Public note - board meeting 7th July 2021

The delayed publication of this note is due to the cancellation of the board meeting planned for 22nd September 2021. This note was approved at a meeting of the board of trustees on 2nd November 2021, for publication on Healthy Minds’ website.

The Healthy Minds board of trustees met via videoconference on Tuesday morning, 20th July 2021, with three trustees present, and the Chief Officer, and two other staff in attendance.

The Chief Officer presented his written operational update to the board, together with a funding update. His written and verbal update included the approach proposed for emerging from lockdown.

The main topic for discussion at the meeting was Healthy Minds’ Strategy. The current Strategy is for 2019-22 and may be found on the [About Healthy Minds](https://www.healthymindscalderdale.co.uk/about.html) page of the website. We want to refresh of the Strategy, for 2022-25 (period to be confirmed). We want this to be done through staff, service user and trustee engagement, starting as soon as possible. We want to ensure that, in a context of organisational growth (staff turnover and new starters, new services, approaches to delivery such as hosting the public sector mental health project), sufficient attention is given in the Strategy to maintaining the identity and integrity. Our identity is our “anchor”, and what makes us, uniquely, Healthy Minds. We want to ensure that our stated values reflect this. We suggest adding some clear goals to our Strategy. We don’t necessarily want to lose the stated “challenges” but we think that there is a longer list of “drivers”, but that these need to be described more briefly so as not to take away from other parts of the strategy: ambition, values and (new) goals. The board of trustees looks forward to engagement on the Strategy in the autumn of 2021, and is aiming to launch the new Strategy at the AGM, provisionally planned for 24th November 2021.

The board also considered other matters, including: quality standards for health, reports from the Development Sub-Committee and the Finance Committee.

From this week, most of the remaining Covid-19 lockdown restrictions will be lifted. We know that there will be many different feelings about this, across staff, volunteers and service users. We support Calderdale Council’s message to remain cautious, be kind and help each other to stay safe. We want to strike a balance between what we are allowed to do and what we see as responsible to do. During lockdown, staff have done fantastically well in successfully kept activities going online and by telephone. We see the value of a cautious approach. As we all play our part, we can look forward to being able to enjoy true freedom without such extreme caution – surely something we all want, whatever our views.

Paul Hunt

Chair of Trustees, 2nd November 2021