

**County Council Meeting – 14 December 2023****Question to Councillor Julia Jessel  
Cabinet Member for Health and Care****By Councillor Afsar**

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**Question**

With the rise of Mental Health cases may I ask what actions the Council are taking to prioritise Mental Health Support services, both in terms of prevention and treatment for the residents of Staffordshire especially in light of the challenges posed.

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**Reply**

We are seeing an increase in mental health problems in the wake of the Covid pandemic and as a consequence of the challenges facing people, the raised awareness of mental health and the lifting of any stigma which has so long been associated with poor mental health.

The Council and the local NHS have recently published the Good Mental Health In Staffordshire Strategy for 2023-28. This describes how we will aim to help everyone improve and maintain their mental well-being, help those who have short periods with problems to regain their mental health and well-being, and help people of all ages with severe long term mental health problems to live productive and fulfilling lives.

The Council will maintain support for those eligible under the Care Act or Mental Health Act. The NHS is responsible for diagnosis and treatment of mental health conditions.

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