

Local Members Interest
N/A

Healthy Staffordshire Select Committee - Wednesday 09 October 2019

A Stoke-on-Trent and Staffordshire Approach to Children and Young People's Emotional Wellbeing and Mental Health 2018 – 2023 - Update

Recommendations

I recommend that:

- a. The Select Committee acknowledges the progress made regarding the transformation of Children & Young People's Emotional Wellbeing and Mental Health services as a result of the pan-Staffordshire strategy.
- b. Members of the Committee continue to act as champions to raise awareness of positive emotional wellbeing and mental health.
- c. The Select Committee endorse the joint commission of a new Emotional Health and Wellbeing Service for children and young people across Staffordshire.

Report of Cllr Mark Sutton, Cabinet Member for Children and Young People

Summary

What is the Select Committee being asked to do and why?

1. The Select Committee is being asked to review the progress made by the partnership in the implementation of the strategy.
2. The Select Committee is being asked to review Appendix D (service specification) prior to requesting endorsement from Cabinet on Wednesday 18th December.
3. The select committee members are being asked to champion the approach the partnership is seeking to embed.

Report

Background

Children and Young People's Mental Health and Emotional Wellbeing Strategy 2018-2023.

4. In early 2019 Pan-Staffordshire Strategy (Appendix A) was approved by Staffordshire County Council, Stoke-on-Trent City Council and the six Clinical Commissioning Groups (CCGs) within Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent.

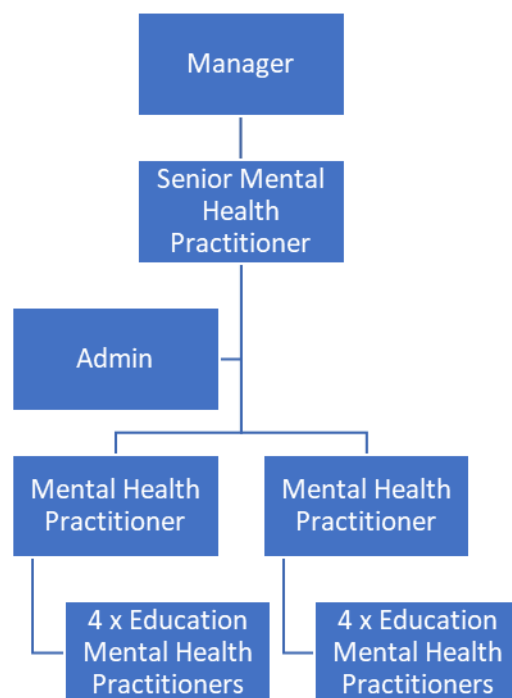
5. The strategy sought to enable children and young people to live independently, achieving their aspirations, make a positive contribution to their community and when needed access the right support needed to ensure that they maintained positive emotional wellbeing.
6. The strategy recognised the critical role of children and young people in influencing the support that they receive.
7. Existing governance groups were reviewed and aligned to the newly developed strategy. This provided renewed focus for the Future in Mind Boards, in both North and South Staffordshire. These boards previously reported into the CAMHS Joint Commissioning Board which has been superseded by the CAMHS Transformation Board of the Sustainability & Transformation Partnership (STP).
8. In the last 6 months both Future in Mind Boards have focussed on the following strands of the strategy: high level outcomes, participation, risk and crisis, workforce development and community approach.
9. The CAMHS Transformation Board was established recognising the need for a whole-system and partnership approach to transformation. Working at pace this Board has already set out its intentions via a Project Initiation Document and Project Plan. The plan consists of three priorities and already a range of partners have taken ownership of leading the workstreams:
 - a. Priority 1 – **Delivery of the strategy:** A key activity here is a review of community CAMHS to be undertaken within 18 months.
 - b. Priority 2 – improved pathways and whole-system approach. Two actions within this workstream are to ensure service user and carer participation is prioritised within all services and that a consistent model for referral and triage is agreed across 2 single points of access (North & South Staffordshire) within the next 12 months.
 - c. Priority 3 – better access for those children and young people who **require specialist intervention**. One action within this workstream is the delivery of a Looked After Children (LAC) mental health pilot. See 2.3 below for further details.

Local Developments

Mental Health Trailblazer

10. In 2017, the Government published its Green paper for transforming children and young people's mental health, detailing its proposal for expanding access to mental health care for children and young people. Its proposals focused on providing additional support through schools and colleges, reducing waiting times for treatment. CCGs were then asked to bid for funding to become a Trailblazer site.

11. Within Staffordshire there was a successful bid in Wave 1 for North Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent. SCC analysed data to identify schools for inclusion in the programme using data such as deprivation indices, number of Free School Meals, number of LAC and others.
12. Four Mental Health Support Teams (MHSTs) have been established; two teams within Stoke-on-Trent and two teams within North Staffordshire. Education Mental Health Practitioners (EMHPs) form a large proportion of the Trailblazer workforce and will provide designated schools with early intervention mental wellbeing support.
13. EMHPs spend one year training at university and working part-time in their schools. In the second and final year they will be working full-time within their allocated communities. Their remit is to support low level mental wellbeing needs via evidence-based assessments with individual pupils and groups, see Appendix B.
14. In North Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent the EMHPs commenced their training at the start of 2019 and became partly operational within their schools from May 2019. There are 31 schools; a mixture of primary, secondary schools, colleges and alternative providers; participating in Trailblazer in North Staffordshire and the Moorlands, see Appendix C. The staffing structure for each Mental Health Support team is outlined below.



15. The requirements for this additional funding includes robust performance monitoring. It is understood that the performance monitoring takes a health, intervention focus in the main. However, Midlands Partnership NHS Foundation Trust and North Staffordshire Combined Healthcare NHS Trust are also keen to

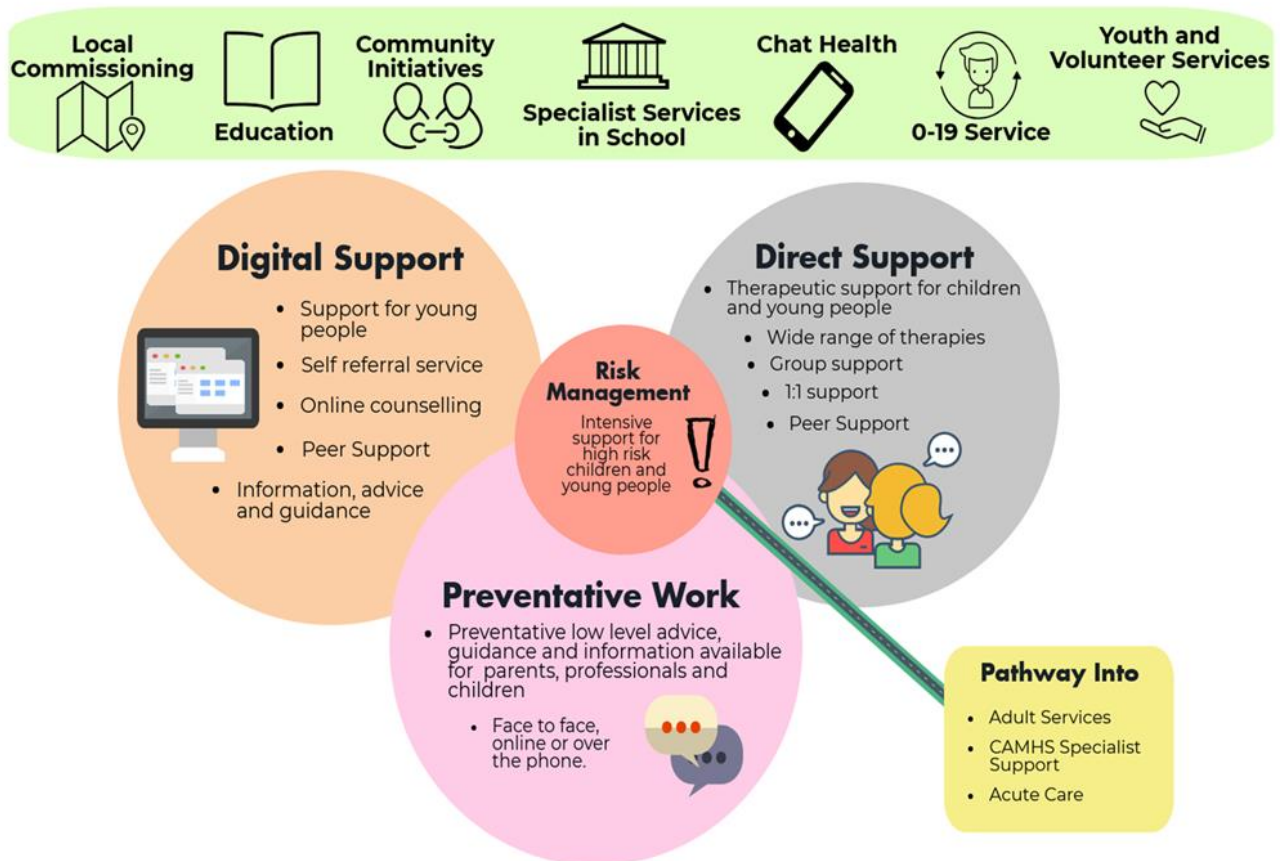
determine how they can report on the 'softer' outcomes associated with Trailblazer, for example building capacity and resource within schools to support students to be emotionally aware.

16. More recently, East Staffordshire have been successful in Wave 2 of the Trailblazer Programme. There are two MHSTs for East Staffordshire. The staffing structure is as outlined in Paragraph 14 above. 30 schools have been identified to participate in the Trailblazer Programme; confirmation of the schools' agreement to engage in the programme is currently being collated.
17. Further information regarding Trailblazer can be found within Appendix B & C.

Emotional Health & Wellbeing Service (1 April 2020 – 31 March 2024)

18. Existing arrangements to support the emotional health & wellbeing of children & young people within Staffordshire comprises of two different services;
 - a. Four Tier 2 contracts
 - b. A bespoke contract to deliver a service for LAC and Care Leavers.
19. The sum of the annual contract values for the four Tier 2 services, commissioned by SCC, is £301,016.
20. The CCGs also have arrangements in place with the majority of the same Tier 2 service providers and joint contract management arrangements are in place with SCC.
21. Joint funding arrangements regarding the service for LAC and Care Leavers are in place between SCC and the CCGs to the sum of £584,259.
 - a. Total annual funding (SCC): £397,791
 - b. Total annual funding (CCGs): £196,468
22. SCC contracts expire on the 31st March 2020. In order to comply with Public Contracts Regulations 2015 SCC are required to go out to tender for the redesigned service which will commence on the 1st April 2020. The funding outlined in Paragraphs 19 and 21 along with CCG funding currently assigned to Tier 2 services has been pooled to enable a new service to be jointly commissioned.
23. We have entered in to competitive dialogue to secure the transformational approach we need to deliver the strategy. There were three stages to the dialogue process, following each stage the service specification (Appendix D) was revised to reflect the learning gained from the process and to further define the requirements.
24. The new service model is outlined below. Please refer to Appendix E for details of the consultation process used to inform both the strategy and the new service model.

Emotional Health and Wellbeing Services STAFFORDSHIRE 2020



25. In recognition of the critical role that children and young people play in influencing the services that they receive their contribution has been invaluable through the process we have embarked upon. Over 165 children and young people (see Appendix E for further details) were consulted in early 2019 to ascertain what functional elements a future emotional health and wellbeing service should have. The model outlined in the infographic in Paragraph 24 is a direct result of the feedback and reflects their request for choice. Children and young people wanted a digital option for example but did not want this to replace all face-to-face options for the service. They asked for simple service access along with an overarching ethos of listening and advising rather than medicalising.
26. In order for the new service to commence on the 1st April 2020 the contract needs to be awarded to the successful bidder by the 2nd January 2020. This allows time for a wide range of significant activities to take place during the mobilisation period between contract award (January) and contract commencement (April).
27. Commissioners and providers of current services are working closely together on exit planning. An important element of this is ensuring that children & young people receive the support they need before an ethical case closure to any therapeutic intervention.

Looked-after children mental health assessment pilot.

28. In early 2019 SCC were informed by the Department for Education (DfE) that they had been successful in gaining LAC mental health assessment pilot status, along with nine other Local Authorities. Since June 2019 we have engaged fully with the DfE and their chosen consortium members; the Anna Freud Centre and SQW Group Ltd to begin the planning and implementation phases of the pilot process.
29. SCC are expected to implement a pilot that helps the DfE understand how to improve mental health and emotional wellbeing assessments that looked-after children receive when they enter care, as part of their health assessment. The SCC pilot will focus on carrying out improved assessments that:
 - a. Are good quality, enabling accurate identification of need;
 - b. Occur at the right time;
 - c. Are needs focused and person centred.
30. The DfE is providing £65,000 for the period from 1st April 2019 to 30th September 2020 for the delivery of LAC mental health assessments to between 30 – 35 children. This sum is to cover staff and operational costs incurred in the delivery of the pilot and to fund the necessary licence agreements for the pre-determined mental health assessment tools.
31. SCC have now identified a Virtual Mental Health Lead (VMHL), Project Manager and two Experts by Experience (EbE) (care leavers who can provide support to children going through the pilot process) in order to facilitate the roll-out of assessments. A clear implementation plan and interlinked LAC Mental Health Implementation Group are in place and direct work with children has now begun.
32. Children coming into SCC Care Court and Planning Teams, between the ages of 5 -11 years will be eligible for the pilot if they are being cared for by SCC foster carers. Work to assess the emotional and mental health of these children will occur via a range of assessment methods involving carers, education professionals, LAC nurses and primarily their social worker. This process will link directly to the child's Personal Education Plan (PEP) and will eventually result in the formulation of a mental health and wellbeing passport that the child can take ownership of.
33. The VMHL is delivering staff training to all relevant professionals on a monthly basis in order to ensure that everyone involved is conversant with the process and their part in it.
34. The EbE role that has been identified by the consortium as a necessary element of the pilot will be provided by two staff members of the SCC Voice Project. Both are care leavers and have direct experience that will enable them to fulfil this role.
35. Learning taken from SCC and other Local Authorities will help the DfE but also SCC to understand how and if this assessment process can work in the long term, and on a much wider scale.

Conclusion

36. This report outlines the progress made by partners in transforming children and young people's emotional wellbeing and mental health services. Whilst it acknowledges that there have been additional national developments such as Mental Health Trailblazer and the LAC Mental Health assessments pilots these are in keeping with the ambitions of the strategy, we set out to deliver and have therefore supported its implementation.
37. There is an acknowledgement that responding to the national developments to secure this ongoing commitment has resulted in delays to some aspects of the strategy, but it is recognised that this supports a more ambitious approach which will improve emotional wellbeing at a faster pace than expected within Staffordshire.
38. The Emotional Wellbeing Service has been developed and embeds the vision and principles from the strategy and starts to realise the implementation of a new way of working. This approach will deliver a more equitable service across the county which will improve the accessibility and types of support available for children and young people in Staffordshire.
39. Moving forward the CAMHS Transformation Board of the STP will be the vehicle to ensure that the joint vision within the strategy is delivered. This group is committed to several key activities outlined in the strategy to accelerate the change required to deliver the transformation required.

List of Background Documents/Appendices:

Appendix A - Starting Well, Living Well, Supporting Well: A Stoke-on-Trent and Staffordshire Approach to Children and Young People's Mental Health and Emotional Wellbeing 2018-2023 Strategy

Appendix B - Trailblazer Information; EHMP's curriculum of learning, types of difficulties children and young people can get support with, intervention medium, four-week referral to treatment (North Staffs and Stoke on Trent only).

Appendix C - Trailblazer confirmed schools in the North Staffordshire, Staffordshire Moorlands and East Staffordshire.

Appendix D - Service specification for the provision of Improving the Emotional Health and Wellbeing of Children and Young People in Staffordshire.

Appendix E - Consultation Information

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