



Co-operative Councils

Innovation Network

SOCIAL CARE

Telford Council

Telford Mental Health Forum

Since the Mental Health Works event held at the Park Inn in April of 2016, what originally started out as a small working group of key stakeholders has become a major networking group for the Borough of Telford and Wrekin with the mental wellbeing of the local population as its primary focus.

Telford Mental Health Forum (TMHF) meets bi-monthly with representation drawn from a broad range of stakeholder organisations including NHS Commissioning, DWP, TACT, Citizen's Advice, Telford Mind, SSSFT and several smaller charities and community interest companies that deal with grief recovery and suicide prevention. In addition, the Chair of TMHF is an active member of the joint Shropshire and Telford Strategic Group in developing the strategic action plan for the reduction of suicide.

Service users and Carers are also well represented at Forum meetings and are essential to informing future direction and developments of the group.

TMHF as it evolves is creating specialised sub groups to focus in on key areas linking in with mental illness including Homelessness, Offending and Criminal Justice, LGBT and Young People. It is hoped to develop further niche groups going forward and as a result of active participation in a meeting of TMHF held on 28th March by a group of Councillors from Telford and Wrekin Council's Adult, Social Care Scrutiny Group, TMHF will explore and develop the theme of social isolation across all age groups.

A quote in support of TMHF:

The Telford Mental Health Forum provides an oversight and challenge to the delivery of Telford and Wrekin joint mental health strategy. It provided a sounding board for the development of the strategy with the numerous service users, carers and third sector organisations involvement. The strategy is a live document that is able to flex to the needs of local people and the forum provides connections across voluntary and public sector

organisations. It has enabled us to keep the profile of mental health high on the agenda of all organisations including the Health Over view and Scrutiny committee. The forum has helped develop links across organisations to the benefit of all parties. It continues to feed information to commissioners regarding gaps or issues in service provision.

Frances Sutherland NHS Commissioning

TMHF continues to meet with some residual funding from sponsorship received for the Mental Health Works event held at the Park Inn that funds meeting room hire, refreshments and the services of a sessional meeting concentrating/minute taker though this is only sufficient to fund a further two meetings. The Forum also needs financial support if it is to develop future events to bring stakeholders together for workshops and service development for local people with varying degrees of mental ill health.

Since TMHF is not a constituted group in charitable terms, it is suggested that any funding be channelled through an existing Telford Charity such as the Park Lane Centre on Woodside where meetings are currently held. Any such funds would be highlighted as restricted funds for accounting purposes and fully audited to ensure transparency and accountability.

For further information contact:

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