

## **Progress report on the progress of the PHE Better Mental Health Prevention Concordat to the January 2019 Health Improvement Board**

### **The Context**

The Health Improvement Board (HIB) agreed in May 2018 for mental wellbeing to be a priority for Oxfordshire, after noting the results of the HIB Mental Health workshop in March 2018. This workshop was primarily focussed on services and offers to those with existing mental health conditions. Most attendees of the workshop were statutory, public sector organisations, representing the services they provided. There were some Voluntary and Community Sector representatives. It was a useful exercise to identify Mental Health service provision activity for those that attended the workshop. The recommendation was to develop and Oxfordshire Mental Wellbeing Framework.

The Prevention Concordat for Better Mental Health and the associated guidance was published by Public Health England (PHE) in August 2017.<sup>1</sup> The concordat aims to galvanise local cross-sector action to support the prevention of mental health problems and the promotion of good mental health across the whole system. It is structured to guide effective prevention and planning arrangements which could be achieved locally.

The consensus statements (Appendix 1) of the Prevention Concordat for Better Mental Health describe the shared commitment of partner organisations to work together via the Concordat to prevent mental health problems and promote good mental health.

The Concordat is intended to provide a focus for cross-sector action to deliver a tangible increase in the adoption of public mental health approaches across:

- local authorities
- the NHS
- public, private and voluntary, community and social enterprise (VCSE) sector organisations
- educational settings
- employers

The recommendation was made to and agreed by HIB in May 2018 for Oxfordshire to sign up to the PHE Prevention Concordat for Better Mental Health.

In November 2018 the Health and Wellbeing Board (HWB) received a paper requesting sign-off of the Health Improvement Board's ambition to sign up to the Public Health England's Better Mental Health Prevention Concordat. This was approved by the HWB.

---

<sup>1</sup> <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/prevention-concordat-for-better-mental-health-planning-resource>

The completion of the application form has been led by Oxfordshire County Council, based on the information gathered in the March 18 workshop and subsequently commented on by key partners.

The application for the Prevention Concordat has two key sections:

1. A summary of what is currently being done at a strategic level and
2. A plan of what will be achieved over the next 12 months. The plan includes two commitments, one for the creation and adoption of an Oxfordshire Mental Wellbeing Framework and the second to generate some local publicity about the sign up to the PHE Better Mental Health Prevention Concordat.

This completed form can be found in Appendix 2.

Each member organisation of the Health and Wellbeing Board is arranging sign-off for the form by the 27<sup>th</sup> February 2019, in order to send the form, to be signed by Cllr Ian Hudspeth, to PHE for the 1<sup>st</sup> March 2019.

A provisional project plan has been drawn up by Oxfordshire County Council for the creation of the Oxfordshire Mental Wellbeing Framework, with a view to it being completed by the Winter of 2019, for sign off by the HIB at the next appropriate meeting. The HIB can then monitor the delivery of Framework through to March 2020.

## **Next Steps**

PHE will announce the third wave of signatories to the PHE Better Mental Health Prevention Concordat and provide comment on the application in April 2019. It is anticipated some of these comments will be incorporated into the Framework, whilst others will be reported back to the Health Improvement Board to consider. It is expected that the signatories will support publicity around this announcement.

The creation of the Oxfordshire Mental Wellbeing Framework will be a collaborative piece of work by the respective signatories to the Concordat. The plan is to establish a task and finish group between the Spring and Summer of 2019. Staff time will need to be made available by the partner organisations between March 2019 to Winter 2020 to attend planning meetings, provide expert information and advice on appropriate actions, timescales and outcome measures.

The group will explore the best way to include other partner organisations in creating the Framework. Current thinking includes conducting a survey, available online and in paper format. A list of potential contacts is being drawn up and is included in Appendix 3. The intention is to include a broad cross section of individuals, organisations and interests, particularly the Voluntary, Community and Social Enterprise (VCSE) and residents with lived experience. The board is asked to pass on relevant contact details be added to the list.

Once the Framework is developed the Health Improvement Board will be asked to approve it by March 2020. The agreed actions will then be implemented across the

range of organisations who have signed up. There will be the option for other organisations to agree to adopt the Framework.

### **Recommendations**

1. Each organisation on the Health Improvement Board is asked to identify appropriate officers who can be involved in the creation of the Oxfordshire Mental Wellbeing Framework.
2. Communications Teams from organisations signing up to the Concordat will be asked to work together to announce the result of the sign up.

Kate Eveleigh – Health Improvement Practitioner, Oxfordshire County Council.  
Kate.eveleigh@oxfordshire.gov.uk