Age Mental Health Strategy 2019-2022

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