

FACTS ABOUT MENTAL ILLNESS

- The World Health Organisation says depression is the second most common health problem.
- In any one year at least one in four people will have a mental health problem.
- 20% of women and 14% of men in England have some form of mental illness.
- 15% of pre-school children have mild mental health problems and 7% have severe mental health problems.
- 6% of males and 16% of females aged 16-19 have some form of mental health problem.
- 15% of people over 65 have depression.
- In England and Wales an estimated 66% of the prisoners on remand have mental health problems.
- One in ten people with schizophrenia will take their own lives.
- 20% of all deaths by young people are by suicide.
- 19,000 adolescent boys and girls attempt suicide every year.

The total cost of mental health problems in England is roughly £32 billion.

MENTAL ILLNESS IN THE BOURNEMOUTH AREA

- Last year a survey revealed that:-
- Bournemouth had the highest rate of mental illness in Dorset and Somerset.
- A total of 1,315 patients were registered with Bournemouth GP's as having a severe and enduring mental illness last year.
- With 544 admissions to psychiatric hospital per 100,000 people a year, Bournemouth's rate was 'substantially higher' than other areas in the South-West region.
- The incidence of schizophrenia in Bournemouth was nearly three times the regional rate. Hospital admissions for depression and anxiety were also 'significantly higher'.
- Bournemouth's suicide rate was much higher than the regional and national average.

Boscombe and West Howe had the highest levels of people with mental illness in the area.

Recent surveys have shown that:-

- Bournemouth has a higher rate of people claiming Incapacity Benefit due to mental ill health than almost anywhere else in the country.
- Of the 6,700 Bournemouth residents in receipt of Incapacity Benefit, almost half are suffering from mental illness. Only Camden and Westminster have higher rates.
- A recent client questionnaire held at a day centre revealed that clients' highest priority of need was for informal support and social activities. **In short, friendship and someone to talk to.**
- Mental health problems are more common among people who are socially deprived. Living in poverty, having little control over one's life, poor self-esteem, depression and anxiety are all proven to be closely linked together.
- The national census showed that 35% of all households in Bournemouth were single person households.
- There was a high level of drug and alcohol abuse in Bournemouth, which increased the likelihood of mental illness.

Recent studies have shown that:-

- One in five companies would not consider employing an Incapacity Benefit claimant with a history of mental health problems.
- Depression is responsible for three-quarters of all suicides in Britain.
- 80% of young men in the UK who had committed suicide had had no contact with their GP, psychiatrist or any other support network in the four weeks before they died.
- One third of all people who have experienced depression say they would be too embarrassed to seek help.

Information from: Mental Health Foundation website; Bournemouth Daily Echo 27 Jan 06; Rethink,; Searchlight Summer—Poole M H Service Users Magazine Summer 2006; Consultation Document in Respect of the Development of a Social Inclusion Strategy for Bournemouth Residents with Mental Ill-Health 2006-2011; Chartered Institute for Personnel Development; The Big Issue; MIND; YOUGOV