

## Cabinet Meeting on Wednesday 18 December 2019

### Improving the Emotional Health and Wellbeing for Children and Young People in Staffordshire



#### **Cllr Mark Sutton, Cabinet Member for Children and Young People said:**

“Enabling children and young people to live independently, achieve their aspirations and make a positive contribution to their community is really important. Poor emotional wellbeing in young people can seriously affect these outcomes, which is why we need to ensure they can access the right support to ensure their emotional wellbeing is maintained.

“By working with our partners in the CCGs we can make better use of digital, with access to online counselling, information, advice and support, reduce

inconsistencies in our current arrangements, and ensure every child has access to the same services.”

#### **Report Summary:**

This report contains information about existing provision for children and young people’s emotional health and wellbeing and the work undertaken by Staffordshire County Council (“SCC”) and the 5 Staffordshire Clinical Commissioning Groups (“the Staffordshire CCGs”) to jointly commission a new countywide emotional health and wellbeing service for children and young people.

A number of contracts are currently in place providing Tier 2 services for children and young people with low level emotional and mental health needs across Staffordshire. These services are commissioned individually by SCC the Staffordshire CCGs.

In addition to the above SCC and the Staffordshire CCGs jointly commission a bespoke service for children in care and care leavers.

SCCs budget for the existing services is circa £1,000,000.

The existing contracts expire on the 31<sup>st</sup> March 2020 and a procurement process has been undertaken to identify a successful provider for the new service.

The new service model has been developed jointly by SCC and the Staffordshire CCGs, with input from a wide range of stakeholders including children & young people and providers. The service will incorporate a new digital offer to enable children & young people to access information advice & guidance and online counselling, along with direct support. SCC will work with the successful provider to prevent or mitigate the risks to children & young people in relation to their use of social media whilst maximising the benefits to their emotional wellbeing. The new

service also provides the opportunity to reduce the inconsistencies that exist in the current arrangements, standardise referral and assessment processes and ensure an equitable offer of services.

The new service is due to commence on the 1<sup>st</sup> April 2020. The 4-year contract will have an annual value of circa £1,000,000 and SCC are acting as the contracting authority.

### **Recommendations**

I recommend that:

- a. Cabinet approval is granted, allowing a delegated decision for contract award in January 2020, subsequent mobilisation and service commencement from the 1<sup>st</sup> of April 2020.

<b>Local Members Interest</b>
N/A

## **Cabinet – Wednesday 18 December 2019**

### **Improving the Emotional Health and Wellbeing of Children and Young People in Staffordshire**

#### **Recommendations of the Cabinet Member for Children and Young People**

I recommend that:

- a. Cabinet approval is granted, for a delegated decision allowing for contract award in January 2020, subsequent mobilisation and service commencement from the 1<sup>st</sup> of April 2020.

#### **Report of the Deputy Chief Executive and Director for Families and Communities**

##### **Reasons for Recommendations:**

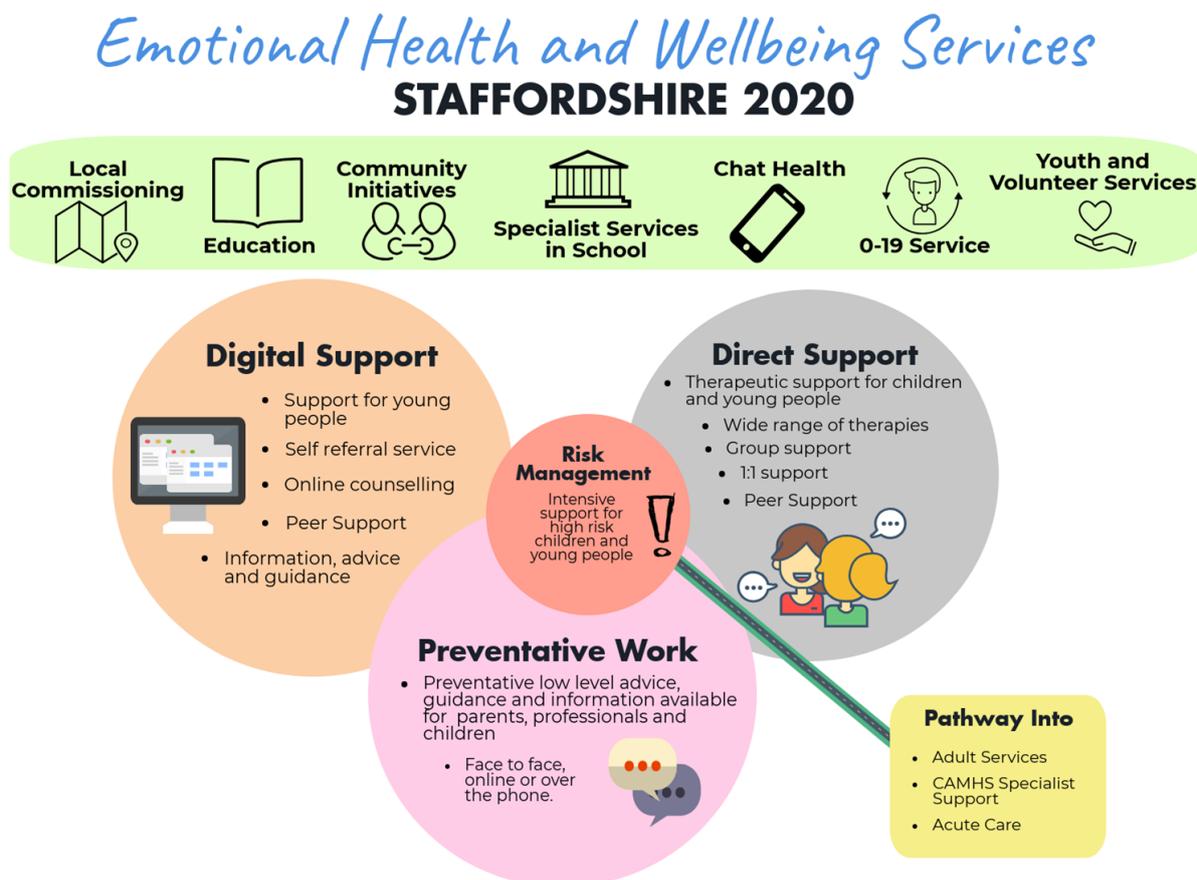
##### **Background**

1. In early 2019 the 'Pan-Staffordshire Strategy for Children & Young People's Mental Health and Emotional Wellbeing 2018-2023' was approved by SCC, Stoke-on-Trent City Council and the 6 Clinical Commissioning Groups within Staffordshire & Stoke-on-Trent.
2. The strategy is to enable children & young people to live independently, achieve their aspirations, make a positive contribution to their community and to be able to access the right support to ensure their emotional wellbeing is maintained.
3. Poor emotional wellbeing can adversely affect desired outcomes for children & young people. The impact can be far reaching and have lifelong consequences. Often an impact of poor emotional wellbeing in children is poor school attendance which adversely affects educational achievement and, consequently, future employment prospects.
4. Existing arrangements to support the emotional health & wellbeing of children & young people within Staffordshire comprises of two different services which are outlined below.
5. Currently SCC commissions 4 Tier 2 contracts; services for children and young people with low level emotional and mental health needs. The current providers each have a different method of referral and each provides a different service meaning there is no uniformity of service throughout the county.
6. The sum of the annual contract values for the 4 Tier 2 services is £301,016.

7. The Staffordshire CCGs also have arrangements in place with the majority of the same Tier 2 service providers and joint contract management arrangements are in place between the Staffordshire CCGs and SCC in respect of those providers.
8. In addition to the above, SCC and the Staffordshire CCGs jointly commission a bespoke service for children in care and care leavers. Joint funding arrangements are in place for that service that total £591,276.00 annually, the contributions being:
  - a. Total annual funding (SCC): £397,791.00
  - b. Total annual funding (the Staffordshire CCGs): £193,485.00
9. Each of the SCC contracts expire on 31st March 2020. In order to comply with the Public Contract Regulations 2015 SCC is required to tender for any replacement service. Any replacement service would need to be up and running by 1st April 2020. The SCC funding outlined in paragraphs 6 and 8 and the Staffordshire CCGs funding of its Tier 2 services has been pooled to enable a new service to be jointly commissioned.

## Future Arrangements

10. The new service model is outlined below and aligns with the Pan-Staffordshire Strategy.



11. Please also refer to Appendix 1 for the service specification.
12. The above model provides the opportunity to reduce the inconsistencies that exist in the current arrangements. Improvements include; standardised referral and assessment processes and an equitable offer of services.
13. Over 165 children and young people were consulted in early 2019 to ascertain what any re-designed emotional health and wellbeing service should include. In response to the feedback a digital offer has been incorporated into the new service model.
14. In line with the SEND Code of Practice (2014) and SCC's responsibility as a corporate parent, the new service will provide the choice to access support up to the age of 25 years for young people with SEND and/or Staffordshire care leavers.
15. In order to take advantage of potential providers knowledge SCC, in partnership with the Staffordshire CCGs, undertook the competitive dialogue procedure procurement process. The procurement involved 4 potential bidders. There were 3 stages to the dialogue process. Following each stage of the process the service specification (Appendix 1) was revised to reflect the learning gained from interaction with the potential providers.
16. Alongside the procurement process outlined above commissioners and providers of current services have been working closely together on exit planning. An important element of this continues to be ensuring that children and young people receive the support they need before any case is closed.

## **List of Background Documents/Appendices:**

Appendix 1 – Emotional Health and Wellbeing Service Specification

Community Impact Assessment – Summary Document

## **Contact Details**

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