



**SOUTH
KESTEVEN
DISTRICT
COUNCIL**

Rural and Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee

11th March 2021

Report of: Councillor Annie Mason

Cabinet Member for Communities



The Mental Health Challenge – South Kesteven

Promoting positive mental health is a huge issue nationally, particularly given the challenges caused by the COVID-19 pandemic. South Kesteven District Council is committed to playing its part in supporting mental health and, following a workshop commissioned by the Rural and Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee, has formed a Member/Officer working party to shape the response.

This report provides an update on activity from the working group and sets out a proposed motion to Full Council that would commit the authority to the Local Authority Mental Health Challenge.

Report Author

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Corporate Priority:

Administrative

Decision type:

Administrative

Wards:

All Wards

Reviewed by:

Gary Smith, Strategic Director, Commercial and Operations

2 March 2021

Approved by:

Karen Bradford, Chief Executive

3 March 2020

Signed off by:

Councillor Annie Mason, Cabinet Member for Communities

3 March 2020

Recommendation (s) to the decision maker (s)

1. Notes the contents of and supports the motion attached in Appendix A that South Kesteven District Council join the Local Authority Mental Health Challenge and the proposed appointment of a Member Champion for Mental Health.
2. Notes the progress and the proposed areas for work of the Member/Officer Mental Health working party.

- 3. Notes the alignment with other key strategies and documents such as the Lincolnshire Health and Wellbeing Strategy and the Joint Strategic Needs Assessment and other public, private and voluntary sector organisations (including the National Health Service and Lincolnshire County Council).**
- 4. Requests feedback from the Mental Health working party every six months.**

1 The Background to the Report

- 1.1 Supporting positive mental health is a key priority nationally and internationally, which is heightened by the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic. In June 2020 MIND reported that one in four people in England will experience Mental Health issues in a year and one in six people in any given week experience a common mental health problem.
- 1.2 Lincolnshire has a well established framework for addressing mental health challenges, overseen by the multi-agency Health and Wellbeing Board (HWB), which includes representatives from Lincolnshire County Council, Health organisations, the Police and includes representation from District Councils. This provides a 'golden thread' from identified needs, through policy setting to service delivery across a range of partners. The HWB is responsible for:
- Producing the Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (JSNA)
 - Informing the priorities in the Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy
 - Agreeing the Pharmaceutical Needs Assessment.
- 1.3 The JSNA is a shared evidence base made up of commentaries and data sources that report on the key areas of health and wellbeing in Lincolnshire. Each topic area assesses the current picture in Lincolnshire's existing services and looks ahead to potential future level of need to support effective service planning and commissioning. This is then used to inform the development of priorities with the Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy.
- 1.4 The JSNA and Health and Wellbeing Strategy demonstrate that supporting mental health is a key priority for Lincolnshire and therefore it is imperative that all agencies, especially organisations such as District Councils who offer a range of universal services (such as Leisure, Housing and Waste) play their part in promoting positive mental wellbeing for residents and staff. It is equally important that activity initiated by SKDC aligns with the strategy set by the Health and Wellbeing Board.
- 1.5 The JSNA demonstrates that mental wellbeing is a key issue for Lincolnshire as a whole and, for South Kesteven as a District, the impact of Covid-19 and associated social restrictions have exacerbated these issues, meaning that positive mental health is of even greater importance.

Mental Health Challenge for South Kesteven District Council

- 1.6 During the Summer of 2020 a Member of the Council contacted the Cabinet Member for Communities and invited her to consider proposing a motion to Council that SKDC sign up to the Local Authority Mental Health Challenge. To support wider Member engagement it was decided to discuss the proposal with the Rural and Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee, who commissioned a Member workshop, which took place on 10 December 2020 and was attended by 10 Members.
- 1.7 Two of the key outcomes of the workshop were:
- A strong level of support for signing up to the Local Authority Mental Health Challenge and to develop a SKDC response to the Mental Health challenge
 - To create a Member/Officer Mental Health Working Party to shape the development of a motion to Council and provide oversight for SKDC led activity
- 1.8 Five Members volunteered to be part of the Mental Health Working Party (Cllrs Baxter, Dilks, Mason, Trotter and Wheeler) alongside four officers. Cllr Sue Woolley was

subsequently invited to join the Working Party in view of her expertise in the area and her role on the Health and Wellbeing Board. Alongside oversight of activity the Working Party were also asked to nominate a 'Member Champion' for SKDC – in line with the Local Authority Mental Health Challenge.

- 1.9 At the inaugural meeting on 22 January the Working Party proposed Cllr Annie Mason, Cabinet Member for Communities, as the SKDC Member Champion and also proposed a draft motion to Council in response to the Mental Health Challenge attached in Appendix A, which focuses on a number of areas, including to:
- Support positive mental wellbeing in our community, including neighbourhoods and workplaces
 - Support positive mental wellbeing within our own workforce and elected Members
 - Consider mental wellbeing in decision making and policy
 - Work with local partners including Lincolnshire County Council and the voluntary and community sector
 - Engage with Lincolnshire County Council strategy and activity and the Joint Health and Wellbeing Board for Lincolnshire.
- 1.10 Alongside the appointment of a Member Champion the Council is also required to appoint a lead officer, who is proposed to be the incoming Deputy Chief Executive, with support also to be provided by the Leisure Officer.
- 1.11 If the motion is adopted by Council it is intended that these areas will form the focus of the Mental Health Working Party, alongside a focus on identifying training and support to equip officers and Members in playing their part in supporting positive mental wellbeing. Progress updates will be reported against these priorities to future overview and scrutiny committees.
- 1.12 The recommendations in this report support the South Kesteven Corporate Plan 2020-23 – which has an action under the Health and Strong Communities priority to *“Embrace the national mental health challenge, ensuring the Council places mental wellbeing at the heart of decision making.”*
- 1.13 Therefore Rural and Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee is asked to support the motion attached in Appendix A and requests frequent updates from the Cabinet Member for Communities.

2 Consultation and Feedback Received, Including Overview and Scrutiny

- 2.1 Both Rural and Communities (12 November 2020) and Culture and Visitor Economy (17 November 2020) Overview and Scrutiny Committees were consulted on the development of a Mental Health Working Party and members of these committees were offered the opportunity to be part of the scoping workshop.
- 2.2 The Mental Health Challenge organisation has been consulted with as part of the development of proposals and has expressed keenness to adopt SKDC as one of its members.
- 2.3 Alongside these actions, informal consultation has also been undertaken with a number of organisations active in promoting positive mental health within the District, including health colleagues and those active in the voluntary and community sector.

- 2.4 Members of the Mental Health Working Party have undertaken to review best practice in District Councils elsewhere, which has included engagement and learning from activity across the Country, all of which will help inform the South Kesteven approach.

3 Available Options Considered

- 3.1 Option 1 – Support the motion that SKDC joins the Local Authority Mental Health Challenge – this will provide a public commitment for the Council in supporting positive mental wellbeing in the District.
- 3.2 Option 2 - Not support the motion that that SKDC joins the Local Authority Mental Health Challenge – although this would mean that the Council does not commit to joining the Challenge there would be opportunities to positively influence mental health in the District.

4 Preferred Option

- 4.1 Option 1 – Support the motion to Council that SKDC joins the Local Authority Mental Health Challenge.

5 Reasons for the Recommendation (s)

- 5.1 Rural and Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee is asked to accept the recommendations in the report because mental health is a key issue in the District currently and it is important that SKDC plays its part in addressing the issues. Should Council adopt the proposed motion it would commit the organisation to exploring opportunities to support positive mental wellbeing for residents and staff within the District.
- 5.2 The recommendation also supports the delivery of the Corporate Plan 2020-23, which includes an action to *“Embrace the national mental health challenge, ensuring the Council places mental wellbeing at the heart of decision making.”*

6 Next Steps – Communication and Implementation of the Decision

- 6.1 If the recommendations are agreed, the motion attached at Appendix A will be presented by the Cabinet Member for Communities to Full Council for consideration on 20 May 2021.

7 Financial Implications

- 7.1 Any financial implications that may arise from the proposed recommendations and the draft motion to Council will be met from budgets that were approved by Council on 1 March 2021.

Financial Implications reviewed by: Richard Wyles, Interim Director of Finance

8 Legal and Governance Implications

- 8.1 There are no legal implications arising from this report.

Legal Implications reviewed by: Shahin Ismail, Director of Law and Governance

9 Equality and Safeguarding Implications

- 9.1 Should Council adopt the attached motion it will feed positively into decision making and support equality and safeguarding through the promotion of positive mental health.

10 Risk and Mitigation

- 10.1 No significant risks have been identified relating to this report

11 Community Safety Implications

11.1 There are no community safety implications arising from this report.

12 How will the recommendations support South Kesteven District Council's declaration of a 'climate emergency'?

12.1 Nothing of relevance identified in relation to this report.

13 Other Implications (where significant)

13.1 No other significant implications identified

14 Background Papers

14.1 Rural and Communities OSC Minutes 12.11.20

14.2 Cultural and Visitor Economy OSC Minutes 17.11.20

15 Appendices

15.1 Appendix A – Draft Motion to Council to propose the adoption of Local Authority Mental Health Challenge

Report Timeline:	Date of Publication on Forward Plan (if required)	NA
	Previously Considered by: N/A	NA
	Final Decision date	20 May 2020