Mental health summit puts focus on ‘recovery and resilience’

A mental health ‘summit’ this Friday (6 March) will bring together health organisations, police, social care, third sector organisations and patient and carer representatives from across Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland.

Up to 70 delegates are expected to attend the half-day event at Leicestershire Constabulary Police HQ in Enderby.

Their aim is to kick-start work that will strengthen and co-ordinate support in the community for people with mental health needs - one of the drivers for the Better Care Together health and social care programme across Leicestershire and Rutland.

The summit has been organised jointly by a number of organisations including Leicestershire Constabulary, Healthwatch Leicester, SUCRAN, local VCS and Leicestershire Partnership NHS Trust (LPT), which provides mental health, learning disability and community health services in Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland.

The programme includes a keynote speech by patient-centred improvements innovator David Gilbert, a former mental health service user and founder/director of InHealth Associates, a national network of patient-centred improvement and engagement specialists.

LPT chief executive Dr Peter Miller said: “We know that timely care in the community, where people live, is really important in helping to help someone avoid their mental ill health from deteriorating, and also help someone who has had an episode of acute ill health to continue with their recovery and cut the risk of further crisis.

“Our Trust is committed to working with other agencies, service users and carers to give the people we provide care for the security of a co-ordinated network of care and support.”

David Barsby from Healthwatch Leicester the patient and public watchdog commented: “The summit is an opportunity for individuals who have used or are currently using mental health services to share their experience with decision makers who are considering further improvements in local provision.
“The focus of this year’s summit is on Resilience and Recovery and we expect to see positive change for service users.”

Chief Constable of Leicestershire Police, Simon Cole said “We are delighted to host the Mental Health Summit at Force Headquarters bringing together our partners, Healthwatch Leicester and Leicestershire Partnership NHS Trust as well as a number of local stakeholders. With our work on Triage, Liaison and Diversion the Force remain committed to develop and improve the service we give people suffering mental health issues.

“Our work with partners is fundamental to protecting local people from harm in a time of crisis.”

This year’s mental health summit is the latest in a series of annual collaborative workshops bringing together agencies from across two counties to tackle mental health priorities. This year’s event will also hear how pledges made by participants last year have helped to drive improvements in care, including the launch of the new Box Tree Farm service to provide urgent short-term support for people experiencing a mental health crisis.

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NOTES TO EDITORS

Leicestershire Partnership NHS Trust (LPT) provides a range of health and wellbeing services mainly for people living Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland, serves a population of one million, has a budget in excess of £267 million and employs approximately 5,400 staff. For more information visit www.leicspart.nhs.uk

Better Care Together is an unprecedented project to reform health and social care across Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland. The programme is a partnership of local NHS organisations and councils It is driven by a shared recognition that major changes are needed to ensure services can continue to meet the needs of local people. Visit www.bettercareleicester.nhs.uk

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