
SPECIAL MOTION NO.6 – MENTAL HEALTH

Standing in the names of:

- (i) Councillor Alan De'Ath
- (ii) Councillor PJ Murphy

This Council welcomes the recent statement by Theresa May to improve outcomes for those with mental health needs.

However, it notes that since 2010, there has been a real terms cut of 8.5% to services and her commitment lacks any detail as to how it will be funded or delivered.

This Council notes:

- One in four people will experience a mental health problem in any given year.
- The World Health Organisation predicts that depression will be the second most common health condition worldwide by 2020.
- Mental ill health costs some £105 billion each year in England alone.
- People with a severe mental illness die up to 20 years younger than their peers in the UK.
- There is often a circular relationship between mental health and issues such as housing, employment, family problems or debt.
- 1 in 10 children and young people aged 5 – 16 suffer from a diagnosable mental health disorder – around three children in every class
- 75% of mental health problems in adulthood (excluding dementia) start before 18 years
- Between 1 in 12 and 1 in 15 children and young people deliberately self-harm
- More than half of all adults with mental health problems were diagnosed in childhood. Less than half were treated appropriately at the time.

This Council recognises the importance of properly funded mental health services and improving service outcome. The Task Force, which concluded last summer and was created to focus on child and adolescent mental health provision within Hammersmith & Fulham, provided concrete recommendations for improving services, in stark contrast to the empty rhetoric and unfunded promises of the Tory Government.

This council calls on the Government to stop making empty statements and instead effectively fund the education sector, NHS, social care and local authorities to ensure that those in need receive the support they deserve before it is too late.