

Cheltenham Borough Council
Council – 24 July 2017
Appointment of a Mental Health Champion

Accountable member	Cabinet Member Healthy Lifestyles, Councillor Flo Clucas
Accountable officer	Democratic Services Manager, Rosalind Reeves
Accountable scrutiny committee	Not applicable
Ward(s) affected	All
Significant Decision	No
Executive summary	<p>At the Council meeting in December 2015 a motion on the Mental Health Challenge was debated and Council resolved to sign up to the Local Authorities' Mental Health Challenge and nominated an officer (Tracy Brown) and two members (Councillors Dan Murch (Lib Dem) and Louis Savage (Conservative) to be Mental Health champions.</p> <p>With the resignation of Dan Murch, there is now a vacancy for an elected Member Champion and Councillors David Willingham and Garth Barnes have put their names forward. In order that there can be balanced cross party representation favoured by Council when it made the first appointment in December, it is proposed that one of these Members become a Member Champion with the other as a reserve. The reserve could support the Members Champion and attend a meeting in their place if necessary.</p>
Recommendations	I therefore recommend that the new Member Champion is appointed together with a reserve.

Financial implications	<p>None</p> <p>Contact Officer: Paul Jones, Tel 01242 264 123</p> <p>E-mail paul.jones@cheltenham.gov.uk</p>
Legal implications	<p>No specific legal implications arising from the recommendation</p> <p>Contact Officer: Peter Lewis, Tel 01684 272012</p> <p>E-mail peter.lewis@tewkesbury.gov.uk</p>

HR implications (including learning and organisational development)	<p>There are no direct HR implications arising from the appointment to the role of Mental Health Champion. However, the successful councillor may benefit from a discussion with GOSS Corporate H&S Manager with regards to training and support for the role.</p> <p>Contact Officer: Julie McCarthy, Tel 01242 264355</p> <p>E-mail: julie.mccarthy@cheltenham.gov.uk</p>
Key risks	None
Corporate and community plan Implications	People live in strong, safe and healthy communities.
Environmental and climate change implications	None

1. Background

- 1.1 The Local Authority Mental Health Challenge was setup by a group of leading mental health charities. They identified the vital role that local authorities can play in implementing mental health strategy and improving mental health in their communities. The charities hope that the challenge provides support and encouragement to local authorities to take a proactive approach to this crucial issue.
- 1.2 The challenge specifies the need for nominated elected members to become mental health champions, and while the exact remit is defined locally and developed by the champions themselves key activities might include:
 - Advocating for mental health issues in council meetings and policy development
 - Reaching out to the local community (e.g. via schools, businesses, faith groups) to raise awareness and challenge stigma
 - Listening to people with personal experience of mental ill health to get their perspectives on local needs and priorities
 - Scrutinising the work of local services that have an impact on mental health: e.g. health, social care, housing, and police.
 - Fostering local partnerships between agencies to support people with mental health problems more effectively
 - Encouraging the council to support the mental health of its own workforce and those of its contractors.
- 1.3 Since the Council signed up to the challenge, the mental health champions have helped to develop the Heads Up Cheltenham year of action to raise awareness of mental health. They have also supported the year of action by speaking at events, holding meetings with senior officers in partner organisations and contacting other elected members in neighbouring council's to raise awareness of mental health issues. The champions took part in some of the activities promoted through Heads Up including taking vulnerable Cheltenham Borough Homes residents Christmas shopping as part of the 12 days of festive giving challenge. The champions also supported the Council's work in gaining the nationally accredited Wellbeing at Work Charter.

2. Consultation and feedback

- 2.1 To ensure continued cross party support the Lib Dems were asked to consider a replacement

champion.

3. Performance management – monitoring and review

3.1 None

Report author	Rosalind Reeves E-mail rosalind.reeves@cheltenham.gov.uk Tel 01242 774937
Appendices	1. Minutes of Council 15 December 2015