

ADULT SOCIAL CARE SELECT COMMITTEE

Item under consideration: MENTAL HEALTH AWARENESS TRAINING

Date Considered: 5 December 2013

1. At its meeting on 5 December 2013 the Adult Social Care Select Committee considered the recommendations made by the 2012 Mental Health Public Value Review (PVR).
2. Witnesses informed the Committee that the Mental Health Services PVR had improved positive outcomes for those experiencing mental health difficulties
3. It was highlighted at the Committee meeting that the new mental health ambassador role had empowered individuals and improved their confidence. Officers commented that there was a need to further improve the public perception of mental health.
4. Officers and witnesses made reference to the stigmatising effects of poor mental health and the lack of understanding of mental health problems in general. As a responsible employer, provider of services and signatory of the *Time to Change* pledge to end mental health discrimination, Surrey County Council should ensure that all of their staff are aware of the challenges faced by people with mental health difficulties and that they act accordingly.

Recommendation

That the Cabinet Member for Business Services consider the need for internal training for Surrey County Council employees, in order to prevent discrimination against staff and residents with mental health difficulties.

Keith Witham
Chairman of the Adult Social Care Select Committee

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