**WM Migration Network Health Thematic Meeting**

**1st August 2023 (10:30 – 12:00)**

**Chair: Andy Hoole**

1. **Introductions**

AH welcomed everyone and explained the purpose of the meeting as providing a forum for those either working with migrants, or wishing to support the sector to discuss strategic issues affecting integration and settlement. It is intended to provide advocacy around key issues, collaborative solutions and agree priority areas of work for the sector.

A wide membership is encouraged so that the group, and wider network can represent the migration sector in discussions with statutory partners and the wider VCS.

Attendees introduced themselves and gave brief information around their work to the group.

1. **Previous Activity**

AH gave an update on the discussions at the previous meeting and the work that has progressed around development of a Mental Health Support Pathway in the region. He had met with Martin Holcombe at Birmingham Settlement who would be keen to support community based support activities. He had also received a response from the BCC Digital Exclusion team highlighting a scheme to obtain devices that could be used by clients.

He is in the process of developing a survey in conjunction with the Communities Thematic group and this could be adapted to include questions around MH issues. DN asked around the sensitivity of recording and storing information. AH stated that this had been addressed but that the signing of a basic Information Sharing agreement between organisations should also be used to support this. MH mentioned a hesitancy of clients to complete surveys and that it would be important to emphasise the outcomes that would be made from the work. AH assured all attendees that they would have sight of any draft document and be able to offer amendments before any final release.

DL and CM spoke of their experiences in utilising surveys, echoing the issue of difficulty of hestitancy in involvement from clients. They had found most success through a slow process of building relationships and trust through a series of activities.

1. **Sector Priorities**
   * **Mental Health Support Pathway**

AH had held discussions around the possibility of bidding into the Fairer Futures Fund to support this work. The details around the next stage of the scheme are still being finalised so this remains an option. Birmingham City Council have funding through the Sanctuary Grant scheme at two levels, for 15k and 50k projects. MD suggested that the best option would be the larger bid to allow a holistic Mental Health package. There is also an option for multiple bids, that would allow for wider interventions around needs such as nursing or midwifery. This was a particular concern due to a recent increase in the numbers being housed in hotels and the impact on local services.

MH suggested that a health practitioner running two clinics a week could provide a real impact in triaging and support. DN suggested that ensuring that there is sufficient spread of activity across each hotel would be useful. Acccess to mental health provision to prevent crisis would be something else to consider. AH had spoken with Bethany Finch at BCC who was keen to support this work, although there were issues around the short-term nature of the funding being given on a yearly basis.

SB offered to raise this as a agenda item through the Integrated Care Board.

**ACTION – SB and MD to liaise around developing this link**

AH highlighted that the deadline for bids was relatively short so it would be important to convene a meeting for interested parties to begin the process of developing and writing a bid.

**ACTION – AH to arrange meeting w/c 7th August**

1. **Any Other Business**

DN presented on a recently circulated model that had been developed by Brushstrokes in conjunction with the Black Country Mental Health Trust. There was a discussion around whether a similar model could be implemented in Birmingham. MH highlighted that any community based approach would require a suitable location, that would involve costs for transportation.

SB highlighted a health literacy project that is being developed in conjunction with Faith Action following their presentation at the last meeting. The are looking to provide awareness of how to access health care as well as information around issues such as cardiovascular health. There are eight partners already on board and they would be keen to involve work in hotels with this.

CM suggested that the meeting to look at developing a bid should devote some time to agreeing a vision of action for the next 12 months that would help to bring all these strands of work together and ensure that the proposed pathway of support could best be developed.

DL highlighted that alternative funding streams were a possibility to support the development of this work, particularly from organisations with a social responsibility. SB offered to circulate the regular funding updates that are collated by Flourish.

CR presented on a piece of work being developed by the Community Transformation Team as part of the Mental Health Collaborative. This is looking at developing a broad needs assessment with a focus on mental health. There is a small pot of money available to look at co-production work in the area of migrant needs. HT suggested that due to the short timescales for any funding bid, although this work would be useful it might take longer to implement so in the short-term the baseline data for any bid should come from available case studies and data held by members. AH asked that once a date for a bid workshop was agreed, attendees should bring any case studies to assist with the planning.

1. **Date of Next Meeting**

Date to be arranged following workshop w/c 8th August.