

## BARNSELY METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL (BMBC)

This matter is not a Key Decision within the council's definition and has not been included in the relevant Forward Plan.

Report of the Executive Director  
Core Services

### SCRUTINY TASK AND FINISH GROUP (TFG) REPORT ON CHILD EMOTIONAL HEALTH AND WELLBEING – EARLY INTERVENTION & PREVENTION

#### 1. Purpose of report

- 1.1 To report to Cabinet the findings of the Overview & Scrutiny Committee (OSC) from the investigation undertaken on its behalf by the Child Emotional Health and Wellbeing – Early Intervention & Prevention (EIP) Task & Finish Group (TFG). This work follows on from last year's TFG investigation into EIP regarding Adult Mental Health and instead focuses on the support provision and interventions for children. The group met with the commissioners and providers of a number of local support services, as well as speaking with young people directly, and highlight a number of recommendations in support of further improvement.

#### 2. Recommendations

- 2.1 **That Cabinet considers the conclusions and recommendations set out in section 6 as a result of the TFG's investigation into Child Emotional Health and Wellbeing – Early Intervention & Prevention.**

#### 3. Introduction/Background

- 3.1 Further to last year's TFG undertaken on Adult Mental Health - EIP, as part of its work programme the OSC agreed to continue this work and undertake a TFG investigation into EIP in relation to child emotional health and wellbeing. The OSC has taken a keen interest in the provision of local Child & Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS) in recent years, and given the pressures on these services, was keen to find out more about what is being done to prevent children requiring such support.
- 3.2 There have been both local and national concerns regarding the high and increasing demands on emotional health and wellbeing support services for children and young people (C&YP) even prior to the global Covid-19 pandemic. However, evidence suggests that this has been further exacerbated by national lockdowns, limited access to support networks and activities, reduced access to education and uncertainties around exams. Members were therefore keen to find out more about early intervention and prevention services available in Barnsley, how these services have adapted during the pandemic, what young people think about access to them, and to consider what recommendations could be made for improvements.
- 3.3 The members of the TFG who undertook this investigation included the following: Councillors Gill Carr (TFG Lead Member), Jeff Ennis, Steve Green, Clive Pickering, Sarah Tattersall, Charles Wraith and Co-opted Member Mark Smith, Vice-Chair Healthwatch Barnsley. As with previous years, the group specifically co-opted Mark Smith as he has helpfully assisted with previous TFG investigations into emotional health and wellbeing services and is involved in a number of forums, both locally and nationally, that provide support and challenge to the provision of emotional health and wellbeing services. This again provided additional expertise to the group as well as helped to avoid duplication of other work which has been undertaken.

#### 4. What the Task & Finish Group (TFG) looked at

- 4.1 Initially, the TFG met to consider the scope of the investigation. This included discussing all the key challenges they are aware of in relation to child emotional health and wellbeing and specific issues

which have arisen as a result of the pandemic. The group also felt they had limited knowledge in terms of available services which specifically support C&YP. The timing of the group's investigation was helpful as a new Transformation Lead for CYP Emotional Health and Wellbeing jointly funded by BMBC Public Health and Barnsley Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) had just commenced work on reviewing the local system with regards to children's emotional health and wellbeing services and the integration of service pathways, which meant the group could contribute to this work as it developed. The group agreed to hold an initial session to get an overview of the system. This was then to be followed by specific sessions breaking down the relevant services across the life course, as well as to hold focused sessions on support to vulnerable C&YP and those with Special Educational Needs & Disabilities (SEND), and hear directly from young people who are involved in shaping the design and delivery of children's emotional health and wellbeing services in Barnsley.

4.2 The TFG undertook a number of virtual 'check and challenge' sessions with officers regarding the work being carried out, future plans and key challenges. This involved asking questions of them regarding their work, their involvement and partnership working with other agencies and the impact of this on C&YP. This included:

- Meeting with BMBC's Head of Public Health for Children and Young People, and the Transformation Lead (who attended all sessions), who provided an overview of the current service models and development work being undertaken to enhance EIP work regarding child emotional health and wellbeing;
- Meeting with officers regarding Perinatal and Maternal Mental Health Services from the Council's Public Health Directorate, a Mental Wellbeing Midwife from Barnsley Hospital NHS Foundation Trust (BHNFT), the Healthy Child Programme Lead from BMBC's 0-19 Public Health Nursing Service (PHNS), a Senior Perinatal Mental Health Practitioner from South West Yorkshire Partnership NHS Foundation Trust (SWYPFT), a Senior Family Support Co-ordinator from Family Lives - support service for new mums commissioned by the Central Area Council, a Commissioner from Barnsley CCG and BMBC's Early Start Strategy & Service Manager;
- Undertaking a session regarding the First 1000 Days of life with officers from the Council's Public Health Directorate, the Service Manager from the 0-19 PHNS, and the Area Co-ordinator for the Family Lives Service;
- Meeting with officers regarding Early Years/Pre-school Aged Children including representatives from BMBC's Education Inclusion Services incorporating e.g. Educational Psychology, the Service Manager from the 0-19 PHNS, BMBC's Early Start Strategy & Service Manager, a Family Centre Manager, and BMBC Senior Early Years Consultant, BMBC's Childcare Quality & Sufficiency Manager, and a Senior Area Manager for the Family Lives Service;
- Meeting with officers regarding Primary School Aged Children including the Healthy Child Programme Lead from BMBC's 0-19 PHNS, representatives from BMBC's Educational Psychology Service and BMBC's Early Start Strategy & Service Manager;
- Undertaking a session regarding Secondary School Aged Children including the Healthy Child Programme Lead from BMBC's 0-19 PHNS, representatives from Mindspace who offer 1-1 and group support for parents and young people, representatives from BMBC's Targeted Youth Support Service, representatives from CAMHS which is delivered by SWYPFT, representatives from BMBC's Family Centres, and the Managing Director of the Children & Young People's Empowerment Project (Chilypep) who deliver support services as well as facilitate the voice of C&YP being heard in service design and delivery;
- Meeting with officers regarding Post-16 Provision and Transition to Adult Services including representative from SWYPFT's CAMHS, representatives from Chilypep, and BMBC's Early Start Strategy & Service Manager;
- Undertaking a session on support for Vulnerable Young People and those with SEND including representatives from BMBC's SEND Service, Barnsley CCG's Head of Commissioning for Mental Health, Children's and Maternity Services, representatives from the Council's Youth Justice Service, and BMBC's Early Start Strategy & Service Manager;
- Finally, the group met with C&YP and officers from Chilypep, so they could hear about the variety of work local young people have been involved in at both a local and national level to influence young people's emotional health and wellbeing services.

## **5. What the Task & Finish Group found**

- 5.1 The TFG received a presentation which gave an overview of the variety of services in place and local plans to review the existing system with regards to children's emotional health and wellbeing services. This is further to looking at good practice elsewhere and learning from how partners can better work together to ensure integrated pathways to services that are easier to navigate, and remove access barriers so children, young people and families (CYP&F) can access support at the right time. The TFG welcomed these developments, as they are aware that these are the key issues experienced by local residents. It was also highlighted how funding arrangements across the borough are fragmented and it is not clear what funding pots are being accessed across all services. Similarly, it is evident there is a variety of training being accessed across settings with regards to children's emotional health and wellbeing; however, work needs to be done to ensure it is consistent and of good quality. As part of this, the TFG were particularly keen that training around dealing with bullying is picked up as they are aware this is an issue raised by local C&YP, who don't feel it is dealt with effectively. In preparation for potential future demands on services, the group were made aware of a survey being sent to C&YP on a regular basis throughout the pandemic to assess children's emotional health and wellbeing locally and to identify future demands on services.
- 5.2 At the group's following session, they focused on support services regarding Perinatal and Maternal Mental Health, acknowledging how the mental health of care givers from conception, and during a child's early years, can affect C&YP for life. The group welcomed hearing from a Mental Wellbeing Midwife from BHNFT, who provides specialist support services for women via 1-1 and group sessions and works in partnership with other local services. The group were also made aware of a specialist Perinatal Emotional Health and Wellbeing Service provided by SWYPFT which is integrated with other services but provides specific support to women affected by moderate to severe emotional health and wellbeing problems during and after pregnancy. This includes supporting them with individualised pregnancy plans and advice, as well as medication.
- 5.3 In addition to the services above, the group were given an overview of the 0-19 PHNS and the nationally mandated Healthy Child Programme they deliver which includes key contact points with CYP&F. They provide a universal service to all families and additional support to others as needed. This includes making assessments regarding individuals' home environments and their support networks, providing interventions as necessary, such as low level Cognitive Behavioural Therapy (CBT), and referring on to other services as appropriate. The final part of the session was hearing from the Family Lives Service which is commissioned by the Central Area Council and provides support for new mums. This includes early intervention around emotional health and wellbeing, for example where there have been family breakdowns, and assisting with challenging relationships. The TFG welcomed knowledge of the service's use of volunteers who have themselves had similar experiences, and trains them to provide emotional as well as practical support to clients, for example helping them access additional services, such as to address issues with debt. The group were impressed by all the services they had heard from and the variety of provision available, all of which had adapted their services to continue them during the pandemic. It was noted however, that there is a gap in providing support services for 'dads' as a specific group, which there is evidence of demand for.
- 5.4 In the subsequent session, the group focused on the importance of the First 1000 Days of a child's life. This is where the foundations for emotional development are laid, and a parent's ability to bond with and care for their baby affects how a baby's brain develops and learns to regulate stress. Further information was provided to the group on the support and interventions of the 0-19 PHNS, in particular work being undertaken to provide additional intensive support to teenage and young mums and assisting them with developing coping strategies. The TFG also received a detailed presentation on BMBC's Family Centres and the Early Help provision for families, which includes a diverse package of support at both a universal and targeted level via both group and 1-1 support services. Holistic assessments of families are undertaken, and this can include enabling them to access peer support groups, parenting programmes, welfare services, specific support for C&YP, adult education provision, and making referrals to other services as appropriate. The TFG welcomed these presentations, as well as further information on the Family Lives Service. It was acknowledged however, the challenges local residents face in being aware of, navigating and accessing these

services, as well as for local professionals who are not aware of services being commissioned at an area level only and not being available borough wide, resulting in inappropriate referrals being made.

- 5.5 The next meeting of the TFG covered services regarding Early Years and Pre-School aged children including Education Inclusion Services, which are designed to identify and meet the needs of C&YP and reduce/remove barriers to their development. This covers: Educational Psychology who provide psychological advice regarding Social, Emotional and Mental Health (SEMH) needs; the Portage Service and Special Educational Needs & Disabilities Co-ordinators (SENDCOs) who undertake home visiting for children with additional needs, and work with parents to build on play and interaction to target skill development and promote developmental progress; the Social, Communication & Interaction (SCI) Team who offer identification and support regarding these needs; and the Sensory Team who specialise in supporting C&YP with hearing and vision impairment. The TFG welcomed knowledge of the work these specialist services do to build confidence and consistency in enabling educational settings and services to work together in partnership with parents/carers to meet the needs of C&YP.
- 5.6 In addition to the Education Inclusion Services, the TFG were given further information on interventions by the 0-19 PHNS for the early years age group in identifying any physical or social/emotional development needs. This included them making interventions with families to help support a child's development or referring on to more specialist services as required. The service works to identify needs at an early stage so that they can be addressed where possible or enable support to be put in place to diagnose and manage specific impairments. BMBC's Family Centres and the Early Help provision also provide specific support at this stage to foster environments and create opportunities for children to develop emotionally through play, making friends, having one to one time with parents/cares, receive love and affection, and succeed. The TFG were again pleased to hear of the variety of support available to families; however, they raised concerns regarding the number of families who 'fall through the net' and end up needing interventions at a late stage after issues have escalated. The TFG recognise that sometimes support may be available, but it is not at the right time for CYP&F to access it; however, services need to make sure that this does not mean CYP&F are prevented from accessing support services on future occasions.
- 5.7 Regarding provision for Primary School Aged Children, the TFG were given an overview of statutory requirements in schools, including having a SENDCO. As SEMH needs are an identified category of SEND, the TFG were made aware of the locally developed comprehensive toolkit to support C&YP with these needs which has been provided to all schools. Additionally, the TFG were made aware that all primary schools have a pastoral support structure; however, this is not prescribed and therefore the offer is different at each school depending on their local need. Primary interventions schools utilise include: circle time; having peer support systems in place such as a 'circle of friends'; initiatives to ensure their school is emotionally friendly; as well as provision of specific training for staff such as Mental Health First Aid (MHFA) Training and Trauma-Informed Schools Training. The TFG again acknowledged the variety of service provision; however, raised concerns regarding the consistency and quality of the provision given that it is not prescribed nor delivered universally.
- 5.8 In addition to provision in Primary Schools, the TFG were advised of specific interventions by the 0-19 PHNS for this age group. This also includes the service's work with partners, such as engaging with CAMHS' Single Point of Access (SPA), whereby professionals can seek guidance and information on providing low level support to individuals; thereby preventing them needing escalating to CAMHS. The service also support the 'step-down' process from CAMHS by ensuring C&YP and their parents/carers are employing the tools they have gained through CAMHS' intervention, to prevent their needs escalating. The PHNS service also work with children who may be being educated at home and support them to get back into mainstream education as appropriate. The TFG were also given additional information on Education Inclusion Services for primary aged children and the training they provide to school staff in order for them to help meet the SEMH needs of children via personalised interventions. During this session, the TFG welcomed knowledge of the progress made in services working together to address and prevent children's emotional health and wellbeing needs from escalating, with professionals having access to guidance from CAMHS, as well as evidence, whereby services working better together, aids in reducing the demand on CAMHS.

- 5.9 With regards to provision for Secondary School Aged Young People, the 0-19 PHNS gave the TFG details of their support to young people. This includes for example 1-1 and group work in schools, providing support to help young people express their feelings/emotions in healthy ways as well as providing parenting support to manage and understand emotions and behaviours and the teenage brain. This work is done in partnership with other services and referrals are made to other agencies as appropriate. The TFG were also given an overview of interventions by the Targeted Youth Support Service and work they do to provide advice and guidance to young people to improve their confidence and support them with their emotional regulation through a range of tools and techniques. This is done via both 1-1 and group sessions. They also encourage young people to be active in their community and engage in volunteering activities. The service had adapted their provision to be online during the pandemic, which had resulted in additional engagement by some young people and disengagement by others. Therefore, the service advised they planned to review this and design their future provision accordingly, which the TFG welcomed.
- 5.10 Representatives from CAMHS advised the TFG of the variety of support and interventions they provide to secondary aged young people, including those in crisis who may present at BHNFT. The service work closely with others, including schools, early help services, social care services, the police, substance misuse services and primary care services. During the discussion, the TFG highlighted the importance in taking a whole family approach to those accessing CAMHS, recognising that often parents/carers have their own support needs which require addressing so they can fully support their child. At this session, the TFG were also advised of Mindspace who work in all ten local secondary schools and provide 1-1 and group sessions to young people, supporting them with for example, anxiety, dealing with exam pressures, and providing tools and techniques in support of improving young people's emotional wellbeing. They also work with parents to help them understand their past insecure attachments and trauma, and how this impacts on their parenting, as well as working with parents who struggle to manage/understand behaviours when their child has been diagnosed with particular conditions. The final part of the session covered Chilypep and the training they provide to schools, workforces and young people regarding emotional health and wellbeing and wellbeing, and the work they do to facilitate young people influencing the design and delivery of children's emotional health and wellbeing services. The group particularly welcomed knowledge of their support provision for boys, to help improve their emotional literacy and promote the development of help-seeking behaviours and positive emotional health and wellbeing.
- 5.11 During the session on provision for secondary aged young people, the TFG challenged services on the extent to which screening for Autism and Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD) is done at an early enough stage, as well as what work is being done regarding the long waits for these services. Members also questioned services regarding work done to prevent and intervene in terms of vulnerable young people who may be susceptible to, or victims of, criminal/sexual exploitation. The services gave explanations of the work being undertaken in these areas, including funding provided by the South Yorkshire Police Crime Commissioner through the Violence Reduction Partnership, which has helped fund a Family Support Worker in BHNFT's A&E department. Also, looking at how they can upskill workforces in dealing with C&YP who've experienced trauma, and how they can access funding for this; to which a TFG Member advised they would take this up at a future Police Crime Panel meeting.
- 5.12 In relation to provision for services Post Age 16 and in Transitioning to Adulthood, the TFG heard from CAMHS regarding the support they provide in local schools and colleges, as well as the work they have undertaken to reduce waiting times for their services. Their specific work incorporates talking therapies such as CBT, as well as art therapy and medication from psychiatrists. The service advised how they undertake early planning with regards to supporting young people to transition to adult services, which begins many months in advance of the transfer. The TFG acknowledged the challenges faced by young people at this stage of life, especially being cognisant of difficulties in accessing adult mental health provision. The TFG were made aware of plans to expand CAMHS to support C&YP up to the age of 25, which they welcomed. However, they recognise that this is only just being discussed, with a potential pilot for Children in Care (CiC), and it will therefore take time and financial investment to become an established part of CAMHS.

- 5.13 During this session, the group also heard from Chilypep and the work they have undertaken in training peer mentors within Barnsley College to support students with transitions to, and emotional wellbeing, in college. They have also delivered mental health awareness tutorials to students, weekly wellbeing sessions to students in different departments which are now being undertaken online due to the pandemic, and provided training and support to college staff including Young MHFA. The group praised the work that had been undertaken; however, were mindful of the limited service provision regarding supporting C&YP post-16, and at all stages of transition.
- 5.14 With regards to support for SEND and vulnerable C&YP, the group were given a comprehensive overview of services provided by BMBC as well as those commissioned by Barnsley CCG and provided by CAMHS. Provision included supporting schools and SENDCOs via Education Inclusion Services, providing training and support to staff to identify and meet pupils' needs, as well as development of the comprehensive SEN Support Inclusion Framework Toolkit which had been provided to all schools. Members were impressed by the toolkit; however, were keen to ensure that the extent of its use and the quality of its implementation was monitored, challenged and reviewed. The group were also made aware of the recent commissioning of two additional Mental Health Support Teams, with all three teams now being under one contract to provide early-help support to C&YP via education settings. This will include providing 1-1 support to C&YP, as well as developing school workforces to take a whole-school approach to mental wellbeing; thereby, providing some consistency in provision across all schools.
- 5.15 The Youth Justice Service (YJS) gave a presentation to the TFG, highlighting the over-representation of vulnerable C&YP and those with SEND in the youth justice system both locally and nationally. The areas of need include C&YP with SEMH needs who have difficulties in managing their emotions and behaviours and often show inappropriate responses and feelings to situations, resulting in them having trouble in building and maintaining relationships with peers and adults. C&YP with speech, language and communication difficulty also struggle with listening, understanding and talking, which again creates challenges for them. The YJS works in partnership with others to provide specialist support and assessments, working with multidisciplinary teams to identify and address the support needs of these C&YP. Members were concerned regarding the over-representation of these C&YP in the youth justice system; however, welcomed knowledge of the support being provided by services to meet their needs as well as a recent autism awareness scheme undertaken by South Yorkshire Police. This is where C&YP with a diagnosed condition can access a card to show to the police and other emergency service workers, to enable them to communicate with autistic residents more effectively, helping those on the autism spectrum feel comfortable in difficult or frightening situations.
- 5.16 The group's final session involved hearing directly from C&YP who are involved in shaping the design and delivery of children's emotional health and wellbeing services. OASIS (Opening up Awareness and Support and Influencing Services) is a Chilypep group based in Barnsley that aims to empower young people to shape emotional health and wellbeing services. The young people gave an articulate and detailed presentation on the variety of ways they had worked to influence services at a local, regional and national level. This had not only resulted in better service design and delivery but had also provided opportunities for the young people involved to make strides in their own personal development, building their skills, knowledge and confidence, with one of them now having qualified as a Youth MHFA instructor. The TFG were impressed by the presentations and contributions of the C&YP and were keen that their work and involvement in services continues as well as for them to have future involvement with OSC Members.

## **6. Recommendations**

- 6.1 The TFG were reassured by the amount of support services in place for CYP&F regarding EIP and emotional health and wellbeing and welcome additional knowledge regarding this as well as the creation of the Transformation Lead post. The group are also keen that all the professionals working in these services and organisations they work for care for their own and staff's emotional health and wellbeing, as without this, practitioners will not be able support CYP&F as effectively. The group are mindful that demands on emotional health and wellbeing services are likely to increase as a result of the pandemic and are keen to maximise the quality and provision of support to local CYP&F.

Whilst recognising that there is evidence of good practice and partnership working amongst local agencies, the TFG make the following recommendations in support of assisting with the continual improvement of services and support to local communities:

**6.2 Recommendation 1: A review is undertaken of funding streams and joint commissioning arrangements amongst all services including statutory ones as well as those in the Voluntary & Community Sector (VCS) to ensure income is being maximised and resources put to best use**

The TFG acknowledge the complexities involved regarding funding amongst different agencies including statutory ones, as well as those in the VCS sector. However, they are keen to ensure that local services capitalise on available funding, including in the 3<sup>rd</sup> sector, where they are able to access additional resources which statutory services can't. Members are also mindful that many people prefer to access non-statutory organisations for support, as they feel there is less stigma attached to these.

**6.3 Recommendation 2: Work is undertaken specifically to ensure that training for staff regarding dealing with bullying is of high quality**

The group welcome knowledge of a review being undertaken of training across services in terms of quality and consistency. As the issue of bullying has been raised by local C&YP with Members, the group are particularly keen that work is done to improve how staff deal with bullying and support C&YP as a result.

**6.4 Recommendation 3: Work is undertaken to identify how the support needs of partners could best be met by local services, whether this is delivered via statutory or 3<sup>rd</sup> sector services**

Members were reassured by knowledge of the support provision available to mums. However, they acknowledged that there is demand for, but little service provision with regards to supporting partners as a specific group and would therefore welcome work being undertaken on this and provision made available.

**6.5 Recommendation 4: Training is provided on the Area Council model and commissioning of localised services as well as information on the variety of all services available across Barnsley and Primary Care Network (PCN) boundaries . This includes for all staff from front-line statutory services including GPs, as well as encouraging those from 3<sup>rd</sup> sector organisations and community groups to undertake this so they can assist with referring people and helping them to navigate support services**

The TFG is mindful of the array of local support services available for CYP&F; however, feel they need better promotion, particularly as they are aware of the challenges families face in navigating them, especially as the pandemic has meant a new cohort of families need access to such services. The TFG is also aware that the PCN boundaries vary to the Area Council boundaries which creates further complications. It would also be helpful for staff to understand the service commissioning by Area Councils and what specific service provision may be available on local area footprints, to both maximise referrals, as well as prevent inappropriate ones. The group note that some people prefer to engage with non-statutory services and note the importance of 'word-of-mouth' in communities accessing support services.

**6.6 Recommendation 5: Investment is made in providing additional support for C&YP post-16 and at all stages of transition**

The Members expressed concern at the limited availability of services for both of these areas and recommend that further investment is made in providing support services at these key times. The group suggest that better use could be made of Personal, Social, Health & Economic (PHSE) lessons in schools for these purposes.

**6.7 Recommendation 6: Ensure that the voice of C&YP is heard in all services, including OSC Members engaging with C&YP from Chilypep as well as the Youth Council, SEND Forum & Care4Us Council on an annual basis to hear the views of local C&YP**

The TFG were impressed by the contributions of local C&YP in the design and delivery of services and are keen to make sure that this continues. Also, to ensure that OSC Members have at least annual contact with C&YP on the available forums.

6.8 **Recommendation 7: A system review is undertaken of the assessment processes for services, with the aim of them being streamlined and having greater information sharing amongst organisations**

Throughout the investigation, the TFG were mindful of the number of assessments being carried out on CYP&F by numerous services. Although they recognise this is necessary for services to obtain particular information regarding their interventions, the group felt that this could be particularly burdensome for families accessing several services and repeating the same information on numerous occasions, which could be avoided. The TFG were also concerned that for some CYP&F this could result in them disengaging from accessing service due to assessment fatigue.

6.9 **Recommendation 8: An All Elected Member Information Briefing is held on the variety of available support services for EIP regarding child emotional health and wellbeing across the different life stages**

The TFG appreciate that during their investigation they were able to cover services in more detail and had opportunity to provide check and challenge to service provision. However, they feel it would be beneficial for all Elected Members to have an awareness of the available services in communities they could refer constituents to for support, particularly as many are only aware of CAMHS which adds to the pressures on that particular service.

6.10 **Recommendation 9: An interim update on the work to review the local system with regards to children's emotional health and wellbeing support services and the integration of service pathways is provided by the Transformation Lead to the OSC in 12 months, followed by an update in 2 years, and would recommend this post continues**

The TFG particularly welcomed the work being undertaken by the Transformation Lead and felt this was a critical post and an area of work needed to ensure that services are joined up, especially as changes are implemented. The group are keen to maintain awareness of the milestones being worked to, and met, regarding EIP and children's emotional health and wellbeing services. Members are also keen to hear how other key local partners are being involved in this work such as Berneslai Homes, as well as other developments such as the recently commissioned social prescribing service for young people, and the children's emotional health and wellbeing agenda in local Primary Care Networks (PCNs).

The TFG would like to take this opportunity to thank all those who provided information, attended meetings and assisted with the TFG's investigation; it is much appreciated.

7. **Implications for local people / service users**

7.1 The investigation undertaken by the TFG as well as the recommendations made are in support of improving health outcomes for people in Barnsley, particularly for C&YP. The TFG recognises the importance of EIP regarding emotional health and wellbeing and the negative impacts this can have when early intervention and support services are not accessed. The TFG is keen that local communities are aware of relevant services and opportunities they could engage with, including those from both statutory and non-statutory services.

8. **Financial implications**

8.1 There are no specific financial implications, although in responding to the recommendations in the report, the financial implications of these would need to be fully assessed by the appropriate services responding.

9. **Employee implications**

9.1 There are no specific employee implications, although in responding to the recommendations in the report, the employee implications of these would need to be fully assessed by the appropriate services responding.

## **10. Communications implications**

- 10.1 It is evident that there is a lack of awareness of the number of support services in local communities regarding C&YP's emotional health and wellbeing which can be accessed. It is therefore important that opportunities to share this information clearly and in accessible formats, is maximised. Recommendations included in the report are in support of communicating the variety and access to services/opportunities.

## **11. Consultations**

- 11.1 Consultations have taken place with: the Child Emotional Health and Wellbeing EIP TFG Members; OSC Members; the Council's Cabinet Members; Council Officers from the Public Health and Children's Services Directorates; Barnsley CCG; BHNFT; SWYFT; Mindspace; Chilypep; and the Council's Senior Management Team.

## **12. The Corporate Plan and the Council's Performance Management Framework**

- 12.1 As outlined in the Corporate Plan, the three priorities for Barnsley are: a thriving and vibrant economy, citizens achieving their potential, and strong & resilient communities. Positive mental wellbeing is critical to achieving all of these priorities, therefore, it is essential the Council and its partner organisations work together to support these aims, especially in ensuring EIP regarding child emotional health and wellbeing.

## **13. Promoting equality & diversity and social inclusion**

- 13.1 The TFG is keen to ensure that all Council services and activities are accessible to all its communities. Throughout the TFG's involvement in this work they have specifically referred to making sure that services are accessible to all, particularly given the vulnerabilities of some of those accessing mental wellbeing support. The TFG welcomed knowledge of services being person-centred to ensure that they meet individual needs and enable equality of access. As part of the investigations, specific enquires were made regarding support and access to services for C&YP with Special Educational Needs & Disabilities as well as for CYP&F where English is an additional language. The TFG also ensured they heard directly from C&YP.

## **14. Tackling the impact of poverty**

- 14.1 A growing body of evidence has shown strong links between those of lower socioeconomic status and an increased likelihood of developing and experiencing emotional health and wellbeing problems. It is therefore important to acknowledge that increased mental wellbeing support may be required in our more deprived communities. Also, that tackling the impact of poverty will help to improve mental wellbeing amongst our communities. The TFG is particularly mindful of the Covid-19 pandemic and the impact this may have on increasing poverty as well as demands on emotional health and wellbeing support services for CYP&F.

## **15. Tackling Health Inequalities**

- 15.1 There are large health inequalities between Barnsley and England, and within Barnsley itself. Improving CYP&Fs' mental wellbeing and reducing health inequalities will help local people to reach their full potential. The investigation undertaken by the TFG and recommendations made are in support of improving services across the borough; with recognition that additional work may be required in specific communities to help address health inequalities.

## **16. Risk management issues**

- 16.1 It is likely the recommended activities detailed in this report will contribute further to the effective mitigation of risks associated with poor mental wellbeing for CYP&F in Barnsley, and it would be appropriate for any follow-up report to be cognisant of these risks.

## 17. **Glossary**

ADHD	Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder
BHNFT	Barnsley Hospital NHS Foundation Trust
BMBC	Barnsley Metropolitan Borough Council
C&YP	Children & Young People
CAMHS	Child & Adolescent Mental Health Services
CBT	Cognitive Behavioural Therapy
CCG	Clinical Commissioning Group
Chilypep	Children & Young People's Empowerment Project
CYP&F	Children, Young People & Families
EIP	Early Intervention & Prevention
MHFA	Mental Health First Aid
OASIS	Opening up awareness and support and influencing services
OSC	Overview and Scrutiny Committee
PCN	Primary Care Network
PHNS	Public Health Nursing Service
PHSE	Personal, Social, Health & Economic
SEMH	Social, Emotional & Mental Health
SEND	Special Educational Needs & Disabilities
SENDSCO	Special Educational Needs & Disabilities Co-ordinator
SPA	Single Point of Access
SWYPFT	South West Yorkshire Partnership NHS Foundation Trust
TFG	Task and Finish Group
VCS	Voluntary & Community Sector
YJS	Youth Justice Service

## 18. **Background papers & links**

- OSC TFG Report on Adult Mental Health – Early Intervention & Prevention (Cab.18.3.2020/9):  
<https://barnsleymbc.moderngov.co.uk/documents/s64178/TFG%20Adult%20Mental%20Health%20Early%20Intervention%20and%20Prevention%20Cabinet%20Report%20FINAL%2020200309.pdf>
- Response to the OSC TFG Report on Adult Mental Health – Early Intervention & Prevention (Cab.22.7.2020/6):  
<https://barnsleymbc.moderngov.co.uk/documents/s68099/Adult%20Mental%20Health%20Early%20Intervention%20and%20Prevention%20-%20Response%20to%20Scrutiny%20Task%20and%20Finish%20Group.pdf>

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