

<b>Committee:</b>	<b>Dated:</b>
Community and Children's Services	24/07/2020
<b>Subject:</b>	<b>Public</b>
City Wellbeing Centre Update	
<b>Report of:</b>	<b>For information</b>
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### Summary

This report provides an update to Members on progress of the City Wellbeing Centre – the new mental health centre the City Corporation is delivering.

The restrictions of the COVID-19 pandemic have delayed works to renovate the premises for this centre, which will now be completed at the end of August 2020. The commissioned service provider, Tavistock Relationships, is preparing to deliver services safely on site, in line with public health guidelines. In addition, it has developed an online service for City of London residents and workers.

### Recommendation

Members are asked to:

- Note the report

### Main Report

#### Background

1. In December 2019 Tavistock Relationships (Tavistock) was successful in their bid to deliver a new mental health centre in the Square Mile. It aims to offer medium and long-term treatments for City of London residents and workers. By utilising a cross-subsidy business model, it will provide high-quality mental health services to low-income workers and residents.
2. The renovation of two adjoining shop units on Middlesex Street commenced in early January 2020. The works were suspended on 24 March in accordance with Government and City Surveyors advice in response to COVID-19 and resumed on 18 May 2020.
3. Since being awarded the commission, Tavistock and the City of London project team have met monthly to provide oversight for the project and prepare for the opening of the centre.

#### Current Position

4. The construction works resumed in May under new guidelines to ensure the safety of the site. The refreshed timescale sees the site being completed week commencing 24 August 2020.
5. Contracts have been agreed between the City of London Corporation and Tavistock, and the lease will be signed six weeks prior to opening.
6. During the COVID-19 lockdown, Tavistock have expanded their online provision across their business, and a pathway is now open to City of London residents and workers to access online ahead of the official opening of the site. The site itself will be adapted for use in a post COVID-19 context as part of the preparation being undertaken by Tavistock and will be tested in a soft launch this September.
7. The cross-subsidy model relies on attracting full fee-paying users. Their fees, and the rent subsidy provided by the City Corporation, will allow for low cost services to workers and residents on very low incomes.
8. The centre will provide access to longer-term talking therapies and support that, in recent years, has not been available through the NHS, and therefore often unavailable to those without the means to pay.
9. To enable this model, engagement of City businesses has begun as part of a marketing campaign. This work has been supported by a presentation (appended) and a promotional video, which can be found online at this link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JJYqyyBQ5BM&feature=youtu.be>
10. Promotion will continue and has the support of bodies such as the City Mental Health Alliance.
11. An Expert Advisory Board is also being established, made up of stakeholders and institutions that can help shape and challenge the service offer from the earliest part of the centre's development.

### **Corporate & Strategic Implications**

12. The City Wellbeing Centre is delivered in support of the Department of Community and Children's Services' Business Plan (2017–22), which lists a priority objective as health and wellbeing, specifically that "people of all ages enjoy good health and wellbeing".
13. The proposal also relates to the draft Corporate Plan (2018–23), where a corporate outcome within the strategic objective of "contributing to a flourishing society" is that "people enjoy good health and wellbeing".

## **Conclusion**

14. Despite the impact of COVID-19, the centre is on track to open this Autumn utilising both face-to-face and online therapy options to engage residents and workers. It is a significant contribution to the City Corporation's commitment to tackling mental ill health among those who live and work in the Square Mile.

## **Appendices**

- Appendix 1 – City Wellbeing Centre presentation

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