

# **Telford & Wrekin Mental Health Strategy**

## **Update for Scrutiny**

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## Progress so far:

- ASC spoken to c100 people
- CYP spoken to c70 people including young people, care leavers and family / carers & representatives
- Secured feedback from Partnership Board members
- Experts By Experience Sub Group developed to ensure strategy is led by experience
- Utilising previous consultations & local research e.g. Carers Strategy, CAMHS, Energize Survey
- Draft in development
- Communications plan in development for consultation & final publication including:
  - Communications pack drafted
  - local images
  - videos showing personal stories / progress & highlighting local services
  - videos demonstrating importance and outcomes from involving experts by experience
- Mapped out approval process & identified dates for Boards etc

## Tentative timetable:

End of the year:	1 <sup>st</sup> draft prepared
Jan – March:	First draft approval ready for consultation period
April – June:	Consultation Period
July – August:	Amends based on feedback and sign off / launch

## Emerging Themes:

- Early help and criteria
- More peer support
- Criteria free support – more safe spaces to be around others who are experiencing similar issues
- Accessible Info - timetable of activities
- Improved advice and guidance – reduce reliance on technology
- Visible services – delivered in communities
- Communication between services – stop making people repeat their story – a MH Passport?
- Access to respite / breaks
- More evening and weekend support
- Place based support – in communities and homes
- Increased community outreach
- Visible services
- Increased family support
- No closure due to lack of engagement – more flexibility around delivery – trauma informed!
- More training on MH to voluntary sector organisations whose main role is not MH
- More intergenerational work
- Better MH offer for over 65's

## The Mental Health Bill: Brief Summary

Introduced in the House of Lords on 6 November 2024.

Aims to modernise the Mental Health Act 1983. Focus on ensuring patients are central to decisions about their care and treatment.

The bill includes:

New detention criteria. This will specifically address detentions for people with learning disabilities and autism, who are currently often placed in mental health hospitals without community care. Can only be detained if they have a “co-occurring psychiatric disorder”

Nominated person. To enable people to nominate a person to represent their views rather than next of kin.

Independent Mental Health Advocacy to (IMHA): All formal patients will be automatically referred to IMHA services. Impact on LA as we commission this service.

Significant lobbying (including by T&W Council) about certain proposals have been effective – Act had suggested health and care professionals take on the police powers around s136 removal of people to a place of safety. This has been removed from the Bill.

The Act's full implementation will be staged. Duties likely to start 2026/27. Full implementation possibly taking up to 10 years.

## Next Steps:

Session booked with commissioners from childrens MH, adult MH and health to progress the first draft

Understand impact of the Mental Health Bill

Finalise appointments for Boards to secure sign off prior to consultation

Consultation Period (will explore opportunities to align with other consultations to minimise survey fatigue)

Partnership Board will oversee the strategy implementation & develop

Options for Scrutiny Committees' Input:

1. Feedback from today will inform the first draft
2. Consultation Phase: Support the promotion of the consultation. Return to Scrutiny Committee for formal comment as part of this phase?
3. Monitor the impact of the strategy when launched.