



**WEST MIDLANDS**  
COMBINED AUTHORITY

## Board Meeting

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| <b>Date</b>                              | 7 April 2017  |
| <b>Report title</b>                      | Mental Health Commission Update   |
| <b>Cabinet Member<br/>Portfolio Lead</b> | Councillor Pete Lowe – Health & Wellbeing   |
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**Report to be/has been  
considered by**

**Recommendation(s) for action or decision:**

**The Combined Authority Board is recommended to:**

1. Support the proposed Action Plan delivery mechanism.
2. Agrees to invite Health & Wellbeing Boards to consider the Thrive document, how it might align with local developments and provide feedback on the implementation plan.

## **1.0 Purpose**

- 1.1 This report is to provide an update on the current position of the West Midlands Mental Health Commission Action Plan.

## **2.0 Background**

- 2.1 On 31<sup>st</sup> January 2017 the West Midlands Mental Health Commission launched its Thrive document and outlined a series of recommendations with an Action Plan. To assist the implementation of the plan a concordat was created which has been signed by the majority of Local Authority (WMCA Constituent and non-Constituent members) Health (Clinical Commissioning Groups, Sustainable Transformation Plan leads, NHS England NHS Improvement) , Public Health England, statutory partners including West Midlands Police, West Midlands Ambulance Service and West Midlands Fire Service, Local Enterprise Partners, Chambers of Commerce, a number of Charity, Voluntary and Third Sector organisations as well as a large number of local housing providers. A copy of the Thrive report is attached (“Thrive West Midlands” An Action Plan to drive better mental health and wellbeing in the West Midlands, 2017) (Appendix 1).
- 2.2 On the same day the University of Birmingham released their baseline assessment which had been commissioned to provide the evidence to support the Action Plan and subsequent recommendations. (“Mental Health in the West Midlands Combined Authority” University of Birmingham and Centre for Mental Health, 2017) (Appendix 2).

## **3.0 Wider WMCA Implications**

- 3.1 It is proposed that a number of the programmes will be developed with partners across the West Midlands Combined Authority footprint. We will actively seek to engage non constituent members to support the Treasury approach for effective evaluation of national scalability.

## **4.0 Progress**

- 4.1 The Mental Health Commission implementation plan has been shared and is attached in a final version for approval. (Appendix 3) The implementation plan has 21 identified work streams covering five key areas; Employers and employees, providing safe and affordable places to live, improved mental health outcomes within the Criminal Justice System, developing approached to care and health, and getting the community involved.
- 4.2 The plan has been developed in consultation with the wider system network across the West Midlands Combined Authority with cognisance to Health, Local Authority and partnership arrangements with statutory partners as well as existing and proposed work streams.
- 4.3 A number of priority work streams are being developed at pace to continue the momentum obtained through the launch. The Individual Placement and Support programme has been granted approximately £10M from the Dept. Work and Pensions Health and Work Unit innovation fund to trial a primary care based approach for the support programme utilising a Randomised Control Trail approach for the 4000 recipients of the approach.
- 4.4 A further bid has been submitted to the same unit requesting £2M to support a fiscal incentive trial within the Employer Wellbeing arena which again will require a Randomised

Control Trail approach to 100 small and medium enterprises across the region. This has been moved to the next stage with funding granted to deliver the full proposal. It is anticipated that this will be completed by the end of July 2017 and will be submitted to the Dept. for Work and Health for the release of the funds.

4.5 It is expected that each of the 5 main work streams has a task and finish group aligned and includes a lived experience consultant from our citizen's jury to ensure the delivery at a very granular level retains fidelity to the programme and outcome proposed.

4.6 Earlier this month, the budget announced a further investment opportunity in the region within the Midlands Engine Strategy - "Invest £7 million to trial innovative approaches to supporting employers to help their employees with mental health issues. This follows the recent recommendations of the West Midlands Mental Health Commission. The pilots will build on the findings of the review currently being led by Paul Farmer and Lord Stevenson." Work is currently ongoing to locate this funding stream within the treasury. We are which engaging with Paul Farmer (CEO Mind) and Lord Stevenson to adopt their approaches and enable the release of these new funds to the Employee / Employer stream of the Commission work.

## **5.0 Financial implications**

5.1 A proposal for funding has been submitted to the WMCA board which has been agreed. The projected spend for 2017/18 was for £229,195. This creates sufficient resource to support the project implementation of the 5 key strands of work with additional funding being sought from non WMCA streams to implement the projects.

## **6.0 Legal implications**

6.1 No issues

## **7.0 Equalities implications**

7.1 An equality impact assessment is currently being prepared for the Mental Health Commission which will be supported by the creation of a number of equality champions to be established across the commission work streams.

## **8.0 Other implications**

8.1 No issues

## **9.0 Schedule of background papers**

9.1 Nil

## **10.0 Appendices**

1. "Thrive West Midlands" An Action Plan to drive better mental health and wellbeing in the West Midlands  
<https://westmidlandscombinedauthority.org.uk/media/1728/wmca-thrive-full-report.pdf>
2. "Mental Health in the West Midlands Combined Authority" University of Birmingham and Centre for Mental Health

This report is PUBLIC  
[NOT PROTECTIVELY MARKED]

<https://westmidlandscombinedauthority.org.uk/media/1730/mental-health-in-the-west-midlands-combined-authority.pdf>

**3. Implementation Delivery Plan (attached)**