

MAYOR OF LONDON

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Our ref: MGLA150917-7289

Date: 13 DEC 2017



Thank you for the London Health Committee's report published in September 2017 detailing your findings following your investigation into offender mental health in London.

I welcome your recommendations outlined in the report, in relation to how Thrive LDN and other work can help support the mental health of people in contact with the criminal justice system.

Thrive LDN recognises that poor mental health is often much higher in certain communities, such as those living in poverty and those in minority groups, particularly those that experience prejudice and discrimination, such as black, Asian and minority ethnic (BAME) groups.

In response to this, we have commissioned a piece of research around intersectional discrimination. The participatory research project is looking to work directly with Londoners affected by multiple forms of discrimination, including mental health stigma and discrimination, and develop ideas and interventions with them to overcome discrimination barriers and improve services and support that are available.

As part of this work, Thrive LDN will welcome the involvement of ex-offenders and people who are in contact with the criminal justice system, to ensure a fully-inclusive approach, and that their experiences are reflected.

Thrive LDN have also been running borough-based community workshops, focusing particularly on the areas of highest risk of poor mental health. The workshops invite members of the local community, along with local organisations, including the council, NHS providers and commissioners, local businesses, faith groups, social landlords and the voluntary and community sector.

The workshops invite people to discuss how we can work towards the six Thrive LDN aspirations locally to improve health and happiness in the borough. These are a good way of hearing from the local community about the issues and their ideas for how to work together to tackle them.

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Attendees are also subsequently invited to be a part of the Thrive LDN Champions network. This network of people form part of the Thrive LDN citywide movement, and help to improve mental health awareness and challenge mental health stigma and discrimination in their local communities through running or attending different events and activities. The champions network is very inclusive with representatives across different ages, ethnicities and backgrounds, and includes both those who work within the mental health sector and those with lived experience of poor mental health. Through the diversity of the champions, we hope to reach out and engage further with marginalised groups, and different communities, including BAME and LGBT+ groups.

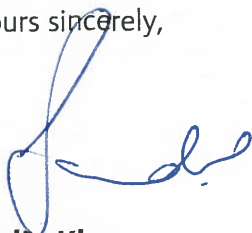
Thrive LDN are looking at examples of best practice and resources to help support suicide prevention. One example of this is the Zero Suicide Alliance training which we are promoting for all Londoners to complete. It is free and online, and teaches people how to recognise the warning signs and safeguard someone that could be contemplating suicide.

Plus, Thrive LDN also encourage multi-systems working, and have been working closely with the Met Police, and are keen to engage further with the broader criminal justice system. Thrive LDN will work with MOPAC to engage with London's prisons and the London Community Rehabilitation Company.

Within the 'Strategic Direction for Health Services in the Justice System: 2016-2020' report, NHS England outlines a number of commitments to improve healthcare for people in contact with the criminal justice system. One of which looks at 'Improving the continuity of care for individuals as they move in and out of the criminal justice system and secure settings.' Therefore, Thrive LDN will look to support this initiative in terms of improving prisoner registration and access to GP services.

Thank you for highlighting the mental health challenges that people in contact with the criminal justice system face, and the recommendations on how Thrive LDN can help to support them.

Yours sincerely,



Sadiq Khan
Mayor of London