



RHONDDA CYNON TAF COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

HEALTH AND WELLBEING SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

MENTAL HEALTH AWARENESS

**REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR OF COMMUNICATIONS & INTERIM HEAD
OF DEMOCRATIC SERVICES**

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Democratic Services**

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1. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

The purpose of this report is to seek Members' agreement on the most appropriate method to progress the Notice of Motion as presented and agreed at the Council meeting held on the 24th October 2018 in respect of the promotion and support of Mental Health issues amongst Council staff and the residents of the County Borough.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that Scrutiny:

- 2.1 Acknowledges the current provision of Mental Health Services in place across the County Borough;
- 2.2 Consider how best to Identify the most effective way of promoting existing support and mechanisms in place for Council employees and residents of RCT who are experiencing emotional distress; and
- 2.3 Instruct Officers to bring forward specific recommendations to progress this matter, to a future meeting of this committee.

3. BACKGROUND

- 3.1 Members will recall that at the meeting of Council held on the 24th October 2018, the following Notice of Motion was considered and agreed that it would be dealt with by the Health & Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee and the outcomes reported back to a future meeting of the Council:
- 3.2 The following Notice of Motion standing in the names of County Borough Councillors W. Treeby, J. Harries, L.M.Adams, D.R. Bevan, H. Boggis, J. Bonetto, S. Bradwick, J. Brencher, A. Calvert, G. Caple, A. Crimmings, A. Davies-Jones, L. De. Vet, J. Elliott, S. Evans, M. Fidler Jones, M. Fore, A.

Fox, E. George, M. Griffiths, G. Holmes, G. Hopkins, G.W. Hughes, G. Jones, R. Lewis, W. Lewis, C. Leyshon, A. Morgan, S. Morgans, M.A.Norris, D.Owen-Jones, S. Pickering, S. Powderhill, S. M. Pwell, S. Rees, A. Roberts, J. Rosser, R. W. Smith, G. Stacey, M. Tegg, G. Thomas, R. K. Turner, M. Webber, D. H. Williams, T. Williams, C. J. Willis and R. Yeo.

“With Mental Health Awareness Day falling on the 10th October, this Council lends its support to the Samaritans working with Compassion campaign – designed to increase awareness and promote compassion in the workplace.

The Council notes the link between suicide rates and socioeconomic deprivation and resolves to raise awareness and improve understanding of the support available to individuals experiencing emotional distress.

This Council also reaffirms its support to the Welsh Government’s Talk to Me 2 Campaign to ensure that the necessary provisions are in place to prevent instances of suicide where possible.

As a part of this the Council will ask the relevant Scrutiny Committee (Health and Wellbeing) to consider the most effective means of understanding an internal awareness raising campaign to promote the support available to employees, and also the most appropriate method for increasing awareness and understanding amongst residents of the County Borough “

- 3.2 In order to advance the matter as expeditiously as possible it is proposed that an overview of the current measures in place to raise awareness and support individuals experiencing emotional distress is presented to the Health & Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee in the first instance.
- 3.3 It is considered that the Health & Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee will assess this information and identify the most appropriate way in which to further promote existing Mental Health services and support to staff and residents by means of an awareness raising campaign.
- 3.4 It was also acknowledged by the Council that it reaffirms its support to the Welsh Government’s Talk to Me 2 Campaign so it is proposed that Scrutiny incorporates this into its recommendations upon completion of its work and reports its findings to Council.

4. EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 Equality and diversity implications will be considered as part of the Scrutiny Committee’s recommendations and any subsequent implementation arrangements

5. CONSULTATION

- 5.1 There are no consultation implications arising, as yet, from this report.

6. FINANCIAL AND RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

6.1 Financial and resource implications will be considered as part of the Scrutiny Committee's recommendations and any subsequent implementation arrangements

7. **CONCLUSION**

7.1 The information presented to the Health & Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee seeks to propose appropriate arrangements by utilising previous good practice in order to develop a policy proposal that was presented and agreed through a Notice of Motion. It is important that this report also seeks to ensure that there is sufficient opportunity for any future recommendations made by the Health & Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee to be implemented as soon as possible so as to ensure relevant support is in place to support individuals experiencing emotional distress.