

PUBLIC

MINUTES of a meeting of the **CABINET MEMBER FOR STRATEGIC POLICY AND BUDGET** held on 2 December 2013 at County Hall, Matlock

PRESENT

Cabinet Member – Councillor Ms A Western

Also in attendance – Councillor A I Lewer

24/13 **MINUTES RESOLVED** that the minutes of the meeting held on 12 November 2013 be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Cabinet Member.

25/13 **COMMITMENT TO TIME TO CHANGE PROGRAMME** The Time to Change campaign was a national programme that started in October 2007. It aimed to reduce discrimination and raise awareness of mental health. The campaign provided wide-ranging information and resources to enable organisations and groups to raise awareness about the impact of, and the resulting stigma felt by people who experienced mental ill-health. Since Time to Change launched there had been a significant increase in the number of people who say they knew someone with a mental health problem.

Results of a survey carried out by the campaign of 1,000 people who were being treated for a defined mental illness and who were living in the community showed that there had been a:

- 3% increase in the numbers of people reporting no discrimination in their lives.
- 11.5% reduction in the average levels of discrimination reported in 2011 compared to 2008.
- 2.4% improvement in public attitudes towards people with mental health problems since the launch of Time to Change.

Many hundreds of organisations, including local authorities and NHS Trusts had already signed up to the campaign, and were using Time to Change to help them improve the action they were taking and to reduce discrimination locally. The Time to Change pledge was a public statement of aspiration that the Council wanted to tackle mental health stigma and discrimination. A key requisite of organisations signing up to the campaign was they were required to have a co-ordinated programme of action which would help tackle discrimination and which improved awareness with their employees, the public and partner organisations. All organisations who wanted to pledge must have an action plan setting out what they were going to do. A draft corporate action plan was attached at Appendix 1 to the report.

Time to Change considered that pledging should be a public commitment to supporting the campaign and to get maximum impact they advised signing the pledge at an event. Once the action plan had been agreed by Time to Change it was intended to hold a launch event for the Council to formally declare its commitment and to raise awareness of its action plan with Elected Members, colleagues, partners and local mental health organisations and groups.

The action plan sought to harness existing work carried out in the Council in relation to mental health, and raise the profile of the issues through a set of focused publicity campaigns. Progress against the corporate action plan would be monitored by the Council's Diversity and Inclusion Board which was chaired by the Chief Executive and included senior officers from all departments and human resources.

RESOLVED that (1) Derbyshire County Council signs up to the Time to Change campaign to demonstrate its commitment to tackling stigma and discrimination on grounds of mental health; (2) the draft action plan attached at Appendix 1 to the report is approved; and (3) the Cabinet Member receives further reports every six months.