

REPORT TO: Executive Board

DATE: 7 February 2008

REPORTING OFFICER: Strategic Director – Health & Community, and
the Director of Public Health

SUBJECT: Promoting Mental Health Strategy

WARD(S) Borough-wide

1.0 **PURPOSE OF THE REPORT**

1.1 To present the ‘Promoting Mental Health’ strategy, developed by the Primary Care Trust, which covers Halton and St Helens Local Authorities.

2.0 **RECOMMENDATION:**

i) **That the Executive Board endorse the Strategy.**

3.0 **SUPPORTING INFORMATION**

3.1 The development of a ‘Promoting Mental Health’ strategy is one of the requirements within the performance framework for mental health services and is monitored annually, via a National self-assessment process, and reported to the Strategic Health Authority. The need for such a strategy is identified in Standard One of the National Service Framework for Mental Health Services, which recognises that the promotion of good mental health can help to prevent mental illness. There is a high prevalence of mental illness in Halton and the strategy is a key component of the prevention agenda.

3.2 The PCT is required to produce this strategy in partnership with key stakeholders and has undertaken a series of consultation events in addition to using Public Health intelligence.

3.3 The ‘Promoting Mental Health’ strategy responds to a number of key health policies including ‘Choosing Health’, ‘Our Health, Our Care, Our Say’ and ‘Making It Possible: Improving Mental Health and Wellbeing in England’.

3.4 The strategy attached in Appendix 1 provides a framework for action to:

- Co-ordinate mental health promotion and social inclusion activities across the Boroughs of Halton and St. Helens

- Raise public awareness of how to look after our own and other people's mental health.
- Involve communities and organisations, across all sectors, in taking positive steps to promote and protect mental wellbeing.

3.5 The strategy focuses on five key settings plus combating the stigma that is attached to suffering mental ill-health. The settings are:

- Health and Social Care
- Education
- Workplaces
- Neighbourhoods and Communities
- Prison and Probation

3.6 Champions are identified for each setting and the action plan within the strategy will be implemented over a four-year period. Progress will be monitored on a quarterly progress and report to the Strategic Health Authority via the annual self-assessment process.

3.7 The Health PPB recently received the strategy and supported the content. Reports will be presented to the PPB to chart progress.

4.0 **POLICY IMPLICATIONS**

4.1 These are contained within the Strategy.

5.0 **FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

5.1 None, the strategy seeks to ensure the promotion of mental health within existing and future services.

6.0 **IMPLICATIONS FOR THE COUNCIL'S PRIORITIES**

6.1 **Children & Young People in Halton**

To support the implementation of a local strategy and action plan to improve Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services.

6.2 **Employment, Learning & Skills in Halton**

To promote mental health and wellbeing of all staff in the workplace and for all working with individuals and communities.

6.3 **A Healthy Halton**

To support the implementation of a local strategy and action plan and strengthen links between primary and secondary care mental health provisions on promotion activities.

6.4 **A Safer Halton**

There are no implications.

6.5 **Halton's Urban Renewal**

The Mental Health Strategy will support Neighbourhood Renewal Projects to develop and improve mental health, combat stigma and increase social inclusion within neighbourhoods.

7.0 **RISK ANALYSIS**

7.1 These are contained within the Strategy.

8.0 **EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY ISSUES**

8.1 The Strategy will ensure that the full range of equality and diversity issues are addressed and this will be scrutinised as part of the process.

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

Document	Place of Inspection	Contact Officer
Our Health, Our Care, Our Say: A New Direction in Community Services – Executive Board 16/03/06	Municipal Building Widnes	Dwayne Johnson Strategic Director Health & Community