**WM Migration Network Health Thematic Meeting**

**21st November (10:30 – 11:30 )**

**Chair: Andy Hoole**

1. **Previous Actions**

Meeting Chair - Shaida Bibi from Flourish has agreed to chair future meetings starting in the New Year.

1. **Updates of outcome of BCC Sanctuary Grant Scheme**

Successful bids had now been notified. Brushstrokes have secured funding to replicate what they do in Sandwell hotels in 2 Birmingham hotels- The Rowton and the Collection Hotel. This involves building asylum guides, work around service user engagement. Orientation sessions to be run- bringing in organisations to facilitate service access. Early action advice and consultancy work. This will include mental health work, NHS sessions, health specific workshops in both hotels. This will be based around the common issues faced by service users. Some money for social activities too.

MPP had also been successful with their bid developed with network members. £50,000 for 12 month period to look at hiring someone to support development of mental health responses and understand the needs around mental health.2 prongs to bid: 1- additional support to hotels in Birmingham to assist with coordination. 2- the understanding of mental health needs (plan is to base the role at Birmingham settlement site at Edgbaston Reservoir).

MH asked if we should be concentrating work at Britannia as to not duplicate work done at Collection.

DN queried any potential overlap with the work CM is doing? CM suggested close work with the rest of the network. Joining forces to get as much info as possible rather than overlapping or duplicating. Sharing learning and info benefits everyone.

AH clarified that the MPP he role has a focus on understanding over delivery, so there is little spacer overlap or duplication. Services won’t be delivered directly.

Collection Hotel chosen to help with transport/access issues (close proximity to service users)

AH will contact Shaida to further understand where Flourish bids are at currently.

There was a discussion around timescales for the bid. AH will be meeting with BCC to finalise process for delivery. First stage is to recruit to get someone in post once first batch of funding is received. It is intended to use this group and forum as a steering group for that post- regular updates through these meetings to use post as effectively as possible. Is in important to have a networking base for person recruited

Timescale in recruiting for post- the quicker the better. Job descriptions to be put together over the next week once BCC have held initial inception meeting

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There is an event scheduled for the 12th December for all successful bids to meet where more - detail will be provided.

1. **Any Other Business**

CM asked if there were any updates on the closing of some hotels? MH stated that their was a meeting later in the week and an update could be passed around after that. All hotels closing will have been given a notification and none of the Birmingham and Sandwell hotels will be shutting. DN highlighted a large increase in individuals under 18 at the hotels. This required CAHMS intervention and support from local authorities. There is a need for onsite urgent mental health provisions also. Contact CM for advice with mental health interventions for under 18s.

IU highlighted a new initiative of Indoor football sessions every friday 10-11 or anyone with asylum seeker and refugee background in Small Heath. He is also liaising with Digbeth boxing gym- signposting individuals for free boxing sessions. MH raised the issue with transport over for those staying in the hotels. IU will look further into free bus pass options to facilitate return to sessions.

IU is also organising support group sessions in Kingsheath Church (Christadelphian). Initially a consultation to find out what activities are wanted. A warm safe space to network and support each other, as well as on suite mental health support.

DN noted that Sandwell hotels are giving 7 days notice following positive decision. This raises health concerns- mental, maternal etc. These people are at risk of getting lost to service. A good outcome for all would be to ensure there’s a mechanism to highlight pathways following a positive decision for vulnerable individuals with a clear pathway to identify vulnerability.

HT highlighted a new report produced by RMC on the Impacts of the wider determinants of health. This is based on research on the impacts of NRPF on clients. Focus groups being run- on those who are NRPF and leave to remain/ no leave to remain.

HT highlighted new sessions in Dudley with the hub there receiving some continuation funds. Less funding than hoped for but plans to increase this.

DN updated on a forthcoming briefing in the Black Country given to frontline staff to understand what support is available for refugees and migrants within the Black Country with a key focus on health inequalities .

**Next meeting- Thursday 11th January at 2pm**