

18 March 2022

Jennifer Metcalfe
Healthwatch Stockton-On-Tees
Carers Way
Newton Aycliffe
County Durham
DL5 4SF

Dear Jennifer,

Re: Community Mental Health Needs Report (July 2021 - December 2021)

Thank you very much for sending us this draft report. Alongside our partners, we are working to support the mental health and wellbeing in our community acknowledge the content of the report and its recommendations.

The report will support the analysis work ongoing across the region as part of the Tees Valley Mental Health and Wellbeing Alliance and help inform the community transformation programme, children's whole pathway programme through the implementation of the I-Thrive Framework, supporting children, young people and families when they need it the most, and the future commissioning of services. This can only be done in partnership and responding to the issues raised in this report and the Alliance analysis will be considered by all our partner organisations.

In relation to the recommendations made in the report, we have provided our responses in the table below:

Recommendations:

Number	Recommendation	Responsible Body	Comments
1	Provide support for existing community groups and provide feedback on why group funding applications have not been successful.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Tees Esk & Wear Valleys Foundation Trust.	This would be the responsibility of the organisation that offered funding and we would always expect feedback to successful and unsuccessful bids. If this has not

			happened in a particular case, we would recommend contacting the organisation who offered the funding.
2	Provide community health and wellbeing support that can be delivered as group sessions and/or individual sessions where needed to support people to manage their long-term health conditions.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pioneering Care Partnership - Community Connect. • Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council. • Catalyst 	<p>Impact on Teesside are leading on this work, in Improving Access to Psychological Therapies (IAPT).</p> <p>The Tees Valley Mental Health and Wellbeing Alliance will consider any gaps in provision as part of their ongoing work programme.</p>
3	Deliver health clinics to people with long term conditions and/or a disability within the community and to existing groups, to enable people to manage their physical and mental health conditions together.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NHS Tees Valleys CCG. • Tees Esk & Wear Valleys Foundation Trust. • Public Health • Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council 	<p>Impact on Teesside are leading on this work in IAPT within the Long Term Conditions pathway development.</p> <p>The Tees Valley Mental Health and Wellbeing Alliance will consider any gaps in provision as part of their ongoing work programme.</p>
4	Provide targeted mental health care and support for those with mental health and substance misuse difficulties.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Healthwatch Stockton-on-Tees. • NHS Tees Valleys CCG. • Tees Esk & Wear Valleys Foundation Trust. • Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council. 	<p>Healthwatch Stockton-on-Tees are collaborating with CGL, Stockton Recovery Service to support people with substance misuse difficulties to share their views and</p>

			<p>experiences of mental health.</p> <p>The substance misuse team is working closely within TEWV to ensure collaborative approaches to patient care.</p>
5	<p>Enable access to lower-level follow-on support at the end of treatment and care, as a next step option to promote rehabilitation and recovery, and the prevention of re-occurring mental health difficulties.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NHS Tees Valleys CCG. • Tees Esk & Wear Valleys Foundation Trust. 	<p>TEWV teams support people post-treatment as part of the recovery programme. This is also built into Impact on Teesside work.</p>
6	<p>Provide mental health drop-in services that are community based and holistic in approach, offering family support and mental health and wellbeing sessions to support people to develop coping skills.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tees Esk & Wear Valleys Foundation Trust. • Stockton on-Tees Borough Council. 	<p>TEWV is looking into developing Community Hubs across the Tees Valley which look to provide integrated support across the geographical area which includes a proactive as well as a reactive offer.</p>
7	<p>Promote communication between patients and health and social care professionals, with an emphasis on supporting patients with information to enable people to make informed decisions about their mental health care.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NHS Tees Valleys CCG. • Tees Esk & Wear Valleys Foundation Trust. • Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council. 	<p>The CCG commissions Impact on Teesside and TEWV to deliver programmes of support which each have communication plans.</p> <p>TEWV have recently started Virtual Hubs for professionals to come together to ensure that care is</p>

			wrapped around an individual and is provided in a timely manner.
8	Increase access to signposting, information, advice, guidance, and advocacy, along with extra support for those with communication and learning needs.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tees Esk & Wear Valleys Foundation Trust • Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council. • Catalyst • Pioneering Care Partnership 	TEWV have increased their Community Navigator capacity which roles have ability to follow the patient journey and ensure integration back into the community. Secondly, we have employed a Peer Lead for the Tees Valley to co-produce services and implement lived experience posts. TEWV have also employed a BAME Link Worker which will further provide proactive outreach to under-represented communities.
9	Enable those who work in primary, secondary, and statutory health and social care services to have knowledge of existing community health and wellbeing support that can be delivered by third sector organisations, and to consider these provisions as part of patient/service user treatment care plans.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NHS Tees Valleys CCG. • Tees Esk & Wear Valleys Foundation Trust. • Primary Care Networks 	The CCG and TEWV maintains close collaborative links with the Voluntary Sector, now more than ever through our commissioning arrangements, involving the Voluntary Development Agencies. This is also part of the ongoing work with Primary Care Networks via the PCN MH Nurse

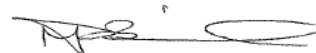
			provision and care navigation.
10	Increase access to psychological therapies.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NHS Tees Valleys CCG • Tees Esk & Wear Valleys Foundation Trust 	<p>Increased funding has already been allocated to Impact on Teesside for this.</p> <p>Online therapies have also been funded to increase access.</p> <p>There are acknowledged longer wait times for some (generally higher level) therapies where face-to-face treatment was not available during the pandemic. Funding has been allocated to address this and access rates are now meeting national targets.</p> <p>TEWV have allocated additional resource via Community Transformation to increase capacity, resource and leadership.</p>

Thank you again for sharing the report with us and we look forward to receiving the next one.

Kind regards,

Mike Brierley

Director for Mental Health and Learning Disability
NHS Tees Valley CCG and NHS County Durham CCG



Shaun Mayo

General Manager for Planned Care: Adult Community Services
Tees, Esk and Wear Valleys NHS Foundation Trust

