

MEETING:	Overview and Scrutiny Committee - Healthy Barnsley Workstream
DATE:	Tuesday 18 July 2023
TIME:	2.00 pm
VENUE:	Council Chamber, Barnsley Town Hall

MINUTES

Present

Councillors Ennis OBE (Chair), Barnard, Bellamy, Booker, Bowler, Bowser, Clarke, Eastwood, Fielding, Green, Hayward, Lodge, Mitchell, Morrell, Osborne, Sheard, Smith, Tattersall and Webster together with co-opted member and

75 Apologies for Absence - Parent Governor Representatives

No apologies for absence were received in accordance with Regulation 7(6) of the Parent Governor Representatives (England) Regulations 2001.

76 Declarations of Pecuniary and Non-Pecuniary Interest

Councillor Osborne declared a non-pecuniary interest as the Cabinet Support Member for Environment and Highways and as Board Member for Berneslai Homes.

Councillor Lodge declared a non-pecuniary interest as a Trust holder for The Mill Academy in Worsbrough.

Councillor Bellamy declared a Non-Pecuniary interest as Cabinet Support Member Place Health and Adult Social Care and also as a member of the Corporate Parenting Panel.

Councillor Eastwood declared a non-pecuniary interest as a member of the Corporate Parenting Panel and Fostering Panel.

Councillor Tattersall declared a non-pecuniary interest as a member of the Berneslai Homes Board

Councillor Webster declared a non-pecuniary interest as he has a personal connection to someone accessing the CAMHS Services.

77 Minutes of the Previous Meeting

The minutes of the meeting held on 27 June 2023 were received.

78 Children & Young People's Mental Health Services (CYPMHS)

The following witnesses were welcomed to the meeting:

- Jamie Wike, Deputy Place Director (Barnsley) South Yorkshire Integrated Care Board (ICB)
- Alicia Sansome, Head of Public Health, Barnsley Council
- Teresa Brocklehurst, Children & Young People's Emotional Health & Wellbeing Lead, Public Health, Barnsley Council
- David Ramsey, Deputy Director Children's Services, South-West Yorkshire Partnership Foundation Trust (SWYPFT)
- Lucy Hinchliffe, Commissioning & Transformation Manager, South Yorkshire ICB
- Marie Ellis, Barnsley Hub Manager, Chilypep
- Vick Hanley, Service Manager, Compass Be
- Laura McClure, Service Manager, Barnsley Child & Adolescent Mental Health Service (CAMHS)

Jamie Wike introduced the report and thanked colleagues for their joint effort in pulling it together and thanked the committee for providing the opportunity to update members and answer any questions.

Members were provided with details of the work undertaken since 1 April 2022 up to 31 March 2023 by a number of agencies and organisations including the South Yorkshire Integrated Care Board, Compass Be, Chilypep (Children and Young People's Empowerment Project) and CAMHS (Barnsley Child and Adolescent Mental Health Service's). Following on from discussions held at a Task and Finish Group, an approach had been set out for providers across Barnsley to improve mental health services of all ages with starting elements of a range of actions and work specifically targeted at children and young people.

Members heard of the priorities going forward which were detailed in the report and also the challenges faced. It was acknowledged that there were challenges that needed to be opened up around waiting times which needed to be resolved, however, it was noted that this issue was not specific to Barnsley.

In questioning, members praised the partnership with third sector organisations and statutory organisations. However, concerns were raised as to the impact on the provision in Barnsley and the wider county, if already stretched corporate entities were to decrease donations to charitable organisations and there was a decrease in informal volunteers. In response, members heard that the impact would inevitably be felt across South Yorkshire. However, work was being undertaken to engage with community and voluntary sectors to be in a position to be able to attract good investments as well as other options such as match funding. At a regional level there were a number of initiatives through the Children & Young People Alliance, all of which represented each sector. In Barnsley there was a strong group working with recognition to support Barnsley organisations to reach the opportunities available to them.

Members asked a question on behalf of the Barnsley Youth Council who asked what was being done to ensure all children across Barnsley lead happy and healthy Lives. Members were provided with a comprehensive list of services that were available to engage and help children and young people. A consultation had been held with young people in order to identify gaps in the services offered going forward. In addition a new digital service called Kooth was launched on 1st April 2023 which

would provide children and young people with counselling 365 days a year up until 10pm in order to provide a wrap around care for those in need.

Members queried whether there was a higher demand for support from less affluent areas compared to affluent areas. In answer to the question members heard that the information from the data was unable to ascertain a specific difference in demand due to demographics but that circumstances showed an increase in demand at certain times of the year such as exam times when stress and anxieties were at a high. It was acknowledged that different areas of the Borough had different varieties of needs and what support they required. Whilst there was some evidence around deprivation, a lot of the issues affecting young people were not always to do with affluency. There was evidence of a high need of mental health support associated with gender identity, school achievement and transitions.

Members asked what support was available for young people self-harming. Members heard that it would depend on the age of the child and severity of the self-harm as to the support that would be required and they were provided with details of some of the pathways and organisations available and details of a digital platform providing information and online help. There was a variety of training programmes on offer which had been developed by a number of organisations in how to manage and support young people with self-harm which was available for schools, teachers and families.

Members enquired as to what evidence the service had that they were successfully improving the outcomes for children and young people. Positive feedback from a variety of sources had been received from service users of Chilypep who had a holistic approach to working with young people, schools and parents. Compass Be received their feedback via questionnaires filled in by schools, parents and children and were able to consider and develop services or make any necessary changes in processes based on whether they had been effective in supporting a child to produce change.

A question was asked as to what work was being undertaken in schools to help tackle self-harm as some Area Council's had funded a service from Ad Astra in order to help young people. In answer to the question, it was unknown the true extent of self-harm and what the root cause was, particularly in the age bracket of 10-25. Discussions were needed with schools and their workforce in order for them to understand trauma and work was required to encourage schools across Barnsley to take up workshops and free training in order for them to become Mental Health First Aiders. It was confirmed that a training programme around self-harm had been delivered in a number of schools across Barnsley.

Members asked as to why mental health issues in the LGBTQ plus community had not been included in the report. In answer to the question members noted that this information was included in the emotional health and wellbeing delivery plan which was cited in the report presented to the committee. Barnsley as an organisation have a specific support group for the 16-25 year olds to access and any young person was able to join weekly support groups. Work was being undertaken to help raise awareness in the community of the provision available.

Members raised concerns around the confusing messages of what provision to access when a child has self-harmed or in a mental health crisis. They were informed that this would depend on the circumstances at the time, in normal hours CAMHS could be accessed but out of hours it was suggested, dependent on the circumstances and severity, that A & E would be the best place to seek help.

Members questioned what services were on offer for children and young people presenting with eating disorders and whether any statistics were available from across Barnsley to show gender, age or demographics that could indicate what was happening in the Borough. Members were informed of the positive work being undertaken on eating disorder pathways and the collaborative working of various services involved in trying to tackle this issue and keep young people out of specialist mental health services at a lower level. It was noted that during the pandemic there was an increase in referrals and demand for eating disorder services which resulted in the expanded service now established. Pathways are now in place to support CAMHS in case of a significant increase in demand and can be stepped up or down effectively.

It was asked what the understanding was as to the root causes for poor mental health in children and young people in Barnsley. Members were informed that a vast number of issues could be the root cause and some of the issues presenting themselves included the pandemic, adverse childhood experiences, family issues, substance misuse and social media among many other things. Members commented that young people needed empowering to manage mental health and wellbeing and parents needed support to identify issues, it was recognised that poor mental health in parents could also be a cause of mental health issues presenting in their children.

Members enquired whether the pandemic had improved some children and young people's mental health with them being away from issues in schools that affected them prior to the lockdown. In response members were informed that people were affected in different ways during the pandemic and that Covid highlighted some additional issues but also that some children and young people did thrive away from the school environment. It was recognised that the approach and delivery of any help had to be individually focused to their specific needs and their family's needs in order to get them to a better and healthier place.

Members asked what the social media presence was of the services available to children and young people. In response they were informed that Compass Be had a good presence on a number of social media platforms and used it to send out mechanisms for self-help resources. Work would be undertaken with services and the Council to carry out a marketing campaign on the Mental Health Strategy. Chilypep had included young people in the co-creation and design of their social media posts and included their voice in campaigns. It was positively received that some social media could be used as a solution rather than a cause.

RESOLVED:-

- (i) that the witnesses be thanked for their attendance and the report be noted;

- (ii) that services ensure that messages being given to parents about where to take children and young people experiencing a crisis, particularly out of hours, are consistent and accurate
- (iii) that the Task and Finish Group take forward recommendations from the LGBTQ plus needs assessment

79 Special Education Needs & Disability (SEND) Provision in Barnsley

The following witnesses were welcomed to the meeting:

- Nina Sleight, Service Director Education, Early Start & Prevention, Barnsley Council
- Sue Day, Head of Service SEND and Inclusion, Barnsley Council
- Councillor Trevor Cave, Cabinet Spokesperson Children's Services
- Anna Turner, Head of Education and Partnerships, Barnsley Council
- Lee McClure, Headteacher Springvale Primary School and Joint Chair of Barnsley School Alliance
- Kwai Mo, Head of Service Mental Health and Disability, Barnsley Council
- Cllr Newing, Cabinet Spokesperson Place Health and Adult Social Care
- Jamie Wike, Deputy Place Director (Barnsley) South Yorkshire ICB
- Neil Wilkinson, Projects and Contracts Manager, Barnsley Council
- Hermione Rostron, Designated Clinical Officer, Barnsley Integrated Care Board
- Beverley Bradley, SEND Improvement Manager, Barnsley Council
- Steve Harrison, Head of Service for Children's Commissioning, Barnsley Council
- Richard Lynch, Service Director for Commissioning – Children's and Adults Services
- Donna Taylor, Head of Children's Social Care and Safeguarding, Barnsley Council
- Ashley Grey, Strategic Finance Business Partner, Barnsley Council
- Antony Devenport, Head of Service for Bereavement, Environment, Sport & Travel Assistance, Barnsley Council
- Cllr Higginbottom, Cabinet Spokesperson Environment and Highways

Nina Sleight, Service Director Education, Early Start & Prevention, provided members with a brief update of the progress and improvement made in the local area to support children with special educational needs. Members were informed that Barnsley had possibly the widest partnership representation at the committee which was a real reflection of how education, social care and health came together for children with special educational needs and showed the partnership required for the breadth of need and the complexity of challenges. Part of the key measures set out how to plan and deliver ambitions for SEND children in order for them to achieve positive educational outcomes and prepare for adulthood.

An update had been provided since the previous inspection showing positive progress had been made setting out priorities and measures to take as a partnership

in order to improve lives and develop the evidence bank to demonstrate we are making a positive difference.

Anthony Devonport, Head of Service for Bereavement, Environment, Sport & Travel Assistance, reported that although they are a separate service, they work hand in hand with colleagues and were strengthening as a service as they moved through the improvement plan.

Members enquired whether another phase would be added to the SEND Hub in Worsbrough which had capacity for 24 children. Members were informed that there would be a phase 2 with a provision for 16 children and young people.

In addition, members asked whether in the future there would still be a need to place children and young people out of the Borough for specialist provision once the additional Hubs were up and running. They were informed that it was the intention as part of the strategy to develop additional places in Barnsley so that more children and young people could be educated in their local area.

Members asked about how effective the current diagnosis pathways are and what could or needed to be done better. In response members were informed that there were a number of services in place to support diagnosis pathways by different providers. Whilst it was recognised that there were differences in processes for assessments in adults and children. Improvement needs had been identified for ways to work better between services and pathways. There was an awareness to the variation in waiting times which had been identified as a priority. There had been a number of actions taken to ensure that people on the waiting list received the support they needed whilst they were waiting to be assessed and treated. The increase in demand for assessments and diagnosis was having an impact on the support services, processes and pathways which required a joint focus in order to address the situation going forward.

Members requested timescales for waiting lists in both adults and children waiting for a diagnosis into ADHD and Autism and were informed that some young people were waiting up to 2 years for assessments, but this information would be clarified and circulated to members.

The Youth Council had asked how the services were working towards ensuring all young people have a successful transition or discharge from the service. In response, members heard that transitions were supported by a variety of providers from starting school by transitioning from nursery, primary, secondary, Post 16 on to adulthood. A number of specialist services were also involved in helping children with additional needs such as those who were visually impaired or with hearing impairments. Schools and settings were encouraged to work together for transitions.

Transition into adulthood was where Adult Social Care became involved from the age of 14 upwards respecting carers and families' voices and incorporating them in providing a wider opportunity in how to support them to be part of a community and have friendships. It was acknowledged that everybody involved had a part to play in terms of supporting all transitions. Children with ongoing health needs would not be discharged from health services but their pathways would be transitioned between the services received as children and the ones required going into adulthood.

Members were informed that some schools were aiding the transition from primary to secondary in two levels of visits of whole class and additional visits for children with SEND. More schools were buying into this approach in order to settle children quickly.

On behalf of the Youth Council a member questioned what Barnsley job opportunities for people with SEND were available, how the offer could be improved and what services do to ensure they are ready to go into a job.

In response members were informed that every child with an EHCP has a personal information, advice and guidance adviser who stays with them through the progress of their educational journey and pathways through training to employment. Independent travel training was going from strength to strength in referrals and the number of young people who were able to travel independently was critical to gaining employment in the future.

Members were provided with details of the numbers of people with SEND and EHCPs who had received work placements with Barnsley Council, the NHS, Berneslai Homes and other agencies which were above national averages. GXO had held a recruitment day for those with SEND in order to create more opportunities and routes into employment. The message for school aged children was that employment is for everyone from all walks of life.

Members enquired whether there would be provision to access learning past GCSEs in full time education. In response it was reported that qualification requirements in accessing particular courses could vary dependent on the course applied for. This was something to be picked up with Barnsley College so that children and young people with SEND could maximise opportunities for further education.

Members questioned the number of SEND pupils that had been lead through formal job interviews with GXO and what the plans were to work with other large employers in Barnsley. In response members heard that job offers were being processed and numbers could be shared once known. The interviews had been overseen by the Charity 'Employment is for Everyone' who had provided extra support in the recruitment and selection process. Members were provided with details of the work being undertaken by large employers through an Employer Forum which had been established. An emotional health and wellbeing toolkit had been created and approved by the Council and commissioned to help businesses and employers to help individuals to train and also aid them to know what could be done to help someone with SEND to feel comfortable in work.

After questioning, members were informed that SEND audits were being carried out by the Council in Local Authority maintained schools and Academies through a partnership approach. There were plans to audit all of the schools in the Borough, including some revisits, in the next 18 months.

Questions as to how schools managed their budgets to ensure that funding received was being used correctly were asked. In response members were informed that clear evidence had to be submitted to seek resources and spending in a school setting had to be validated and supported for the children who need it.

Concerns were raised as to the additional pressures created for other facilities due to the decision to close the respite facility at Robert Ogden School and the challenges for the children who attended this provision. In response members were informed that the decision had been made by the Trustees of the National Autistic Society due to economic pressures. The committee were assured that there would not be a significant impact on Barnsley Children as most travelled home. However, as soon as the Authority knew it was closing, arrangements were made to go and have discussions regarding alternative arrangements for the children who did access the respite provision.

Members questioned the council's decision not to sign a memorandum of understanding with any local groups applying for DfE parent/carer participation grants. In addition members questioned what was being done to resolve the complaints received from parents/carers of children with SEND and other groups.

Members were informed that the DfE were fully aware of the recent changes and situations raised. The Service had taken a decision along with Contact to take a different approach to working with parents and carers and that it was not the right time to re-establish formal parent carer forums in Barnsley. A local questionnaire had been carried out with 250 responses which had indicated a need to reset arrangements of what people want and how they want good working to look like. Steps were in place for community drop ins for parents and carers to be involved as this could not be done without their input.

The Cabinet Spokesperson Children's Services informed the committee that there had been a number of sensitive confidential emails raising concerns from some parents and carers involved. Cabinet had been updated on the SEND Improvement Plan which included the challenge highlighted and how best to ensure that the voices of parents and carers is heard. Members were reassured that they continued to do the best to ensure the voices that needed to be heard were heard, which was not always easy and that work continued in the best interest of the children.

The Committee questioned what was being done to support parents in sensitive and difficult situations who may or may not accept that their child has additional needs, or even that the parent themselves may have SEND. Members heard that every child and family have different circumstances and needs and it was a case of listening and understanding and providing support specifically to the family situation. It required being reactive to challenges and barriers and making the process as easy to understand as possible and ensuring the right care package was in place. Continued support was provided through family services and the Family Hubs going forward.

It was acknowledged that some families could sometimes struggle with the additional pressures having a SEND child creates in terms of suddenly having multiple professionals in their lives that they may not have anticipated. There was a responsibility for the Services to have accessible and useable information as to the help and services that were on offer to families.

Members asked what family support was available to help educate children at home who are SEND. A Support Worker was available in every school in the Borough and schools also had the extended offer of Compass Be. They were able to work with

children not in an educational setting and provide a support package to make sure they were working to get back into full time education.

The Chair thanked the witnesses for attending and updating the Committee and commended the serious work that Barnsley Council, NHS, Care Board and volunteers carried out in working for the benefits of the children and young people with the most need in the community.

RESOLVED:-

- (i) that witnesses be thanked for their attendance and that the report be noted;
- (ii) that witnesses provide the number of people with SEND who have been lead through formal job interviews with GXO and other large employers and the number of those who have been offered a job;
- (iii) that witnesses ensure there isn't a mismatch between the maximum number of qualifications attainable at Direct Entry level (Barnsley College Park Road Campus) and the number required to secure a place within post-16 education; and
- (iv) that witnesses provide requested timescales for waiting lists in both adults and children waiting for a diagnosis into ADHD and Autism

80 Adult Social Care Performance Report - Quarter 4 2022-23

The following witnesses were welcomed to the meeting:-

- Cllr Newing, Cabinet Spokesperson Place, Health and Adult Social Care, Barnsley Council
- Wendy Lowder, Executive Director, Place Health & Adult Social Care, Barnsley Council
- Dominic Armstrong, Service Manager, Improvement & Quality Assurance
- Richard Lynch, Service Director, Adults & Children's Commissioning
- Emma White, Health & Wellbeing Principal, Barnsley Council

Members enquired when the Service expected to complete the actions identified as a result of the findings of the safeguarding consultant. In response members were informed that all actions, including those that require collaboration with partners, were expected to be completed in October 2023.

Members questioned how confident the Service was in the effectiveness and sustainability of services in Barnsley given the pressures on the care market. Members noted that there were gaps in understanding a richer picture and that analysis surveys were taking place across the care market in order to gather more intelligence. This was due to conclude at the end of July 2023 and would provide the service with a richer picture to develop a delivery plan to shape the care market going forward. Barnsley's care market did not always delivery and the quality ratings were not at the highest level in comparison to neighbouring authorities. Around 75% of care homes in Barnsley had a 'good or outstanding' rating with a number of

providers with a 'requires improvement' rating. More work alongside the care market was to be carried out in order for it to become sustainable so fees paid are comparable and enable providers to deliver high quality services.

A query was raised as to how the pay in the care sector compared to supermarkets. In response the committee members were told that work had been undertaken to try and increase wages so they were comparable with the NHS banding of support workers. However, it was acknowledged that more detailed work was required in order to carry out a comparison with logistics centres such as Amazon.

A question was raised as to the work being undertaken to retain trained staff as there was a seemingly high turnover in the care sector. In response the committee was informed that the onus was on the owners of the companies and that staffing turn over could never be stopped, particularly in providers who continued to deliver services under requires improvement. It was one job to shake the market into paying good wages and another to encourage the delivery of good quality services.

Following more detailed questioning of the Adult Social Care Quality Commission Inspection readiness, members were provided with a detailed explanation as to the work being carried out. Details of which included mock interviews with all managers in adult social care, staff focus groups, a visit from a secret inspector and welcome packs for roles and responsibilities of staff and managers. It was acknowledged that regardless of the framework, the summary could not be anticipated but they had done all they could to be in the best possible position to be the best rated providers.

In further questioning members were informed that there had been a lot of work into the adult social care front door by adopting learning from a multi-agency approach which helps those in need to receive assessments more quickly.

RESOLVED that witnesses be thanked for their attendance and the report be noted.

Chair