

Sector connector – Mental Health in Sussex

1. Summary and decisions required

- Sector connector Forums are ready to be launched in East Sussex, West Sussex and Brighton and Hove in July 2020. The Forums are endorsed and supported by the voluntary and Community sector, Healthwatch in Sussex, NHS Commissioners and Mental Health providers, and local authorities, in Sussex

2. Introduction and background

Sector connector is a way for non-NHS organisations (the Sector) to engage and influence the Sussex Health and Care Partnership Mental Health Programme.

The Sector Connector project has been developed over the last year by voluntary and community sector organisations across Sussex. Healthwatch in Sussex have agreed to coordinate, convene, and enable the project.

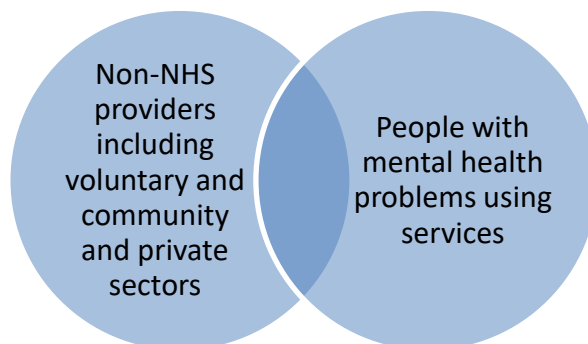
The Project has been developed through the SHCP Mental Health Programme Board and it is within that governance structure that the Forums will exist and report.

3. Scope of proposal and intended outcomes

The Sector can provide information and intelligence around the needs and views of people with mental health problems.

The Sector is often well connected to and in touch with people using non-statutory services.

Sector connector does not seek to replace a broad-based approach in which mental health service users are engaged, involvement and represented, but does seek to include the expertise of people with lived experience.



The proposal aims to support the SHCP Mental Health Programme to:

- Ensure intelligence and perspectives from the Sector can feed into the Programme in a timely and effective way – Around service user needs, local systems and provision, markets, contracting and workforce.
- Enhance the leadership and skill set of the Programme by bringing in representatives from the Sector who have in depth and local knowledge around mental health service provision as well as leadership skills and abilities.
- Enhance the ability of and confidence within the Programme to make sound investment and development decisions which reflect whole and local systems, offer best value for money and are deliverable within local areas.

Through this it is expected that the proposal will increase the ability of the Programme to:

- Improve mental health services and support in Sussex,
- Contribute to the response to COVID 19 and assist with service restoration, recovery, and de-design.
- Deliver service development, transformation, and improvement.
- Effectively achieve NHS Forward View and Long-Term Plan goals.

4. How Sector Connector will operate

Healthwatch in Sussex will:

- Establish and convene three Forums of non – NHS/Statutory sector organisations and providers who have an interest in services for and meeting the needs of individuals with mental health problem within that area. This would include: voluntary and community groups & services, housing organisations, and private providers. One forum to be established and run for each of the three NHS CCG geographic areas – Brighton & Hove, West Sussex, and East Sussex.
- The Forums will work with existing networks in a collaborate, inclusive and non-competitive way, avoiding duplication of effort.
- Healthwatch will act as link between the Forums and the SHCP Mental Health programme. Will establish a coordinating group linking the Forums and the SCHP MH Programme Board and will agree a method for the Forums to provide representatives to attend the SHCP Programme Board.

The functions of each area Forum will:

- To be a mechanism to engage and involve the Sector within each area in the work of the SHCP Mental Health Programme and each place based Clinical Commissioning Group.
- Gather feedback and provide a collective response from the Sector to and around priorities and developments proposed by the SHCP MH Programme Board and associated MH Programme Delivery Group.
- Gather feedback around issues and concerns identified by the Sector and to provide a collective position around these to the Programme Board and Delivery Group.
- Create a process to select effective representatives to attend the Programme Board and the Delivery Group on behalf of the Sector.

For each area the forum will be “physically” convened and meet at dates arranged around key stages within the planning and prioritisation process within the Programme – Likely to be 2-3 times a year In addition the forum will also operate as a virtual/e- forum enabling the Programme to disseminate information, gather views and intelligence throughout the year using surveys, emails, social media.

5. [COVID 19 response and next steps](#)

The response to COVID 19 has added urgency to the Sector Connector proposal:

- As Mental Health services, in all sectors, make plans for restoration and recovery there is a clear and urgent need to consider service re-design as an Integrated Care System. Sector Connector may be one vehicle to help deliver coproduction and cooperation.

Terms of reference – draft 1 29/6/20

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