

1. Child and Adolescent Mental Health (CAMHS) Task Group

Membership:

Cllr Phil Alford (Chairman)
Cllr Clare Cape
Cllr Gordon King
Cllr Fred Westmoreland

Supporting Officer: Natalie Heritage

Terms of Reference:

That the CAMHS Task Group:

- a) Consider the governance arrangements for the recommissioned CAHMS service;
- b) Explore and understand the new CAHMS model in comparison to the existing model and consider the evidence base for any changes. Then where appropriate, make recommendations to support its implementation and effectiveness;
- c) Look at existing data and ensure that the new model's performance will be robustly monitored and benchmarked against this by the council, partners and by the proposed future scrutiny exercise;
- d) Consider access and referral points within the new CAHMS model and, as appropriate, make recommendations to maximise take-up by children and young people in need of support;
- e) Explore where CAMHS sits within the overall landscape of children and young people's mental health and, within this, consider whether prevention services are effective

Recent Activity

2 October 2019

The Task Group met on 2 October to discuss with the Executive and Officers how their first recommendations had been implemented. The discussion centred around the 'On Your Mind' website, the new Mental Health Support Teams to be established in Wiltshire schools, and the Single-Point of Contact arrangements of the CAMH service.

Members were pleased to learn about how their recommendations had helped to add value and briefly discussed their Forward Plan for their second phase of work.

23 October 2019

The Task Group also met on 23 October to consider data for how the re-commissioned CAMHS model is monitored and benchmarked. Members had been told that it was not possible to view data during their first phase of work, as

the re-commissioned model had only recently been implemented and, as a result, appropriate statistics were not yet available.

The Task Group looked at access rates to mental health services in Wiltshire and compared Wiltshire's position with BANES and Swindon, as well as Wiltshire's statistical neighbour authorities. Members raised concern that BANES and Swindon's access rates appeared to be higher than Wiltshire's, despite all three areas having the same contract in place. It was clarified that there had been issues around data reporting amongst all three authorities and this affected the overall data quality; meaning that the data could not be seen as reliable. The Task Group recommended that the Council's Commissioners work with their counterparts in BANES and Swindon to resolve this issue and ensure that future data is of a high quality and represents an accurate picture.

Alongside this, the Task Group considered the Performance Assessment Framework, which is used to monitor progress and quality of service delivery, as well as statistics on demand for the CAMH service. As had recently been reported by NHS England on benchmarking nationally, demand for CAMHS is outstripping supply, however, Wiltshire had already drafted an improvement plan and the Task Group will be reviewing this at their next meeting. Additionally, the CAMHS workforce had expanded recently and the Task Group are due to receive updated information on the number and breakdown of vacancies and positions that have been recruited in 2019.

The Task Group will be attending Wiltshire's Youth Mental Health and Wellbeing Conference in Devizes on 13 November; where they will have the opportunity to discuss with third sector providers and understand the support that they provide to children and young people's mental health. Following this, the Task Group will meet again with the Executive and Officers on 10 December 2019.

Proposal

For the Health Select Committee to endorse the CAMHS Task Group's recommendation:

- i) For Wiltshire Council's Commissioners to work with their counterparts in BANES and Swindon to resolve the issues around data reporting on 'Access Rates', so that this data can be of a high quality and relied upon to represent an accurate picture of accessibility to mental health services.**

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