

Report of the Assistant Director (Children's Specialist Services) to the Meeting of the Corporate Parenting Panel to be held on 13th January 2016

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Subject:

Emotional wellbeing of Looked after children (LAC) (Mental Health Taskforce & Transformation)

Summary statement:

This paper has been requested by the Corporate Parenting Panel as a follow up report from the 22nd April, whereby Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS) to Looked After Children were discussed as an ongoing concern. The purpose is to ensure that children and young people within our Looked After Service receive the emotional support they need in a timely manner and that the staff are supported with their training and skills.

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Portfolio:

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1. SUMMARY

- 1.1 This paper has been requested by the Corporate Parenting Panel as a follow up report from the 22nd April 2015 whereby Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS) to Looked After Children were discussed.

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1 A report tabled in September 2014 set out the context to good mental health for children and young people being everyone's business with the District's Healthy Minds Strategy (a more detailed discussion was held in the November of the previous year 2013). If the emotional needs of children in care are met they will be more likely to have stable placements and make a good transition into adulthood.
- 2.2 The report in September set out the views of children and young people in residential care and the staff within the children's homes. It set out the need to improve the emotional wellbeing support to Looked After Children in the Bradford District.
- 2.3 The findings were discussed in relation to the positive aspects of the current emotional wellbeing service and the areas for improvement as well as the Trusted Adult Model were tabled and discussed in the report on 22nd April 2015.
- 2.4 The National Children and Young People's Mental Health Taskforce was established in September 2014 to consider 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.
- 2.5 The final report, Future in Mind – Promoting, protecting and improving our children and young people's mental health and well-being was published on the 17th March 2015 citing an urgent need for change within the delivery of emotional wellbeing services and CAMHS.
- 2.6 Five key themes provided the structure of the report:
- Promoting resilience, prevention and early intervention
 - Improving access to effective support
 - Care for the most vulnerable
 - Accountability and transparency
 - Developing the workforce
- 2.7 NHS England required the development and agreement of Transformation Plans for Children and Young People's Mental Health and Wellbeing which clearly articulated the Local Offer. The plans needed to cover the whole spectrum of services for children and young people's mental health and wellbeing from; health promotion and prevention work, to support and interventions for children and young people who have existing or emerging mental health problems, as well as transitions between services.
- 2.8 Bradford's Transformation Plan has been submitted and will hopefully demonstrate robust action planning in order draw down on this investment.

2.9 Once final approval has been received a Programme Board will be established to implement the plan, the lead of this will be via the Health CAMHS commissioner across the Clinical Commissioning Groups.

2.10 The main strands of the local plan cover:

- School engagement
- Eating disorders
- Acute mental health vulnerable groups including LAC
- Single point of access and workforce development

More information can be found in **(Appendix A)**.

3. REPORT ISSUES

3.1 It is important to note the interface between Futures in Mind and Journey to Excellence.

3.2 Journey to Excellence is a multi agency change programme lead by Children's Services. It aims to transform our approach to family support and the provision of care for children and young people within the Bradford District.

3.3 Journey to Excellence goes alongside our other local priorities to improve health and education outcomes and increase employment and skills. The focus is specifically on four main areas, with the fourth area concentrating on LAC children and young people.

1. Developing our integrated Early Help offer across all key agencies:
2. Better response to young people in crisis:

Develop an integrated service across children's, adult's and health services for young people aged 14-25 years with complex health and/or disabilities Refocusing children's placement provision within the Bradford District:

- smaller children's homes
- more foster carers for teenagers
- a shared model of care across placements, health, education and other key services

3.4 A model for dedicated CAMHS team is still being developed specifically for Looked After Children (LAC) which will combine Local Authority and Health resources. This will be accelerated under the Journey to Excellence and the Futures in Mind - transformational plan **(Appendix A)**.

3.5 The model is looking at the function of a dedicated service aligning Specialist CAMHS staff, CAMHS Social Workers. There are also discussions underway about aligning the LAC Health Nurses. A draft model will be proposed by mid January at which point a detailed implementation plan will need to be agreed.

3.6 The proposed model of care within placements will deliver:

Attachment, emotional regulation and trauma informed model of care – local experience and training in PACE & Dyadic Systems

Resilience

Team Teach

Outcome Star

Signs of Safety

Building life skills for independence

3.7 The new team will support the new model of care for all placements across Bradford and be specific in its outcomes, using benchmarked performance information to improve the emotional wellbeing of children in care. There will be oversight from regional support services to ensure provision is meeting demand for those children placed within the Bradford area as well as those young people placed out of district.

3.8 The Aim of the model will be to ensure;

- **To children and young people:** We will provide you with safety, security, a sense of belonging, opportunities, experiences and life skills. We want to build trusting relationships to help you be the best that you can be.
- **To ourselves:** We aspire to develop a workforce that is therapeutically trained and supported, motivated, aspirational and highly skilled, who have the best interests of the children at the heart of everything they do.

3.9 Work has been completed as part of the Journey to Excellence on sufficiency data based on an analysis of the children cared for out of district and profiling the needs of the present residential cohort. Following this work detailed planning will take place around children who could possibly return to the district, move from residential to foster care or return home to family members. Using the model we will work closely with our partner health and education agencies in order to meet the needs for those children, and their families, who it has been assessed as being safe to return home to Bradford.

4. OPTIONS

- 4.1 For Children's Specialist Services to continue to work closely with NHS Commissioners, the LAC Health Team and CAMHS to improve the service to LAC taking into consideration the views of children, young people, the staff and the Children in Care Council.
- 4.2 To continue to develop and review the integrated model to a wider range of young people, evaluating the progress made of each individual young person in relation to their emotional well being as well as increasing their learning potential and positive outcomes achieved.

5. CONTRIBUTION TO STRATEGIC PRIORITIES

- 5.1 A sound, robust and accessible emotional wellbeing service contribute to children young people feeling safe and prepares them to achieve in school and make a successful transition to adulthood.

6. NOT FOR PUBLICATION DOCUMENTS

None.

7. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 7.1 Members are asked to note the report and consider whether they wish to seek further information about issues raised.

8. APPENDICES

Appendix A - Bradford's Children and Young People's Mental Health Transformational Plan.

9. BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

None.