

Coalfield Area People Board Monday 8 September 2014

People Board Workplan Local Priority: Improve emotional and mental health & wellbeing by reducing the impact of welfare reform

Action:

Deliver against shared priorities with the CCG, Public Health and other partners to reduce negative health impact

Background:

The aim is to combat financial hardship and its associated effects including mental health, child poverty and a perpetuation of families living with income deprivation. The early action approach promotes better co-ordination and shaping of preventative services, delivered to the right people at the right time, in the right settings, integrating health and social wellness.

A number of partners have worked with ShARP to develop the idea of delivering an 'Early Action' initiative to support residents in the Coalfield area whose emotional and mental wellbeing is affected by financial hardship. The partners agreed that a 'Community Advice Triage Service' in GP Surgeries should be designed and piloted in the area. ShARP, as the Lead Agent, has further developed this thinking with a view to submitting a funding application to Comic Relief to deliver the pilot.

What are the needs we hope to address?

- Stress related issues which have a financial reason
- People on medication for stress without dealing with the cause
- Increasing pressure on health services

Who should be involved?

- ShARP
- Sunderland City Council
- CCG and GP Surgeries
- Gentoo
- Other partners?

What would the service look like?

Triage would take a person-centered approach, working holistically to identify root causes of problems both in health and social terms. E.g. a patient attending their doctors for sleeping pills would receive support to identify the causes of their sleeplessness perhaps brought on by financial stress or hardship. The community triage would collate information on services/activities/grants that are available and act as a conduit in supporting clients to access the relevant opportunities.

What outcomes will be achieved?

- Person centered approach to advice will ensure clients know the support available
- Reduced the numbers of people being medicated for stress
- Health professionals see the benefit of an holistic approach to 'social prescribing'

What does long term success look like?

- People better equipped to deal with their problems

- More activities/services being referred/advised upon
- Healthier people, better prepared to deal with their financial situation
- Improved mental health
- Empowered people who know where to go to get the help that they need
- Reduction in pressure on health services
- Joined up network of provision
- A change in the way that services are designed and commissioned