

Wiltshire Council

Health Select Committee

14 January 2020

Task Group Update

Purpose

To provide an update on recent task group activity and propose any decisions requiring Committee approval.

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

The CAMHS Task Group met on 10 December to look at governance arrangements, the CAMHS Improvement Plan and the NHS's Benchmarking report.

The Task Group learnt of and discussed the various levels and layers of scrutiny provided within the CAMHS model. The local level arrangements relate to the monthly CAMHS contract review meetings. Alongside this, Oxford Health (the CAMH service provider) also have their own governance structures; one of these being Task and Finish groups, who focus on specific areas of service delivery, for example, the work of psychiatrists. The Oxford Health Trust also has a Project Board and all the local areas where Oxford Health delivers CAMHS, report into this Board.

As CAMHS in Wiltshire also spreads across BANES and Swindon, the members discussed the importance of sustaining place-based scrutiny of services for Wiltshire. The CCG's interim Director of Community and Joint Commissioning attended December's meeting and assured that her role was to help maintain scrutiny of place-based services.

Additionally, the members discussed CAMHS' new Case Management Tool, although still in its early days, this system is partly intended to ensure that children/young people across BANES, Swindon and Wiltshire receive parity of care.

In regard to the Improvement Plan, this document sets out how CAMHS is working on enhancing the service that it delivers. Regular updates on the plan's progress are required to be submitted to both the monthly contract review meetings, as well as to the Project Board.

When considering national statistics from the NHS, Wiltshire's progress was evident. For example, the average waiting time from referral to assessment is nine weeks, whereas in Wiltshire this figure is five weeks (or seven weeks according to year-to-date data). The NHS have highlighted that demand is outstripping supply and in response, have committed to expanding the workforce.

The Task Group are next due to meet in February, where they will discuss outcomes-based commissioning and whether waiting times have improved, since the re-commissioned CAMHS model has been implemented.

Proposal

1. To note the task group updates provided.

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