

REPORT TO: Employment, Learning and Skills, and
Community Policy and Performance Board

DATE: 18 February 2019

REPORTING OFFICER: Strategic Director, Enterprise, Community
and Resources

PORTFOLIO: Employment, Learning & Skills

SUBJECT: Community Learning Mental Health
Research

WARDS: Borough wide

1.0 PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

The Divisional Manager Employment, Learning & Skills will be in attendance at this meeting and will make a presentation to Members of the Board providing an overview of the Halton element of the Greater Merseyside (Halton, Knowsley, Liverpool, St Helens and Wirral) Community Learning Mental Health Research project..

2.0 RECOMMENDATION: That the report be noted.

3.0 SUPPORTING INFORMATION

3.1 The Divisional Manager Employment, Learning & Skills will be in attendance at this meeting and will make a presentation to Members of the Board providing an overview of the impact and outcomes of the Community Learning Mental Health Research project. The project aimed to assess the potential for adult and community learning courses to help people develop strategies and a tool kit to manage and aid recovery from mild to moderate mental health problems.

3.2 52 learning providers took part covering 57 local authorities over a 2 year span. Halton participants were experiencing mild to moderate mental health problems.

4.0 POLICY IMPLICATIONS

4.1 The figure for learners experiencing mild to moderate mental health issues and access Halton's Adult Learning Service currently sits at 36%. The Adult Learning Service is a partner in the Time to Change campaign with a number of staff going forward as Time to Change Champions.

5.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 There are no financial implications contained in this report. The activities undertaken have been undertaken using external Education & Skills Funding Agency grant.

6.0 IMPLICATIONS FOR THE COUNCIL'S PRIORITIES

6.1 Children and Young People in Halton

None. The project in question funded adults aged 19+.

6.2 Employment, Learning and Skills in Halton

- 6.2.1 The project supported employment, learning and skills priorities through the provision of learning opportunities to support people presenting with mild to moderate levels of mental ill health. The project aimed to support people with building their sense of self-esteem, confidence and reducing their sense of social isolation, which is a contributing factor in mental ill health. The project supported with engaging people into a learning environment and they were then further signposted to other support services and learning opportunities with a view to helping them to gain a better level of mental well-being and qualifications to support them into gaining employment skills. As people's socio-economic situations improve thus does their sense of mental health well-being.

6.3 A Healthy Halton

The psychological benefits of community learning improve the participants' mental health and wellbeing.

6.4 A Safer Halton

None.

6.5 Halton's Urban Renewal

None.

7.0 RISK ANALYSIS

None at present.

8.0 EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY ISSUES

The service is open and accessible to all Halton residents.

9.0 LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS UNDER SECTION 100D OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972

None under the meaning of the Act.