

MOTION ON NOTICE

25 September 2017



The Mental Health Challenge

Recognising that Local authorities have a key role in improving mental health in their communities, The Centre for Mental Health, The Mental Health Foundation, The Mental Health Providers Forum, Mind, Rethink Mental Illness, Royal College of Psychiatrists and YoungMinds collaboratively set up the The Mental Health Challenge to support and encourage local authorities to take a proactive approach to this crucial issue. The Challenge asks authorities to commit to promoting mental health across their business and in return provides support and networking for authorities and councilors.

As we prepare to embark on a year of work on raising the profile of mental wellbeing through our Thrive Plymouth programme there is an opportunity for Plymouth City Council to confirm its leadership role in this area by signing up to The Mental Health Challenge.

This Council notes:

- 1 in 4 people will experience a mental health problem in any given year.
- The World Health Organisation predicts that depression will be the second most common health condition worldwide by 2020.
- Mental ill health costs some £105 billion each year in England alone.
- People with a severe mental illness die up to 20 years younger than their peers in the UK.
- There is often a circular relationship between mental health and issues such as housing, employment, family problems or debt.

This Council believes:

- As a local authority we have a crucial role to play in improving the mental health of everyone in our community and tackling some of the widest and most entrenched inequalities in health.
- Mental health should be a priority across all the local authority's areas of responsibility, including housing, community safety and planning.
- All councillors, whether members of the Cabinet or Scrutiny and in our community and casework roles, can play a positive role in championing mental health on an individual and strategic basis.

This Council resolves:

- To sign the Local Authorities' Mental Health Challenge run by Centre for Mental Health, Mental Health Foundation, Mental Health Providers Forum, Mind, Rethink Mental Illness, Royal College of Psychiatrists and YoungMinds.
- We commit to appoint an elected member as 'mental health champion' across the council.
- We will identify a member of staff from within our Office of the Director of Public Health to act as 'lead officer' for mental health.

The Council will also:

- Support positive mental health in our community, including in local schools, neighbourhoods and workplaces.
- Work to reduce inequalities in mental health in our community.
- Work with local partners to offer effective support for people with mental health needs.
- Tackle discrimination on the grounds of mental health in our community.
- Proactively listen to people of all ages and backgrounds about what they need for better mental health.
- Sign up to the Time to Change pledge

Proposed by Councillor Lynda Bowyer



Signed

Seconded by Councillor Terri Beer



Signed

Dated: 18 September 2017