Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS) in Barnsley – Cover Report

1.0 Introduction and Summary

1.1 In April 2014, significant concerns were raised regarding the performance of Barnsley Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS) which resulted in establishing a Task and Finish Remediation Group. Barnsley CAMHS reflected national trends in terms of rising demand and insufficient capacity, which was supported by the Parliamentary Health Select Committee report published in November 2014 which concluded that nationally ‘there are serious and deeply ingrained problems with the commissioning and provision of children’s and adolescents’ mental health services’.

1.2 In March 2015, the Government published the ‘Future in Mind’ report as a result of the ‘Children and Young People’s Mental Health and Wellbeing Taskforce’ which ‘considered ways to make it easier for children, young people, parents and carers to access help and support when needed and to improve how children and young people’s mental health services are organised, commissioned and provided’. The key themes which arose from this were:

- Promoting resilience, prevention and early intervention
- Improving access to effective support – a system without tiers
- Care for the most vulnerable
- Accountability and transparency
- Developing the workforce

1.3 On 10th March 2015, the then Children’s Services Scrutiny Committee (CSSC) (now Safeguarding Scrutiny Committee[SSC]) considered the performance of local CAMHS and listed some recommendations, including that performance of the service should be followed up in 12 months; hence today’s meeting. The attached report provided by Barnsley CCG (Clinical Commissioning Group) ‘Item 4b’ outlines CAMHS in Barnsley including performance information as well as challenges faced by the service.

1.4 At the CSSC in March 2015, concerns were raised regarding extensive wait times for CAMHS. Over the last year, improvements have been made to the wait time for an initial appointment (from 14 weeks in April 2015, to 5 weeks in March 2016); however wait times for Core/Partnership appointments are still lengthy and the overall wait times for access to specialist CAMHS are extensive.

1.5 Continued improvement work is planned by the service to reduce the wait times for the Core/Partnership appointments, utilising national ‘Future in Mind’ financial investment. A number of priority work-streams are identified on page 14 of the
attached report to contribute to service improvement. Also, a ‘Future in Mind’
workshop event is due to be held on 28th April at which all partner organisations
and stakeholders will be represented.

1.6 Healthwatch Barnsley, who are an independent consumer champion that gather
and represent the views of the public with regards to health services, undertook
survey work 6 months ago of service users of Barnsley CAMHS. A report
summarising the findings is currently being finalised and will be available at the
SSC meeting; the findings of which the service plan to use to inform their future
work.

2.0 Invited Witnesses

2.1 The following witnesses have been invited to today’s meeting:

- Patrick Otway, Head of Commissioning (Mental Health, Children’s and
  Specialised Services), Barnsley CCG
- Martin Tune, Deputy Chief Nurse/Head of Patient Safety, Barnsley CCG
- Dave Ramsay, Deputy Director of Operations for SWYPFT
- Dr Mini Pillay, Clinical Lead for CAMHS, SWYPFT
- Carol Harris, District Service Director, Forensic and Specialist Services,
  SWYPFT
- Claire Strachan, General Manager, Barnsley CAMHS, SWYPFT
- Richard Lynch, Head of Commissioning, Governance & Partnerships, BMBC
- Councillor Margaret Bruff, Cabinet Spokesperson - People (Safeguarding)
- Carrianne Stones, Healthwatch Manager, Healthwatch Barnsley
- Wayne Jones, Barnsley Foster Carer
- Ann Murphy, Barnsley Foster Carer

3.0 Possible Areas for Investigation

3.1 Members may wish to ask questions around the following areas:

- What are the key developments/improvements that have been made to
  Barnsley CAMHS over the last 12 months?

- What is being done to ensure the reduction of waiting times for all
  appointment types including Choice, Core/Partnership and Extended
  appointments and support those on the waiting list?

- What improvements have been made regarding the collection and use of data
  at a local level to monitor and improve Barnsley CAMHS?

- What has been done to improve other professionals’ knowledge to enable
  better referrals and early intervention from other services?

- What improvements have been implemented to understand the reasons for
  ‘Did Not Attend (DNAs)’ appointments and reduce the numbers?

- What has been done to ensure enhanced support to Looked After Children?
• Is there any evidence of the use of private sector mental health services for children and young people in Barnsley?

• What support is being given to employees to help them to improve performance/services, including knowledge of developments in technology which impact on young people?

• What are the future challenges for the service and what plans are in place to address these?

• What actions could be taken by Members to continue to assist in improvements to Barnsley CAMHS?

4.0 Background Papers and Links

• Item 4b (attached) – Report to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee by Barnsley CCG regarding CAMHS in Barnsley (April 2016)
• Link to reports from the Children’s Services Scrutiny Committee meeting on CAMHS from 10th March 2015:
  http://barnsleymbc.moderngov.co.uk/CeListDocuments.aspx?Committeeld=132&Meetingld=3783&DF=10%2f03%2f2015&Ver=2
• Link to minutes from the Children’s Services Scrutiny Committee meeting on CAMHS from 10th March 2015:
  http://barnsleymbc.moderngov.co.uk/Data/Safeguarding%20Scrutiny%20Committee/201505051400/Agenda/$Copy%20A%20-%20CSSC%20%20Minutes%20from%2010%2003%202015.doc.pdf
• Parliamentary Health Select Committee report on CAMHS (published November 2014):
  http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201415/cmselect/cmhealth/342/342.pdf
• Future in Mind, Government Taskforce Report (published March 2015):

5.0 Glossary

BMBC – Barnsley Metropolitan Borough Council
CAMHS – Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services
CCG – Clinical Commissioning Group
CSSC – Children’s Services Scrutiny Committee
DNA – Did Not Attend (appointment)
LAC – Looked After Children
SSC – Safeguarding Scrutiny Committee
SWYPFT – South West Yorkshire Partnership NHS Foundation Trust

6.0 Officer Contact

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