**WM Migration Network Health Thematic Meeting**

**11th January 2024 (14:00 – 15:00)**

**Chair: Shaida Bibi**

1. **Introductions**

AH welcomed all to the meeting and introduced SB as the new Chair. SB introduced herself to new members and talked about her work with Flourish which included partnership development and project management with health being one of their most important workstreams.

Other attendees then introduced themselves and their work. MS was attending for the first time, having recently started with Centrala working on a mental health outreach program with CE/EE migrants aiming to understand barriers to access and support.

1. **Previous Actions**

There were no outstanding actions from previous meetings.

1. **Mental Health Support Pathway**

AH gave an update on the progress of the bid following notification that they had been successful through the BCC Sanctuary Grant Scheme. Initial meetings had been held with the council and timescales for payment agreed. The role is currently being advertised with a view to completing recruitment at the start of February. AH shared a link to the advert, role profile and application forms.

SB asked if the role was solely involved with research and coordination or would their be signposting to partners as well. AH stated that the role will not be duplicating what others are currently offering within hotels, more to provide additional resource to support coordination across sites and raise awareness. Any signposting will be in this area, ensuring that individuals are directed to those who are providing services.

SB asked if any other successful bids could be highlighted. DN updated that Brushstrokes had received funding to replicate their work in Sandwell to two contingency hotels in Birmingham. This includes provision of immigration advice, a health worker and asylum support advice. They also hope to set up a service user panel in the hotels. SB stated that RMC were successful in gaining funding to support their existing drop-in services.

AH also highlighted work with the NHS Mental Health Community Transformation Team who are keen to develop understanding of migrant needs with funding available to support this. It may be possible to broaden the scope of outreach work to involve wider migrant communities to gain a wider understanding of needs.

1. **Ongoing Priorities**

SB was keen for the group to identify any other issues that could be developed over the next year. AH gave an update on the issues around health identified in the forthcoming Migration Policy and Practice Sector Assessment. These were broadly similar to last year and included awareness and access to services, mental health provision for all migrants, problems with maternity services and accessing prescriptions for previous diagnosed conditions.

DN suggested a good approach would be to look at issues thematically, inviting guests from the ICB or Mental Health Trust to explore current access arrangements and give feedback. It is also vital to collect evidence on a sub-regional level and engage with commissioners and providers to address these.

The different levels of engagement with providers in Birmingham and the Black Country was also an issues and impacts upon delivery.

SB agreed and suggested a ToR be approved for the group to ensure it is not duplicating activity carried out elsewhere. AH will circulate a draft document for comments and adoption at next meeting.

**ACTION - AH to circulate draft Terms of Reference for the group. Members to provide comment and amendments.**

CM highlighted the benefits of forums such as this for practitioners to understand current needs. They are currently developing a support pathway for sanctuary seekers and welcome any involvement in delivering this. She was happy to progress links with trust representatives to attend this meeting and answer any questions. The team can influence operational delivery so welcome any data sharing or information to help build a case for needed support. There is an opportunity to link with the MPP coordinator role once recruited.

AH agreed and will progress once recruitment has completed. He also emphasised the need to support the wider migrant population and to that end, the work now being conducted by MS would be vital to inform need. SB asked if MS would be willing to brief on findings at future meetings. MS agreed.

**ACTION - MS to give update at next meeting.**

1. **Any Other Business**

DN suggested that the new Outreach Coordinator would benefit from meeting with partners as part of any induction. AH agreed and would arrange this was a candidate is identified.

SB updated on a new Flourish project looking at raising awareness of cancer amongst BME communities. They are also continuing their cultural immersion project helping doctors and nurses to become more aware of community needs. DN suggested including the impact of being NRPF within the cancer project.

**Next meeting- Thursday 22nd February at 2pm**