

## **LEISURE & ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE**

**19 NOVEMBER 2019**

### **NEWARK & SHERWOOD TIME TO CHANGE EMPLOYER PLEDGE**

#### **1.0 Purpose of Report**

1.1 To seek nominations for the appointment of Member Mental Health Champions from each political party given the cross party support for this following the motion to Full Council on 15 October 2019 entitled 'The Mental Health Challenge'.

#### **2.0 Background Information**

2.1 The committee will be aware that Full Council considered and approved a motion on the 15 October 2019 to sign the Time to Change Employer Pledge, appoint a Member Champion and identify a member of staff to act as 'lead officer' for mental health. This is important because it is recognised that 1 in 4 people will experience a mental health problem in any given year and at some point in everyone's life mental health will touch the lives of a close friend or family member.

2.2 The aim of the Time to Change Pledge is to demonstrate the Council's commitment to ending mental health stigma and promoting positive awareness. The Pledge makes a commitment to ensure that all employees possess the knowledge, attitudes and behaviours in order to reduce stigmas and discrimination and to support one another.

2.3 Both Member and staff Mental Health Champions will help create the best possible workplace environment where mental health is understood and supported. The main role of a Member Champion would be to work alongside the Council's lead officer, Helen Ellison – Health Improvement Officer and staff Champions to oversee the development and delivery of the Council's Time to Change action plan. Champions should focus on changing attitudes and create opportunities to open up conversations about mental health, making it easier for people to seek support and be signposted to local services. The role is voluntary and Champions will become part of a national network in order to share good practice. The first Champions Meeting will look to define the roles and responsibilities of our Mental Health Champions and Champions Training.

#### **3.0 Proposals**

3.1 Given the cross party support and to enable the Council to progress its commitment to the 'Time to Change Employer Pledge', it is proposed that each political party nominates a Member Mental Health Champion.

#### **4.0 Equalities Implications**

4.1 No equalities implications have been identified in the Equality Impact Assessment that has been carried out on the emerging action plan, which includes to the appointment of Member Champions. The EIA will be subject to further monitoring as part of the monitoring and evaluation requirements.

## **5.0 Financial Implications FIN19-20/6146**

5.1 There are no financial implications in respect of this proposal.

## **6.0 RECOMMENDATION**

**That Leisure and Environment Committee approve the proposal that each political party nominates a Member Mental Health Champion to support the Council deliver on its commitment to the 'Time to Change Employer Pledge.'**

### **Reason for Recommendation**

**To demonstrate the Council's commitment to improving mental health in the workplace, creating an environment that's in keeping with the Councils values to be caring and compassionate.**

### **Background Papers**

Nil

For further information please contact Leanne Monger, Business Manager – Housing, Health and Community Relations on 01636 655545, Helen Ellison - Health Improvement Officer on 01636 655990 or Jenny Burden - Senior HR Officer on 01636 655221.

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