

COUNCIL – 16 DECEMBER 2015

NOTICE OF MOTIONS

(1) MENTAL HEALTH

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 Executive 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.

- To commit to appoint an elected member as ‘mental health champion’ across the Council.
- To seek to identify a member of staff within the Council 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 promote effective support for people with mental health needs.
- Use its powers of influence to help 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.

Proposed by Councillor N Symonds

Seconded by Councillor P Moore

(2) PRINCESS ALEXANDRA HOSPITAL

This Council notes with extreme concern recent press articles on the financial state of Princess Alexandra Hospital, comments from the hospital’s Chairman and Chief Executive that the hospital is not sustainable in the medium term and the increasing likelihood of cuts to hospital services for the communities it serves. It also notes that the West Essex health system has been excluded from the NHS Essex Success Regime despite the severe financial challenges it faces. Given the growing need for acute and other health services for the communities of Harlow and the surrounding areas as they continue to grow, this Council resolves to urge the Government to:

1. Urgently address the significant funding and systemic issues at the Princess Alexandra Hospital and in the West Essex health system to ensure adequate and accessible health service provision to the residents of Harlow and the surrounding areas for the short and medium terms.

2. Develop, in consultation with the Councils of West Essex and East Hertfordshire, a longer term plan to secure financially sustainable, appropriate and sufficient access to health services for the communities served by the Princess Alexandra Hospital and the West Essex CCG.

Proposed by Councillor L Haysey

Seconded by Councillor E Buckmaster