WASHINGTON AREA COMMITTEE **Item 3: Annex 2**

15th October 2015

REPORT OF THE CHAIR OF THE PEOPLE BOARD

Supporting families to deal with the impact of Self harm in young people

Both Washington Area Committee and the VCS have both recognised a need to consider providing local support for young people who self-harm, **and their families**. The People Board has already identified the need to develop a cross cutting partnership approach as a range of health related issues are dropping out of this priority:

- Impact of self-harming in young people on their families and families in crisis
- Impact of other addictions on families – drugs, alcohol and substance misuse
- Suicide prevention
- Transition support services between Children's Services and Adult Services
- Broader Information, Advice and Guidance Services linked to the Strengthening Families Agenda
- Live Life Well agenda

There is already the recognition that delivering activity against this priority requires shared ownership and a partnership approach. The People Board should also note that Public Health is already leading on key pieces of work which could impact on local need being identified – this includes a Health Needs Assessment re Young People Self Harming and a Suicide Audit. SCC Scrutiny are also considering this issue with a report pending.

Objectives and Outcomes to be included in Health and Family Support Project.

This project should address at least one of the following:

- Identify additional local support services for young people from Washington who self-harm, and their families or carers
- Provide appropriate support, information and guidance for Washington families who are dealing with the impact of drug or alcohol misuse, or substance misuse
- Raise awareness of and promote relevant support services across Washington that can positively impact on the emotional health and well-being of young people and their families or carers. This can include the development and delivery of appropriate communications, campaigns and promotion of services along with better use of on line tools and apps to encourage self help
- Provide help and support for families in crisis including those families suffering with debt related issues
- Work with local schools and relevant partner organisations to gather relevant data and information
- Provide additional support to help local people make the necessary changes to improve their mental and physical help and to access opportunities and activities to improve their health, in partnership with local Wellness Co-ordinators (Live Life Well)
- Consider proposals to develop a one stop shop approach for services in the community to direct young people and their families and carers to places that help
- Encourage commissioned and non-commissioned services and partners to improve transition for young people from young person's provision to adult. This could include proposals more effective communication and information sharing between services, working collaboratively and providing continuity of care

The project will also:

- Deliver benefits through shared ownership and a partnership approach
- Respond to identified need and evidence – ensuring reference to up-to-date data and locally identified risk factors

The project will also:

- Consider Scrutiny Panel data, information and recommendations
- Take into consideration the results from the Health Needs Assessment for young People Self Harming
- Take into consideration the on going work and education programmes being delivered in schools
- Take into consideration issues raised re transition from young person to adult provision

Timeline and process

1. September People Board agree outline proposals and project outcomes presented to Washington Area Committee October 2015
2. Washington Strategic Health Group (WSHG) membership agreed at October Area Committee and group established immediately. Meeting schedule to be confirmed
3. Evidence gathered re need and gaps end of October via WSHG
4. Draft Project Brief for Health and Family Support Project approved at October Area committee.
5. Call for Project released October. Closing date for submissions November.
6. People Board consulted November meeting re applications
7. December Area Committee to agree and approve project.

Recommendation:
Members are asked to approve the alignment of £50,000 to develop a collaborative and partnership approach to address identified local need with reference to helping and supporting families of young people who self-harm.

Area Committee is also requested to propose membership of the Washington Strategic Health group which will lead on developing the above approach on behalf of Area Committee