

Proposal for mental health funding

Bradford CCG

June 2020

SUMMARY

This paper build on the Public Health document and outlines the additional monies made available for mental health to mitigate the impact of Covid-19.

It takes account of local and international evidence highlighting the disproportionate impact of coronavirus on BAME communities, and Public Health England's recommendations to address this issue.

Governance

The Bradford District Mental Wellbeing Partnership board includes partners from statutory and community providers, with various sub groups leading on specific mental health issues. A Mental Health Provider Forum, made up of many VCS and statutory organisations that deliver mental health support services, provides a valuable feedback mechanism between communities and commissioners. Since March 2020 the focus of this partnership structure has been on:

1. **Service continuity:** To maintain safe continuity of crucial services with a view to ensuring people can stay well, get well, and can access timely crisis support when needed.
2. **Spotlight areas:** To ensure we have a focussed approach for vulnerable groups and emerging service areas of need, e.g. bereavement and postvention support. Linking to wider work on support for 'vulnerable people'.
3. **Communications:** A coordinated approach to communication with providers, public and staff to ensure they have key messages, insight, support and link with Silver command communications plan.

Funding proposals and key messages

The following proposals are based on intelligence emerging from the Bradford District COVID mental health needs assessment (that is near completion) and national research.

Due to the short timescale given to write this paper further work is needed to develop any proposals that are supported into a business case. A programme manager will be needed to lead and manage this programme.

Rough timescales for each proposal are included below, as some are suitable for short term one-off investment, and others would require a slightly longer contract to be viable.

This paper does not include other mental health programme areas already underway via Public Health (e.g. perinatal, suicide, self harm, advocacy, carers, etc), and also does not include areas for potential new investment. This paper also does not include the changes made to ensure service provision within existing contract and budgets.

Funding proposals

Proposal	Rationale and key messages emerging locally	Funding proposal	Estimated annual cost
1. Grief and loss	<p>A coordinated pathway has been established by Bradford Counselling Collective to offer much needed support to people in Bradford and Craven who are experiencing grief and loss during the coronavirus outbreak.</p> <p>At this time, people are experiencing the loss of a loved one, loss of freedoms and loss of financial security, and social isolation may be making the grief of this loss more difficult to deal with.</p>	<p>Volunteer befrienders receive grief and loss training so they can provide practical advice and a listening ear where someone is responding to trauma exposure in a manageable way. Volunteers will offer four to six telephone support sessions, each up to 30 minutes. They will receive regular supervision and have access to local bereavement support and</p>	70,000

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		signposting information. Where complex needs are identified, referrals will be allocated to a qualified counsellor who will initially offer six sessions of counselling support.	
2. Digital inclusion	<p>These are different groups with a similar basic need of digital access to information and support, adapted to their specific language or needs.</p> <p>There are challenges due to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - reduced contact and changes to routine - bespoke software and communication packages not shipped with mainstream products - language barriers 	Funding for digital expertise, equipment and distribution is recommended to support the Councils combined efforts in this area. Aligned to a digital strategy response to COVID19, rather than as small stand alone mental health schemes (for efficiency and to avoid double funding).	19,000
3. Patient support	<p>Inpatient bed, discharge support and out of area placements.</p> <p>Need to ensure local wards are safe, anyone needing a bed has access. People ready to be discharged or where additional support can facilitate a quicker discharge, hence providing a safe home environment.</p>	Block purchase of beds by NHS England Additional support provided to NHS Care Trusts for staffing and discharge support	NHSE Direct payment to providers

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4. Communications	Improved communication between providers and for communities will enable us to support self-care, identify early signs and increase opportunity for early intervention.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Develop Covid 19 specific mental health resources, communications and tools under Healthy Minds brand and resource infrastructure, promoting the digital doorway and online site b) Create single depository for resources c) Develop targeted messages for audiences – primary care, social care, inpatient and community d) Communicate Covid 19 specific pathways e) Develop content and key messages 	£5,000
5. Staff wellbeing	<p>Aim:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Support providers and volunteers to maintain their wellbeing during the Covid 19 period b) Provide prevention and early intervention resources c) Link to NHS/Council work streams for Staff wellbeing and identify additional support and needs for staff and volunteer wellbeing 	Staff support pathway and capacity across all sectors including for the mental health VCS providers.	Activity based funding