

Court of Common Council held on 25th April 2019

Question from Common Councillor Rehana Ameer to the Chairman of the Community and Children's Services Committee:

My Lord Mayor

As part of the City Corporation's Mental Health Strategy of 2015-2018, three distinct populations with different needs and mental health issues were identified: residents, City workers, and rough sleepers.

Could the Chairman of the Community and Children's services committee please inform the honourable Court what the current status of the delivery plan is, and what successes have we achieved across the three populations in the City?

My Lord Mayor,

Response by the Chairman of the Community and Children's Services Committee

I thank the Honourable Member for giving me notice of her question.

The delivery plan, and the Mental Health Strategy 2015-18 that it supported, have now come to an end and are being renewed in partnership with the London Borough of Hackney, our shared Clinical Commissioning Group, and other partners as part of our integrated care approach. This new strategy will come to committee at our 7 June meeting.

I am delighted to report that the 2015-18 strategy drove a range of excellent achievements and improvement in services. Many of those services are commissioned by the Clinical Commissioning Group – with whom the strategy was joint - to operate across both the City of London and London Borough of Hackney.

Over the period of the strategy, improved access to talking treatments, such as counselling, enabled 90% of those who live in the City and experience anxiety and depression to receive treatments within six weeks of referral. The level of service across City and Hackney has been recognised as providing a model for delivery that other areas should follow

The investment in mental health services for children and young people who live in the City and Hackney increased from £5.2 million in 2014-15 - to a little under £8.2 million this year. This has enabled the Children and Adolescent

Mental Health Service for City and Hackney to see more children and young people than any other London area in 2017-18.

The City Corporation has also supported initiatives that help prevent or tackle mental ill health among our community of residents, such as our initiatives to tackle loneliness, our support for carers, and approaches to encourage and reward volunteering.

For City Workers, our Business Healthy network launched a high-profile mental health awareness and suicide prevention campaign in Summer 2017 called 'Release the Pressure'. The strategy also supported the development of our "Dragon Café" initiative – providing space and activities for workers, visitors and residents to reduce stress and improve their wellbeing. And we continue to provide resources and events to City businesses to ensure that employers feel confident in addressing mental health issues in their workforce.

For those who are homeless, we have provided specialist support through a community psychiatric nurse delivering outreach support on the streets to assess those who most need help.

And for those who come to the City at a point of crisis we have developed, and jointly funded, a pioneering Mental Health Street Triage service that has placed mental health professionals alongside the City Police to help those at risk of suicide.

My Lord Mayor.

Supplementary Question:

My Lord Mayor, Could the Chairman outline what were the investments made by the City in mental health initiatives and care across the three population categories and what quantifiable outcomes have been achieved through these investments?

My Lord Mayor,

The lion's share of funding for mental health services comes from the NHS for services that operate across the City of London and Hackney. The clinical commissioning group invested £44.5 million on mental health services in 2017-18.

However, the City Corporation also invests significantly through its public health and social care budgets.

In 2018-19 the City spent £1.1 million of its adult social care budget – providing help in the home, specialist accommodation and other support for those with mental ill health.

£75,000 per annum is also invested in specialist support for those with severe mental ill health to step down from high support accommodation into more independent living – a service that has helped eight people with complex mental

health issues secure greater control and independence and secured significant savings in support costs to the City.

£150,000 was invested in 2018/19 to secure seven day a week delivery of the Street Triage service. This has delivered an almost 50 per cent reduction in people taken under Mental Health Act Section to either police stations or hospitals - securing better outcomes for individuals and reducing the inappropriate use of police resources.

We recognise the need build on these outcomes as we develop our new strategy – including investment in the wider determinants of good mental health, such as new homes, and in employment programmes supporting those most distant from the labour market.

And I am very proud that our plans include a commitment to invest over £700,000 to bring forward a Mental Health Centre that will make longer term psychotherapeutic interventions –not readily available on the NHS - available at low cost to those on low incomes who live or work in the Square Mile.

My Lord Mayor.