**Consultation response form: - *Together for Mental Health* Delivery Plan (2016-19)**

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| **Overview** | **Proposed *Together for Mental Health* Delivery Plan 2016-19** |
| **How to respond** | Responses should be submitted by 4 April 2016 to: [mentalhealthandvulnerablegroups@wales.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:mentalhealthandvulnerablegroups@wales.gsi.gov.uk)  Alternatively you can send the form to:  Mental Health and Vulnerable Groups  Health and Social Services  4th Floor, North  Welsh Government  Cathays Park  Cardiff  CF10 3NQ |
| **Further information and related documents**  **(note – the text on large print etc. should always be included)** | Large print, Braille and alternative language versions of this document are available on request. |
| **Contact details** | If you have any queries on this consultation, please email:  [mentalhealthandvulnerablegroups@wales.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:mentalhealthandvulnerablegroups@wales.gsi.gov.uk) |
| **Data protection** | How the views and information you give us will be used  Any response you send us will be seen in full by Welsh Government staff dealing with the issues which this consultation is about. It may also be seen by other Welsh Government staff to help them plan future consultations.  The Welsh Government intends to publish a summary of the responses to this document. We may also publish responses in full. Normally, the name and address (or part of the address) of the person or organisation who sent the response are published with the response. This helps to show that the consultation was carried out properly. If you do not want your name or address published, please tell us this in writing when you send your response. We will then blank them out.  Names or addresses we blank out might still get published later, though we do not think this would happen very often. The Freedom of Information Act 2000 and the Environmental Information Regulations 2004 allow the public to ask to see information held by many public bodies, including the Welsh Government. This includes information which has not been published. However, the law also allows us to withhold information in some circumstances. If anyone asks to see information we have withheld, we will have to decide whether to release it or not. If someone has asked for their name and address not to be published, that is an important fact we would take into account. However, there might sometimes be important reasons why we would have to reveal someone’s name and address, even though they have asked for them not to be published. We would get in touch with the person and ask their views before we finally decided to reveal the information. |

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| Responses to consultations may be made public – on the internet or in a report.  If you would prefer your response to be kept confidential, please tick here: |  |

1. **Contact Details**

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| Your name: | Carly Dix |
| Organisation (if applicable): | Community Housing Cymru |
| Email | [carly-dix@chcymru.org.uk](mailto:carly-dix@chcymru.org.uk) |
| Contact telephone number | 02920 674825 |
| Your address | Community Housing Cymru Group  2 Ocean Way  Cardiff  CF24 5TG |

1. **Are you responding as an individual or on behalf of an organisation?**

Please tick box.

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| **Individual** | **On behalf of an organisation** (please tell us which organisation) |
|  | Community Housing Cymru |

**About Us**

The Community Housing Cymru Group (CHC Group) is the representative body for housing associations and community mutuals in Wales, which are all not-for profit organisations. Our members provide over 158,000 homes and related housing services across Wales. In 2014/15, our members directly employed 8,800 people and spent over £2bn (directly and indirectly) in the economy, with 79% of this spend retained in Wales. Our members work closely with local government, third sector organisations and the Welsh Government to provide a range of services in communities across Wales.

**Our objectives are to:**

• Be the leading voice of the social housing sector.

• Promote the social housing sector in Wales.

• Promote the relief of financial hardship through the sector's provision of low cost social housing.

• Provide services, education, training, information, advice and support to members.

• Encourage and facilitate the provision, construction, improvement and management of low cost social housing by housing associations in Wales.

**Our vision is to be:**

• A dynamic, action-based advocate for the not-for-profit housing sector.

• A ‘member centred’ support provider, adding value to our members’ activities by delivering the services and advice that they need in order to provide social housing, regeneration and care services.

• A knowledge-based social enterprise.

**3. Structure of delivery plan**

*Together for Mental Health*, the Welsh Government’s 10 year strategy to improve mental health and wellbeing was published in 2012 following significant engagement and consultation with key partner agencies, stakeholders, services users and carers It is a cross-government strategy and covers all ages, ranging from a whole population approach in improving the mental well-being of all residents in Wales, through to the support needed for those with a severe and enduring mental illness. The strategy consists of five chapters and is underpinned by 18 outcomes. These were subject to detailed formal consultation in 2012 and remain unchanged for the lifetime of this delivery plan. These outcomes have been mapped to the Goals contained within the Wellbeing of Future Generation (Wales) Act 2015.

Following feedback from stakeholders we have laid out the priority areas, by subject, detailing links back to the relevant chapter areas where required for ease of reading

**Question 1**

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| **Do you feel that there are any priority areas missing from the delivery plan? Please tick appropriate box** | | |
| Yes | No | Partly **** |
| Where you have ticked ‘Yes’ or ‘Partly’ please explain what you think these are. | | |
| **Link between mental health and housing**  ‘Fair access to housing and related support’ is included in priority area 8, we would like to emphasise the link between mental health and housing and the important role the Housing Associations play in their capacity as landlords and support providers.  Good quality housing and the right support services can have a positive effect on an individual’s health and well-being. Furthermore, community projects run by Housing Associations can have great benefits for an individual’s mental health.  Conversely, poor housing or homelessness can have a detrimental impact on the well-being of people’s lives, it can impact on their physical and mental wellbeing. As detailed in the Crisis 2009 report, ‘*Mental Ill Health in the Adult Single Homeless Population’* homelessness and serious mental illness is often accompanied by alcohol and/or substance misuse problems, this further worsens an individual’s life chances. This highlights the importance of support services which reduce overall demand for health and social care services. | | |

**Question 2**

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| **Within each priority area we have identified a number of goals and key actions. Do you feel these are the right ones? Please tick appropriate box** | | |
| Yes **** | No | Partly |
| Where you have ticked ‘No’ or ‘Partly’ please provide an explanation and any alternative suggested wording. In your answer please state which priority area/goal or key action you are commenting upon. | | |
| Housing associations operate in some of the most deprived communities in Wales, housing vulnerable and older people with wide-ranging needs and support requirements.  A high proportion of housing association tenants require mental health assessments and care in the community which places the sector in a primary position to support a wide range of initiatives and projects aimed at prevention.  Goal 8.1 – To enable people with mental health problems to have fair access to housing and related support and promote access to mental health services amongst people who are homeless or vulnerably housed.  This goal provides a performance measure for ‘mental health services to provide a named contact to each homeless team for advice and guidance’. We really welcome this as these improved links will enhance understanding of mental health issues and enable more informed decisions to be made about vulnerability. We would support this measure being available to other housing and support teams.  We feel that this also strengthens the Well-Being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 aims for collaborative working between public bodies, this type of joined-up approach is essential and effective.  Many housing associations provide support to tenants suffering from mental ill health and dementia. We welcome the inclusion of priority area 9 – ‘Wales is a dementia friendly nation’ to improve the quality of life and care for people with, or at risk of, dementia and their care-givers.  Goal 8.2 – To support people with mental health problems to sustain work and to improve access to employment and training opportunities for those out of work.  The role of Housing Associations go beyond that of traditional landlords, which include employment and skills initiatives that support people with mental health problems with their employment goals. | | |

**Question 3**

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| **Do you think we have the correct balance between improving the mental health and resilience of the whole population and the care and treatment for those individuals with mental health problems?** | | |
| Yes **** | No | Partly |
| Where you have ticked ‘No’ or ‘Partly’ please say what are the gaps / actions you would propose were added. | | |
| The plan provides measures for both aspects.  We would add that there could be an increased focus on individuals with less urgent mental health problems being signposted to tools, such as mindfulness, to develop their resilience. | | |

**Question 4**

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| **The introduction to the delivery plan provides information on the prudent health and care agenda. Do you think we should include any other actions in the delivery plan around the prudent agenda and how this is rolled out across Wales in terms of best practice?** | |
| Yes | No **** |
| Where you have ticked ‘Yes’ please explain what else you feel could be done? | |
| Prudent healthcare fits the needs and circumstance of patients and avoids wasteful care.  The housing sector contributes to prudent healthcare through many mechanisms such as community engagement, working in conjunction with health colleagues to meet priorities and the Supporting People Programme.  The Supporting People Programme supports more than 60,000 people each year to live as independently as they can, it aims to prevent problems by providing help as early as possible.  The plan ensures that public bodies work together and we welcome collaborative working to achieve prudent healthcare objectives. | |

**Question 5**

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| **Do you think the actions will provide a positive impact of the proposals for people with the following protected characteristics:-**   * **Disability** * **Race** * **Gender and gender reassignment** * **Age** * **Religion and belief and non-belief** * **Sexual orientation** * **Human Rights** * **Children and young people** | | |
| Yes **** | No | Partly |
| Where you have ticked ‘No’ or ‘Partly’ please explain why. | | |
| The delivery plan provides a commitment to equality in mental health services, one of its high level objectives is for ‘people with protected characteristics and vulnerable groups to experience equitable access and service are more responsive to the needs of a diverse Welsh population’.  People with different protected characteristics will have different needs and can be particularly prone to mental health issues. The plan aims to ensure that service users feel listened to and are involved in decisions about their care. Full engagement with service users is key to ensuring that any changes to services do not have a disproportionate impact on those who fall into the various protected characteristics. | | |

**Question 6**

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| **Do you think the actions will provide a positive impact on the opportunities for use of the Welsh language?** | | |
| Yes**** | No | Partly |
| Where you have ticked ‘No’ or ‘Partly’ please explain how you feel we could strengthen opportunities for using Welsh to ensure it is treated no less favourably than the English language? | | |
| One of the high level outcomes of the plan is for Welsh speakers in Wales to access linguistically appropriate mental health treatment and care where they need to do so.  Ensuring that Welsh speakers receive services in the medium of Welsh where required will have a positive impact. | | |

1. **Additional Comments**

We have asked a number of specific questions. If you have any related issues which we have not specifically addressed, please use the space below to comment.

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| The Together for Mental Health Delivery Plan: 2016-19 is a commitment to deliver equality in mental health services and offers a great opportunity for public bodies to work together to achieve this.  Housing associations play a key role in the support and provision of mental health services, enabling both prevention of crises and earlier intervention when problems do arise. They will play a key part in helping to meet priorities in the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 and Prudent Healthcare. The sector is keen to do more to support better mental health outcomes, and is already working effectively with health colleagues in some areas.  Goal 1.1 – Consideration to be given to incorporating a performance indicator around child safeguarding statistics.  Goal 2.3 – Various studies outline how people with mental health conditions are more likely to live in rented accommodation, including social housing. Again, highlighting that the sector is in a primary position to support a wide range of initiatives and projects.  We support the Welsh Government’s strategy to improve mental health and wellbeing. |