

Greater Manchester Joint Health Scrutiny Committee

Date: 17 January 2024

Subject: Mental Health Inequalities

Report of: Xanthe Townend, Programme Director – Mental Health, and
Lynzi Shepherd, GM Strategic Mental Health Commissioning Lead

Purpose of Report:

The committee requested a report on mental health inequalities following a previous item on mental health at the March 2023 meeting. This report sets out the national evidence base for mental health inequalities across the three strands of access, experience, and outcomes. It then provides evidence for these inequalities in Greater Manchester and gives examples of how we are addressing any unwarranted variation. One of the vehicles through which we will achieve this is the new Mental Health & Wellbeing Strategy. An overview of which is provided alongside our plans for delivery of this strategy.

Recommendations:

The Committee is requested to review and note the actions and plans underway to address mental health inequalities.

Contact Officers:

Xanthe Townend, Programme Director – Mental Health

Xanthe.townend@gmmh.nhs.uk

Lynzi Shepherd, GM Strategic Mental Health Commissioning Lead

Lynzi.shepherd@nhs.net

Background Papers

The information and data in the report have been largely drawn from the following documents:

- Advancing mental health equalities strategy ([Microsoft Word - C0709 Advancing Mental Health Equalities Strategy - Text version for publication V6.docx \(england.nhs.uk\)](#))
- Psychological Therapies, Annual report on the use of IAPT services, 2021-22 ([Psychological Therapies, Annual report on the use of IAPT services, 2021-22 - NHS Digital](#))
- Mental Health Services Monthly Statistics ([Mental Health Services Monthly Statistics - NHS Digital](#))
- Greater Manchester ICP Strategy ([gmicp-health-and-care-strategy.pdf \(gmintegratedcare.org.uk\)](#))
- Greater Manchester Mental Health & Wellbeing Strategy

Tracking/ Process

Does this report relate to a major strategic decision, as set out in the GMCA Constitution?

No

Exemption from call in

Are there any aspects in this report which means it should be considered to be exempt from call in by the relevant Scrutiny Committee on the grounds of urgency?

No

GM Transport Committee

N/A

Overview and Scrutiny Committee

N/A

1. Introduction

The accompanying slides provide the Greater Manchester Integrated Care Board (ICB) response to the committee's request for a report on mental health inequalities. We have expanded on this to include an update on the new Mental Health & Wellbeing Strategy as the vehicle through which we continue to address this unwarranted variation.

2. Mental Health Inequalities

The national evidence highlighting inequalities in access to, experience of, and outcomes from mental health can be replicated in Greater Manchester. We know that there is unacceptable unwarranted variation in access, experience and outcomes for minority or disadvantaged cohorts and as a system, we are taking action to address this through a range of initiatives and schemes. Addressing unwarranted variation also involves levelling up the provision of services across our 10 localities to ensure all Greater Manchester residents have equitable access now that we are one Integrated Care System (ICS).

Working alongside our partners in the third sector, we are taking steps to identify where, how, and why minority or disadvantaged cohorts face discrimination, whether directly or indirectly, deliberately, or subconsciously. We can then take action to address this, and current initiatives include our culturally appropriate mental health services fund and implementing the recommendations from a report highlighting inequalities for Black women in the perinatal period.

We are also addressing systemic prejudices through our mental health workforce strategy and ensuring our lived experience voices are representative of our local communities. Overarching this lies our Fairer Health for All framework, which was presented at a previous committee meeting.

3. Mental Health and Wellbeing Strategy

The Greater Manchester Mental Health and Wellbeing Strategy describes what we will do together as a city-region to improve the mental health of people in Greater Manchester, to better support those with mental ill health and to reduce mental health inequalities across our city region.

The Strategy sits alongside the overarching strategy for the Integrated Care Partnership (ICP) in Greater Manchester. What we do to improve the mental health of our residents will contribute to our achieving all six of the missions set out in the ICP Strategy.

We held a stakeholder event to launch the strategy in November and have recently begun a further wave of engagement to explore how the strategy aligns with the great work already going on in localities and across Greater Manchester (GM) and explore opportunities to work together on delivering the strategic missions. This work will roll out in Q4 of 2023/24 and will co-design the delivery coalition for the Strategy ready for April onwards.