**Salford Mental Health Online Forum Minutes**

**Wednesday 28th October at 12.00 - 2.30pm**

**Attendees:** Dan Stears (chair), Noami Evans, Sarah Buckley, Charlotte Goldsborough, “J” Ahmed, Rob Hemmingway, Dennis Baldwin, Jenna Matthews, Caroline Allport, Karen Fitzsimon, Jayne Gosnall, Jack Gould, Kelvin H., John Wright, Maureen Burke, Cllr Jim Cammell, Emma Hinchcliffe, Rachel Jones, Lucy Matthews, Catalina Salgau, Andy Green.

**12.00pm – Introductions and Updates**

Welcome back and to our new members.

There are no new updates from the previous minutes.

The Big Reset Conversation project is still ongoing. It’s much appreciated if members could fill in the survey: <https://www.smartsurvey.co.uk/s/BigReset/>

**GMHSCP – Mental Health & Homelessness Housing Strategy Presentation**

Jack Gould: Working together across a broad array of partners: housing providers, mental health trusts, local authorities, civic organizations, funders and investors we aim to answer a few important questions: how can we make a difference, what should we look for and how should we do it to encourage grassroots voices.

As a starting point we have a few clear priorities:

1) Robust evidence base – shaped to reflect Salford - Both quantitative and qualitative information – literature of academic papers on housing and metal health stretching back 20 years – all peer review papers and public data. We are looking to develop an ethnographic research proposal incorporating 8-10 clear case studies to support trends that we are look into supporting.

2) Homelessness and rough sleeping - map pathways from rough sleep teams to mental health supporting line with a long term plan. Plus addressing issues around temporary accommodation

3) Delay transfer of care – issues around the difference in timing between individuals being cleared medically and housing not being ready resulting in metal health problems – to fund more and better support for mental health and working with local authorities to delivery economies of scale.

4) Supply and demand for housing – working to deliver more social housing.

5) Training and awareness – there’s a huge gap between mental health and social housing. We’ve organized focus groups to look at what are the issues tenants have in terms of distress and trauma , what’s the physiological impact on them and what are the processes of social housing. How to work together with social housing providers, tenants, privet rental sector, housing officers within local authorities to have better results

6) Social prescribing and mental wellbeing

Highlights and suggestions from the Q&A session following Jack’s introduction:

- Going beyond what the Council can control. Having a strategy that will put charities and communities at the forefront, supporting them where possible.

- How can communities build resilience and offer support in a way witch offers a safety net under a financial austerity backdrop. Is peer support and general wellbeing organizations the answer?

- Developing the official definition of what a homeless is to catch people who usually fall between cracks.

- Reducing waiting times for housing, helping people in a timely manner, especially those with mental health problems.(Shelter National a good organizations that is able to work with people when they need it).

- Reducing barriers in accessing local health and social care infrastructure – in particular for young people between 18 and 25 years old.

- Finding solutions for relieving the pressure on the housing system: could we offer temporary lodging in people’s houses who are willing to take in individuals with mental health - potential safeguarding issues to look at. Mitigating the risk of hous loss with strategic policy development. Housing is about having a place of safety and not just a roof over your head. For someone to respond well to mental health treatment they have to have a place of safety. A house is more than just a house.

- Transitional support housing is important and we need long term planning. More funding is needed because we are actually saving money further down the line in terms of preventing homelessness.

- Involving the private renting sector: how can we help and how can we link up organizations supporting tenants to bigger systems in Grater Manchester. We are working on a landlord scheme where landlords that request more support will have to sign up to extra criteria like being a professional landlord – we’ll work with The National Residential Landlords Association to make mental support part of it.

- Having good communication. Promoting availability of services and support to people who have mental health issues and who are in danger of finding themselves in a difficult situations housing wise.

- For the public and the 3rd sector to get involved and deliver a good package we need them to feel confident in the statutory services that are already there. Not only support needs to be there, but people need to know about it and especially need to trust it, otherwise it won’t work.

- A pressing need for accountability and transparency regarding policies, services and support available and a good communication of the process of allocating social housing.

Jack will attend a future meeting to provide the Forum with an update.

**Tier 3 lockdown. What it means for me and my loved ones.**

The general consensus is that the rules are not very clear. People are struggling to understand what they are allowed to do and what is illegal. Especially around the concept of bubble. Who should we visit? Is it all right to keep visiting family or relatives who are in great need of contact if we are being careful and sensible and avoid other people? Some are willing to go the extra mile, even if it might go against the guidelines, for the wellbeing of others. Especially seen that not much support is available at the moment, in particular for people who struggle with mental and emotional problems.

For digital people there is good support and a good offer of programmes. To mention just a few: Spirit of Salford, who even offer weekly calls for those in need. The new Beyond service for people with anxiety. Talk about it mate is going to offer a drop in session where people can socialize and get much needed support at the same time. The Forum’s website is being update regularly and is full of informations about all the services still available throughout the lockdown. Signing up to our newsletter is a good way to keep up to date.

**14.15pm – Any Other Business**

**Salford Mental Health Forum –** we are exploring some project ideas identified by members at the stakeholder day last May and that members have said would be useful during this period that we will update on over the coming months.

**DATE OF NEXT FORUM MEETINGS** – last Wednesday each month from 12.00 – 2.00pm

[**CLICK HERE TO DOWNLOAD THEM INTO YOUR CALENDAR**](https://zoom.us/meeting/tJwkcuugqDkuGdRJjg1GFqIjWH4d3pc7Wkxy/ics?icsToken=98tyKuCgpz4oEtKXtBqHRow-HY_4a_zwpnpbjadvthXiUgd1cyr8AcoWNuFvE4_n)

* 25th November

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**Resources and Information Sharing**