

MEETING:	Overview and Scrutiny Committee - Healthy Barnsley Workstream
DATE:	Tuesday, 22 March 2022
TIME:	2.00 pm
VENUE:	Council Chamber, Barnsley Town Hall

MINUTES

Present Councillors Ennis OBE (Chair), Hayward, Lodge, Markham, Mitchell, Newing, Osborne, Risebury, Tattersall, Wilson and Wray together with co-opted member Mrs G Carter (Parent Governor representative)

In virtual attendance Mrs G Carter (Parent Governor Representative)

52 Apologies for Absence - Parent Governor Representatives

Mrs G Carter was in attendance and, therefore, no apologies for absence were received in accordance with Regulation 7(6) of the Parent Governor Representatives (England) Regulations 2001.

53 Declarations of Pecuniary and Non-Pecuniary Interest

Councillor Newing declared a pecuniary interest in Minute No 55 'Children and Young People's Mental Health Services (CYPMHS) Provision in Barnsley' in view of her employment with the Children and Adolescent Mental Health Service (CAMHS).

Councillor Risebury declared a non-pecuniary interest in Minute No 55 'Children and Young People's Mental Health Services (CYPMHS) Provision in Barnsley' as a member of the Corporate Parenting Panel.

Councillor Tattersall declared a non-pecuniary interest in 55 'Children and Young People's Mental Health Services (CYPMHS) Provision in Barnsley' and Minute No 56 'Special Educational Needs and/or Disability (SEND) Provision in Barnsley' in view of her membership of the Corporate Parenting Panel and School Alliance. In addition, as she was a Cabinet Support Member for Children's Services she was attending the meeting in an observer capacity only and would not be asking any questions.

Councillor Wilson declared a non-pecuniary interest in 55 'Children and Young People's Mental Health Services (CYPMHS) Provision in Barnsley' in view of his membership of the Corporate Parenting Panel.

54 Minutes of the Previous Meeting

The minutes of the meeting Growing Barnsley Workstream held on the 8th March, 2022 were received.

It was noted that the declaration by Councillor Sumner as detailed within Minute No 49 should be amended by the deletion of the word 'husband' and the replacement of the word 'brother'.

55 Children & Young People's Mental Health Services (CYPMHS) Provision in Barnsley

The following witnesses were welcomed to the meeting:

Laura McClure, Service manager Barnsley CAMHS, SWYPFT
Dr Ovidiu Sandica, consultant Child and Adolescent Psychiatrist and Medical Clinical Lead for Barnsley and Wakefield CAMHS, SWYPFT
Patrick Otway, Head of Commissioning (Mental Health, Children's and Maternity), Barnsley CCG
Laura Nixon, Children and Young People's Emotional health and Wellbeing Transformational lead, joint appointment for BMBC Public Health and Barnsley CCG
Jan Smith, Interim Operations Manager, Compass
Jamie Wike, Chief Operating officer, Barnsley CCG

In attendance virtually:

Lesley Pollard, Managing Director, Chilpep

The Committee received a report that provided the background to Children and Young Peoples Mental Health Services (CYPMHS) in Barnsley and appendices to that included:

- a report provided by Barnsley CCG and South-West Yorkshire NHS Partnership Foundation Trust on the key activities of each service in detail including waiting lists for CAMHS as well as the plans and challenges for the future;
- a report provided by Barnsley CCG and SWYPFT summarising the information on the activities undertaken to improve and transform the provision of CYPMHS in Barnsley; and
- a report provided by the Children and Young People's Emotional Health and Wellbeing Transformation Lead which included updates on the progress of the recommendations made by the Children and Young People Emotional Health and Wellbeing Task and Finish Group in accordance with the Groups recommendations.

A brief introduction was then given by Patrick Otway and Jan Smith who outlined the key activities, plans and challenges facing Mental Health Service provision in Barnsley. Particular reference was made to the significant growth in demand for services, the principles underpinning the delivery of services, the impact of Covid on service provision and demand, workforce development and investment and challenge for the future. Reference was also made to the strong ethos within Barnsley of partnership working and collaboration which would continue for the benefit of children within the borough.

In the ensuing discussion and in response to detailed questioning and challenge, the following matters were highlighted:

- there was a discussion of issues associated with eating disorders which had an impact both on physical and mental health. These challenges were

acknowledged, and it was noted that a specific eating disorder team had just been formed and appropriate appointments had been made. It was acknowledged that currently service provision was not equitably spread through Barnsley schools and work was progressing to try to address these inequalities. It was noted, however, that the Service was working hard to ensure that all staff had the appropriate knowledge and skills to address issues raised

- Reference was made to the establishment and launch of a new Single Point of Contact for all referrals into CAMHS/COMPASS Mental Health Support Teams. Information was provided as to how this service would operate and the benefits to be gained which included the removal of duplicate referrals and a reduction in the feeling of being 'bounced' around the system. It was noted that the major issues identified via this approach were in relation to eating disorders and emotional health and wellbeing
- Information was provided about the lessons learned as a result of the Covid Pandemic. In this context reference was made to the development of hybrid models involving the use of digital technology. Services would continue to monitor and evaluate the impact and any appropriate changes made. It was important, however, to ensure that no one was disadvantaged because of lack of access to digital solutions and also that confidentiality was maintained at all times. Face to Face contact would still be maintained where appropriate or for more complex cases
- Arising out of the above, it was noted that one of the primary issues arising out of the Covid Pandemic was the increase in the number of eating disorders evidenced. Barnsley currently had the highest number of cases within the Yorkshire and Humber region in relation to self-harm and work was being undertaken to support young people and their families. In addition, it was noted that Lauren Nixon was working with Compass to develop appropriate training packages. In view of the high number of cases, work had been undertaken with both Rotherham, Sheffield and Doncaster to examine if there was anything they were doing differently, however, no significant differences had been identified. It was hoped that ongoing work with schools would bring about a significant reduction in the number of cases
- In response to detailed questioning, reference was made to the arrangements in place to ensure transition from Children and Young Peoples Mental Health Services have at aged 18+. Work was undertaken with the Adult Mental Health Service and transition clinics were organised to ensure that needs were assessed and to ensure that the correct services were in place. It was acknowledged, however, that improvements could always be made and to this end, work was progressing to ensure that a more cohesive model was in place to ensure that there was a smooth transition beyond the age of 18
- Arising out of the above, reference was made to the signposting that would take place to ensure that upon transition, individuals were able to access appropriate benefits. It was noted that clinicians would do all they could to assist by providing a summary of services provided to individuals as well as completing forms if required. They would also provide supporting evidence in the event of assessments being required. In addition, it was reported that Services used the same system database which assisted in smooth transition of information. Reference was also made to the support that could be offered by DIAL

- There was a discussion of the way in which ‘therapy’ was provided. It was noted that CAMHS adopted a fluid approach but if evidence suggested it would be successful, a group approach would be adopted but this was not the default position
- Information was provided about the mechanisms in place for reviewing the effectiveness of services together with details of the most recent review. Overall, the review had been positive with responses from children and their parents saying that their needs were met with a compassionate approach. Comments had been made about the waiting times to be seen by CAMHS but once involved with the process most clients had an excellent experience. In relation to future developments, CAMHS was looking to develop reporting mechanisms with other partners and to identify how to share practice so that all practitioners could see the child’s ‘journey through the system’ as this would ensure consistency of approach.
- Information was provided about the steps being taken to improve waiting times. It was stressed that ‘whole system’ support arrangements should ensure that only those who required the support of CAMHS were actually seen by that service as this would ensure that individuals were referred to the appropriate agency/service for support
- Reference was made to the increase in demand for bereavement services which had significant from last summer. Work had been undertaken with the CCG and other partners to recruit to two posts who would be in place until July 2022. A review would then be undertaken to determine future arrangements going forward
- Arising out of the above, information was provided about the skills of staff within the bereavement services team and of the arrangements in place to ensure their professional support and supervision
- Information was provided about the current position with regard to the introduction of the whole system approach which would commence in Early Years/Nursery Units. Staff were being trained to, amongst other things, spot and support wellbeing issues at an early stage as it was hoped that this would prevent the development of further mental health needs at a later date. It was important to ensure that specialist intervention and support was provided as and when it was needed. Arising out of this discussion, reference was also made to the counselling arrangements that were in place
- In response to specific questioning, reference was made to the relationships between individual Services/Providers and the CCG. Particular reference was made to the establishment of various steering groups, which were to meet to review arrangements and timescales and to examine how the CCG could provide better support. Information was also provided about the financial arrangements, to the requirement to submit business cases to support various initiatives and to the arrangements in place to ensure that things were working as efficiently and effectively as possible. It was also reported that the ADHC Group was looking at how partnerships were being managed and how additional support could be provided. The CCG was very supportive of the whole system approach
- Information was provided about current staffing levels particularly in the light of the Covid pandemic. Whilst some staff had left, this had not been an unprecedented change and was in line with what would normally be expected. Staff wellbeing was particularly key and arrangements appeared to be working well as evidenced by staff surveys and appraisals. There were currently a

number of vacancies and whilst there were no issues with recruitment, Services were always looking to make the working arrangements more attractive in order to improve retention rates. From the clinical side, Dr Sandica stated that he had kept the same number of staff for the last five years and he had not lost a single medic

- It was felt that there would be little impact on provision following forthcoming changes in relationships with the CCG. Patrick Otway stated that he would still retain his role as Head of Commissioning and there would still be colleagues offering support, so he saw the arrangements going from strength to strength. Jamie Wike felt that the new arrangements would provide many opportunities for continuing partnership working. Whilst there would be some areas for further development, he still saw services continuing to work closely to meet the needs of the population albeit working arrangements may be slightly different.

RESOLVED:

- (i) That witnesses be thanked for their attendance and contribution; and
- (ii) That the report and appendices thereto be noted.

56 Special Education Needs &/or Disability (SEND) Provision in Barnsley

The following witnesses were welcomed to the meeting:

Nina Sleight, Service Director Education, Early Start and Prevention
Anna Turner, Schools Governance and Alliance Board Manager
Neil Wilkinson, Projects and Contracts manager
Kwai Mo, Head of Service Mental Health and Disability
Lee McClure, Headteacher Springvale Primary School and joint Chair of Barnsley School Alliance
Patrick Otway, Head of Commissioning (Mental Health, Childrens' and maternity, Barnsley CCG)
Jamie Wike, Chief Operating Officer, Barnsley CCG
Rebecca Appleyard, Team Member Disabled Children's Team
Councillor Trevor Cave, Cabinet Spokesperson Childrens' Services

In attendance virtually:

Amber Burton, SEND Service and Strategy Manager

Nina Sleight thanked the Committee for the invitation to attend this meeting. She introduced the report which provided an update on support and provision for children and young people with special educational needs and/or disabilities (SEWND) aged 0-25 in the local area. She pointed out that whilst the Local Authority had a key and curial role in the development of the local area SEND system, the local area included the Clinical Commissioning Group, Public Health, NHS England for specialist Services, Early Years settings, schools and further education providers. Partnership working including with children, young people and parents/carers was, therefore, crucial.

The report then summarised the outcome in relation to the recent local area SEND inspection in September 2021 which resulted in the requirement to produce and submit a written statement of action. The report also informed the Committee of the Council's improvements so far and those still to be undertaken. It was pointed out that arrangements were now in place to bring about those improvements and to drive them forward.

An appendix to the report provided the main findings, strengths and areas for development as identified by Ofsted and the Care Quality Commission during the inspection.

In the ensuing discussion and in response to detailed questioning and challenge the following matters were highlighted:

- The reasons for the apparent discrepancy in the number of pupils registered with an EHCP were outlined. This was largely because some pupils were in colleges or were in out of district provision. It was accepted that this information should be clearly outlined within any future reports
- An explanation was provided of the reasons for the apparent high number of EHCPs in some schools, this was largely because of the particular needs of the children concerned and also because of the importance of keeping children within their original setting wherever possible. It was also pointed out that some schools, Hoyland Springwood for example, had specialist provision which would lead to a higher proportion of children with an EHCP.
- The numbers of SEND pupils and those with EHCP by gender was largely a reflection of the national statistical breakdown. It was acknowledged, however, that early identification of specific needs was key so that appropriate and targeted support could be provided
- Work was progressing in relation to the development of the local offer and website and also to raise awareness of this both with families and across services. Information was provided about the consultations that had taken place and the work that had been ongoing for a number of months. Information was also provided about the associated IT systems behind it. Following the first three months, feedback was to be collected which would feed into the second phase of development of the offer. It was suggested that the involvement of the Area Teams would be invaluable in spreading information about the services available
- Amber Burton commented specifically on the importance of ensuring that needs were met appropriately be that by the provision of an EHCP or by other SEND support. Arising out of this, reference was made to the way in which needs could be reviewed either by annual review or early review processes. It was stressed that the majority of children were in the correct setting to have their needs met which was usually within a mainstream school. If issues were raised or highlighted it was important to look at early intervention to ensure that all needs were addressed
- There was a discussion about exclusions of pupils with SEND. It was important to try to ensure that the number of exclusions was reduced. There was a need to recognise where things were not working or relationships were breaking down so that interventions could be put in place and exclusions avoided. Work was ongoing with the School Alliance on this. Lee McClure gave his perspective of this work being undertaken and on the importance

that behaviour and other policies within schools were appropriate. It was important to ensure that differing strategies and arrangements were in place to address an individual child's needs. It was equally important to learn from other practitioners so that good practice could be shared and differentiated arrangements put in place

- Arising out of the above, there was a detailed discussion about exclusions and particularly their use when the root cause may be an unmet demand. Reference was made to the way in which the use of exclusion could be reduced and of the ways in which issues of concern could be escalated either via the Councils internal mechanisms, through Governing Bodies, Trust Boards, the Regional Schools Commissioner or via Ofsted. If such issues arose in Barnsley dialogue on SEND issues would continue in parallel to any escalation processes
- It was important that schools continued to develop inclusive provision and the Local Authority was keen to enable and promote this approach through workforce development and training, through investment in SENDCO's and CPD. Ensuring that schools were in the best possible position to be able to seek support and build skills was crucial as this would ensure that staff were more confident and that practice was good across all areas
- There was a discussion of Governance arrangements and membership of Academies and Academy Trusts. Particularly reference was made to the reduction in the number of Councillors elected on to such Governing Bodies. Information on this could be provided.
- It was acknowledged that the educational landscape was continually changing. The Authority currently worked with 15 Trusts and reference was made to the work of the Barnsley Schools Alliance which provided a mechanism for support and challenge. It was important to realise that all Academies within the Borough participated in the Alliance where there was a shared desire and vision to ensure that Barnsley pupils achieved their potential
- The peer challenge and support approach could not be underestimated, and in this respect, reference was made to the work of the various Alliance Subgroups which were tasked with examining targeted topics.
- Arising out of the above discussion, reference was made to the wider work of the Alliance and to the work of the Council's School Evaluation officers in developing strategies and assisting schools in being more critical and challenging of their policies and practices
- Amber Burton stated that the Authority had a clear understanding of the performance of all schools. It was aware that there were a high number of pupils with EHCP's and where there were issues with attendance and absence. These issues were monitored all the time and this allowed individual schools to be targeted for extra support where it was felt there were issues or challenges. Schools were also willing to work with the Authority to address such issues in a collaborative partnership to make positive changes
- There was a discussion of some school policies, and particularly those in relation to behaviour, being discriminatory against some pupils. This was particularly unhelpful for some SEND pupils and it was agreed that such practices should be discouraged. In this respect it was important to recognise that there was some really good work being undertaken within schools which should be disseminated throughout the borough as examples of good practice with, at the same time, poor practice being identified and addressed

- Reference was made to the need for schools to be encouraged to facilitate after school (and school holiday) activities and clubs and for such facilities to be made available for wider community use (particularly the secondary phase facilities). It was suggested that such facilities could be developed into community hubs and centres and that pupils with SEND should be encouraged to participate as appropriate. Various suggestions were made as to possible future activities/uses including the use of IT, careers advice events and local businesses giving advice to pupils on how to apply for jobs. Amber Burton stated that such issues had been picked up as part of the inspection and the local area partnership was currently undertaking a piece of work to try to address this.
- In response to specific questioning, Amber Burton stated that there was currently no backlog in the EHCP Annual Review Programme. This was largely because of the Council investment into the EHCP Team and better day to day management of the processes
- Information was provided about the support provided for SENDCO's and the comprehensive CDP offer that was available. This was available either virtually or in school and had continued throughout the Covid pandemic. It was available for everyone in school and to health and social care colleagues as well

RESOLVED:

- (iii) That witnesses be thanked for their attendance and contribution; and
- (iv) That the report be noted.

Chair