

BARNSELY METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL

This matter is a Key Decision within the Council's definition and has been included in the relevant Forward Plan.

Report of the Executive Director
(Children's Services) to Cabinet
on 2 June 2021

RESPONSE TO THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE'S TASK AND FINISH GROUP REPORT ON CHILD EMOTIONAL HEALTH AND WELLBEING – EARLY INTERVENTION AND PREVENTION

1. Purpose of report

- 1.1 To report to Cabinet the co-ordinated response of the Executive Director (Children's Services) to 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 and 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 and endorses the conclusions and response made to the Task and Finish Group's recommendations as set out below, following an investigation into Child Emotional Health and Wellbeing – Early Intervention and 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 and 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, 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 OBE, 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. Task and Finish Group Recommendations and Responses

4.1 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 Third 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.

Service Response: This recommendation is supported.

When the recommendation will be implemented?

The Children and Young People's Emotional Health and Wellbeing (CYP EHWB) scoping report details 30 recommendations, the report will be finalised and published in May 2021 and a robust action plan will be developed by a multi-agency team within the CYP EHWB group, it is intended that there will be an initial 12 month implementation period, with clear timescales for each recommendation.

How the recommendation will be implemented?

A joint commissioning review task and finish group was concluded in November 2020 and a full report of the findings was published. A work programme, setting out key actions, lead officers and timescales was developed in January 2021 and will be led jointly by Barnsley MBC and the Barnsley Clinical Commissioning Group.

Further to this, the CYP Emotional Health and Wellbeing Scoping report will be published in May 2021, this report identifies areas of strength, duplication and gaps across the EHWB landscape for children and young people, the report includes information regarding the voluntary and community (VCS) or Third Sector and the funding streams currently being accessed. Thirty recommendations are made in the report, which will form the basis of a comprehensive action plan, which will be developed by the CYP Emotional Health and Wellbeing Group.

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

The TFG 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 children and young people with Elected Members, the group are particularly keen that work is done to improve how staff deal with bullying and support children and young people as a result.

Service Response: This recommendation is Supported

When the recommendation will be implemented?

The Anti-Bullying Commitment is now complete, and the revised Anti Bullying Strategy and Action Plan will be presented to the Barnsley Safeguarding Children Partnership (BSCP) in May 2021 for ratification. The Stakeholder Group will continue to meet at regular intervals to oversee the implementation of the action plan and review progress. The BSCP already delivers a quality training programme to schools entitled 'Bullying and the Effects on the Child' which is usually well attended.

The Bullying and Self Harm work group plans are to meet in April 2021 with a view to reviewing current policy and process within 3 months. The wider equality and diversity strategy is a much broader piece of work which will require involvement from a range of partner agencies and services and as such, this will be developed as part of the CYP EHWB Group workplan across the next 12 months.

How the recommendation will be implemented?

- As part of the BSCP multi-agency training programme, 'Bullying and the Effects on the Child' training is a regular offer which is usually well attended.
- The BSCP are leading on work to refresh and progress the Anti Bullying Strategy of the Partnership. This work has involved:
 - Establishing a Stakeholder Group
 - Producing an Anti-Bullying Commitment
 - Engagement with existing youth forums
- The CYP EHWB Group have identified the need to consider Bullying as part of a wider Equality and Diversity Strategy and the group will be developing this work as part of their workplan over the next 12 months.
- A working group will be developed to consider the link between Bullying and Self Harm and consider ways to address this. This work will also involve a review of the current processes and interventions in place.

4.3 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 Third 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.

Service Response: This recommendation is supported.

When the recommendation will be implemented?

There has been positive feedback from families about the recovery roadmap from the COVID 19 pandemic and the phased re-introduction of face to face and group provision.

Plans are underway with partners to establish a review of current provision and identify new initiatives as part of this phased approach.

How the recommendation will be implemented?

It was acknowledged by all services in the Scrutiny TFG that more could be done to engage with Dads and partners at the perinatal and early years stages. To ensure a coherent and planned approach to the engagement of Dads and partners, a further task and finish group involving key partners would be beneficial. This would support the development of a cross service approach to supporting partners and ensure that the voluntary and community sector and the services which community groups can offer are represented. This work will be supported by the wider antenatal education programme review that was started pre-pandemic and will continue to be developed.

The work will sit within current governance structures with regular updates being shared through the Children and Young People's Trust Executive Group.

Key stakeholders should include BMBC Public Health, The Early Start and Families Service, Maternity Service, Perinatal Mental Health Service, Children's Social Care and the Public Health Nursing Service.

4.4 **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 Third 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 children, young people and families, 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 who need access to such services.

The TFG is also aware that the Primary Care Network (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 TFG note that some people prefer to engage with non-statutory services and note the importance of 'word-of-mouth' in communities accessing support services.

Service Response: This recommendation is supported.

When the recommendation will be implemented?

The Area Councils training package will be developed within 6 months, with the aim of commencing training sessions with wider partners by December 2021.

How the recommendation will be implemented?

It is agreed that the Area Council structure can be difficult to navigate for wider referral partners such as GPs, Education Settings and the wider Children's Services workforce. This is an area that has also been identified as part of the CYP EHWP Scoping Report and during the recent Scrutiny TFG on Child Poverty.

A training package will be developed by the Area Council Teams to ensure that all professionals are aware of the landscape of provision for children, young people and families and the different funding pots that are available to support these provisions.

Early Help Services should be included in this training to ensure that it links with the early help agenda and the wide range of services available, this will support multiagency working and will also ensure that we take the opportunity to promote the family services directory which is the key resource to support partners when considering the services that are on offer across the Borough.

It is key that this training is accessible to a wide range of professionals as the Children's Services workforce is varied and referrals may be made by a range of services. Established forums could be used to deliver the training, including the Designated (School) Safeguarding Leads' Forum, SEND Youth forum, Barnsley Schools Alliance, Barnsley Education Inclusion Service training events.

4.5 **Recommendation 5: Investment is made in providing additional support for Children and young people post-16 and at all stages of transition**

The Members of the TFG 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.

Service Response: This recommendation is supported.

When the recommendation will be implemented?

The CYP EHWB Scoping report will be published in April 2021 and the action plan formed from this will identify the workplan for the next 12 months. Post 16 and transitions work will be a key feature of the 12month work plan

The ambition to create a 0-25 years CAMHS service is identified within the new CAMHS service specification and the ambition is that this will be developed, in a phased approach across the current 5year contract, with a view to pilot the service within the Children in Care pathway. This work is dependent on funding reviews.

How the recommendation will be implemented?

Post 16 and transitions is a key priority area for the EHWB group and the CYP EHWB Scoping report has identified gaps in the service offer for post 16 provision. The CYP EHWB group action plan will identify key actions, timeframes and lead professionals to support this work.

- The membership of the CYP EHWB Group has been widened and now involves the Post 16 Years Employability and Skills team and Barnsley College Health and Wellbeing Service and this will improve communication and information sharing with Post 16 provision.
- The new CAMHS Service Specification was developed in 2020 and sets out a clear ambition for a 0 – 25 years CAMHS service in Barnsley. This will require a review of current funding and there are currently plans in place to trial the 0-25 years approach across the CAMHS Children in Care pathway.
- Community early help delivery groups will also have a clear focus on Post 16 provision and Transitions.
- A new multi-agency Directions Panel was implemented in November 2020, chaired jointly by children's social care and adult social care. The Directions Panel sits monthly and hears cases of children between the ages of 16-18 years old who are vulnerable and require additional support as they transition into adulthood.

4.6 **Recommendation 6: Ensure that the voice of Children and Young People is heard in all services, including OSC Members engaging with children and young people engaged in the 'Chilypep' initiative as well as the Youth Council, SEND Youth Forum and Care4Us Council on an annual basis to hear the views of local children and young people**

The TFG were impressed by the contributions of local children and young people 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 children and young people on the available forums.

Service Response: This recommendation is supported.

When the recommendation will be implemented?

Work within Chilypep, The Youth Council, SEND Youth Forum and the Care4Us Council is ongoing. The cross-service engagement strategy task and finish group will be established within the next 3 months, with a view to this work being completed and shared with the EHWP Group for ratification within 6 months.

Due to COVID19 restrictions, we are currently unable to establish the Stakeholder events at this time, however, we have an ambition to hold the first event in the Autumn of 2021 to coincide with the launch of a number of other system wide developments.

The OASIS young commissioners group have just recruited a new team and their training is ongoing, it is expected that they will be ready to begin supporting commissioning processes within the next 6 months, at this time, Chilypep will work alongside the Area Councils team to develop a working relationship.

How the recommendation will be implemented?

CYP engagement and co-production is a priority for all services involved in the CYP EHWP Group and it is key that we ensure there are a range of opportunities for children and young people to be involved in the design, development and review of services. It would be a welcome opportunity for Chilypep, the Youth Council, the Send Youth Forum and Care4Us Council to engage with members on an annual basis.

- Existing governance structures already have clear processes of engagement in place, Both the Barnsley Children and Young People's Trust Executive Group and the Barnsley Local Safeguarding Children Partnership regularly meet with children and young people's forums and hold an annual joint event to drive participation with children and young people.
- The EHWP Group are prioritising engagement with children and young people and are driving participation via:
 - Developing a subgroup to establish a cross service engagement strategy
 - Core membership on the group from Chilypep and the Barnsley MBC Youth Voice & Participation Service
 - Youth Councillors calendared to attend the EHWP Group Meeting bi-annually
 - Re-establishing which will be led by children and young people's services providing networking opportunities for all services for children, young people and families (statutory and Third Sector) and an opportunity for children and young people to share their views.
- The CYP EHWP Scoping Report also identifies an opportunity to increase awareness of the OASIS Young Commissioners group and encourage wider commissioning bodies such as Area Councils and the South Yorkshire Violence Reduction Unit to utilise the OASIS group when developing new grant opportunities, funding opportunities and during the tender and procurement processes.

- It is also proposed that Cabinet meet with children and young people on an annual basis to support and drive youth participation.

4.7 **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 children, young people and families by numerous services. Although they recognise this is necessary for services to obtain particular information regarding their interventions, the TFG 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 children, young people and families this could result in them disengaging from accessing service due to assessment fatigue.

Service Response: This recommendation is supported.

When the recommendation will be implemented?

The development of the Single Point of Contact is a key priority for the CAMHS Service and the new Mental Health Support Teams service delivered by COMPASS. The ambition is for the first phase of the Single Point of Contact to be launched from September 2021 to coincide with the beginning of the new academic year – this is funding dependant. The promotion of the Early Help Assessment is an ongoing process and the Early Start and Families Service attend regular partner events to increase awareness of and promote the benefits of the early help assessment.

How the recommendation will be implemented?

- There will always be a need for services to gather some service-specific information to support their involvement with a child, young person or their family. However, the Early Help Assessment should form a robust basis for all assessments, the early help assessment should hold comprehensive information about a family, background and areas of need and, once completed, should remove the need for families to continually repeat ‘their story’. Work needs to be completed to increase the awareness of the early help assessment across wider partners and to improve how services utilise the assessment in their work. The Early Start and Families Service lead on engaging wider referral partners and promoting the Early Help Assessment.
- The development of a Single Point of Contact, creating a true single front door for Emotional Health and Wellbeing requests for support will streamline referral and assessment processes as referrals will be triaged at the Single Point of Contact via a multi-agency services, therefore supporting families to access the right support at the right time via one referral process.
- To develop the Single Point of Contact a stakeholder group will be developed to establish operational processes and ensure all services are involved in its development.
- Children’s social care are co-located with health and the police which enables good information sharing and joint assessment of need. Children’s Social Care hold a daily briefing meeting with partners from CAMHS, Health, Early Help, Police and Youth Offending Teams to share information on the most vulnerable children who may need support and protection arising from concerns overnight. The 8.30 am daily briefing allows for swift information sharing and support to be mobilised to children and families

4.8 **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.

Service Response: This recommendation is supported.

When the recommendation will be implemented?

The report and presentation will be available for presentation from May 2021.

How the recommendation will be implemented?

The CYP EHWP Scoping report and action plan will be available from May 21 and shared at all relevant forums

This report and presentation of the recommendations and action plan can be delivered at an all elected member information briefing from May 2021.

An Early Help briefing has also been planned, it would be beneficial to schedule these briefings close together as a series to give a wider view of general early help services and a more detailed update on the Emotional Health and Wellbeing System.

4.9 **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).

Service Response: This recommendation is supported.

When the recommendation will be implemented?

Within 12 months with a further update within 2 years.

How the recommendation will be implemented?

Both the Barnsley CCG and Public Health Service have agreed recurrent funding to make the Transformation Lead post permanent.

The Children and Young People's Emotional Health and Wellbeing Transformation Lead will prepare an interim update in March 2022 which will focus on the progress made against the CYP EHWP Scoping Report recommendations and the CYP EHWP Group workplan. This will include information about key local partners as requested.

5. Implications for local people / service users

5.1 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 children and young people. 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.

6. Financial implications

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

7. Employee implications

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

8. Communications implications

8.1 In order to address any perceived lack of awareness of the number of support services in local communities regarding children and young people's emotional health and wellbeing which can be accessed, it is 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.

9. Consultations

9.1 Consultations have taken place with the Child Emotional Health and Wellbeing EIP TFG Members; OSC Members; the Council's Cabinet Spokesperson(s); Council Officers from the Public Health and Children's Services Directorates; Barnsley CCG; Barnsley Hospital NHS Foundation Trust, South and West Yorkshire Partnership NHS Foundation Trust; Mindspace; Chilypep; and the Council's Senior Management Team.

10. The Corporate Plan and the Council's Performance Management Framework

10.1 As outlined in the Corporate Plan, the three priorities for Barnsley are: a thriving and vibrant economy, citizens achieving their potential, and strong and 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.

11. Promoting equality & diversity and social inclusion

11.1 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 children, young people and families where English is an additional language. The TFG also ensured they heard directly from C&YP.

12. Tackling the impact of poverty

- 12.1 A growing body of evidence has shown strong links between those of lower socio-economic 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 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 children, young people and families.

13. Tackling Health Inequalities

- 13.1 There are large health inequalities between Barnsley and England, and within Barnsley itself. Improving children and young people's 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.

14. Risk management issues

- 14.1 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 children and young people in Barnsley, and it would be appropriate for any follow-up report to be cognisant of these risks.

15. 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

SENDCO	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

16. 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>

Report Author: Melanie John-Ross (Executive Director: Children’s Services):

<p>Financial Implications/Consultation</p>  <p>Joshua Amahwe (18/05/2021)</p> <p>..... <i>(To be signed by senior Financial Services officer where there are no financial implications)</i></p>
