

Overview and Scrutiny Performance Board

Tuesday, 19 December 2023, 10.00 am, Council Chamber, County Hall, Worcester

Membership

Councillors:

Cllr Tom Wells (Chairman), Cllr James Stanley (Vice Chairman), Cllr Alastair Adams, Cllr David Chambers, Cllr Brandon Clayton, Cllr Matt Dormer, Cllr Emma Stokes, Cllr Shirley Webb, Cllr Richard Udall and Mr Tim Reid

Co-opted Church Representatives (for education matters)

Vacancy (Church Representative - Catholic)

Parent Governor Representatives (for education matters)

Vacancy (Primary) and Vacancy (Secondary)

Agenda Supplement

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Date of Issue: Monday, 13 December 2023

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OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY PERFORMANCE BOARD 19 DECEMBER 2023

CHILD AND ADOLESCENT MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES (CAMHS) – UPDATE ON SCRUTINY RECOMMENDATIONS

Summary

1. The Board has requested an update on the progress made following the recommendations agreed by Cabinet in March 2023 in respect of the Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS) Scrutiny Report.
2. The CMR for Health and Wellbeing, the Director of Public Health, the Director of Childrens Services/Chief Executive, Worcestershire Children First (WCF), and representatives from the Herefordshire and Worcestershire Integrated Care Board (ICB) have been invited to the meeting.

Background

3. In December 2019, the Overview and Scrutiny Performance Board (OSPB) agreed to set up a Scrutiny Task Group *to investigate access to and the availability of appropriate mental health services for children and adolescents*.
4. Unfortunately, this work was interrupted by the Covid-19 pandemic and was restarted in December 2021.
5. The OSPB considered the Task Group's Scrutiny report on 27 February 2023 (attached at Appendix 1) and fully endorsed the recommendations and requested that an update be provided in 6 months' time.

Consideration by the Council's Cabinet and the Herefordshire and Worcestershire Integrated Care Board

6. Given the cross-cutting nature of the subject matter and the collaborative way in which services are delivered, the responses to the Scrutiny Report of both the CMR for Health and Wellbeing and the ICB (attached at Appendix 2) were considered by Cabinet on 30 March 2023.
7. It was resolved that Cabinet:
 - (a) received the Scrutiny Report about Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services, together with the responses from the Cabinet Members with Responsibility and the Herefordshire and Worcestershire Integrated Care Board; and
 - (b) noted the Scrutiny Report's findings and recommendations and adopted the response of the Cabinet Members with Responsibility as the way forward.
8. At this meeting it was noted that the CMR for Health and Wellbeing felt that Children's mental health was of the highest priority and confirmed it would be

considered by the Health and Wellbeing Board and the Children and Young Peoples' Strategic Partnership (CYPSP) to ensure a system wide collaborative approach would be taken. Discussion was also needed with strategic professionals.

Health and Wellbeing Board

9. On 23 May 2023, it was resolved that the Health and Wellbeing Board:
 - a) Received the Scrutiny Report about Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services; and
 - b) Agreed that the Children and Young People's Strategic Partnership, as a sub-group of the Health and Wellbeing Board, consider the report and responses of the Cabinet Member with Responsibility and Herefordshire and Worcestershire Integrated Care Board to ensure a system wide collaborative approach be taken.

CAMHS Action Plan

10. In May 2023, the CYPSP, as the subgroup of the Health and Wellbeing Board (HWBB) considered the recommendations of the Scrutiny Report agreed by Cabinet to ensure a system wide and collaborative response and identify a draft action plan. The Children and Young People's Emotional Wellbeing and Mental Health Partnership Group (EWMH), a subgroup of the CYPSP and advisory group to the wider all age Mental Health Collaborative was tasked to further develop and finalise the action plan.
11. The EWMH group worked through the recommendations and identified the activities and solutions to be summarised into four key overarching actions. The updated CAMHS Action Plan was considered by the CYPSP in October 2023 and a revised final Action Plan was developed (attached at Appendix 3).

Mental Health Collaborative

12. In addition to the development of the CAMHS Action Plan, the Mental Health Collaborative has also continued to develop services to children and young people (CYP) with emotional health and wellbeing (EHWB) and mental health (MH) needs. The Mental Health Collaborative is a multi-agency partnership and had a dedicated meeting in October on the development of services CYP with EHWB and MH needs. The following points are the progress at Quarter 2 of 2023/24 of the activity of this subgroup and are interrelated with the development of CAMHS.
 - A. The CYP MH Transformation Plan for Worcestershire is now published and is attached at Appendix 4. The Delivery Plan was refreshed in September 2023.
 - B. The Worcestershire Urgent Care Pathway Protocol will be refreshed to include interface between agencies, pathways and escalation processes. The CAMHS clinical service operates 9am-5pm in Worcestershire with a CAMHS crisis home treatment service in place until 8pm, 7 days per week and a 24/7 crisis support service in place.
 - C. The 16-24 working group including CAMHS, Adult Mental Health Services (AMHS), Voluntary, Community and Social Enterprise (VCSE), Public Health,

Social Care, Education and Primary Care Network (PCN) continues to meet to establish clarity on access to services for young people and the robust transition arrangement for young people who continue to require mental health services. Transition Workers and qualified Youth Workers are in post working with a number of young people who require ongoing interventions in adulthood. Proposals will be presented to Collaborative forums to determine a future model.

- D. Wellbeing and Emotional support teams (WEST) continue to develop according to national programme. The next wave will include provision to colleges. Recruitment is underway for the new waves.
- E. Collaborative work continues with VCSE partners who deliver interventions in a number of schools where WEST is not available to provide some equity. VCSE partners deliver a range of interventions for school, colleges, CYP and families from a number of bases. A review of Targeted Services is underway to determine the roadmap and model.
- F. Collaborative Working with Education and Childrens Services to develop Guidance for Emotionally based school avoidance (EBSA).
- G. Collaborative working with Education, Inclusion and Herefordshire and Worcestershire Health and Care Trust (HWHACT) to map access from an Education setting to interventions and services across Universal, Targeted and Specialist. Work to begin on reviewing, mapping and identifying gaps for Targeted interventions.
- H. Collaborative working in Worcestershire to meet the recommendations of the Cabinet and ICB in respect of the CAMHS Scrutiny Report.
- I. Link with VCSE partners and other agencies to review offer, gaps, demand, opportunities for CYP and families.
- J. The review and mapping of services and pathways for Neurodevelopmental assessments and post diagnostic support continues to determine future model.
- K. Revised CAMHS action plan November 2023, action to be incorporated into action of this subgroup and supporting subgroups of the CYPSP

Purpose of the Meeting

13. The Panel is asked to:

- Consider and comment on the progress of the wider Mental Health Collaborative partnership group and the revised CAMHS Action Plan
- Determine what further information or scrutiny is required; and
- Agree any comments to highlight to the Cabinet Member with Responsibility for Health and Wellbeing and the Herefordshire and Worcestershire Integrated Care Board.

Supporting Information

Appendix 1 - [Scrutiny Report - Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services](#)

Appendix 2 – [Cabinet Member with Responsibility for Health and Wellbeing Response and Herefordshire and Worcestershire Integrated Care Board Response](#)

Appendix 3 – CAMHS Action Plan (revised November 2023)

Appendix 4 – [Children and Young People Mental Health Transformation Plan for Worcestershire](#)

Contact Points

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Sue Harris, Director of Strategy and Partnerships, Herefordshire and Worcestershire Health and Care NHS Trust, Email: susan.harris2@nhs.net

Samantha Morris, Interim Democratic Governance and Scrutiny Manager Tel: 01905 844963, Email: scrutiny@worcestershire.gov.uk

Background Papers

In the opinion of the proper officer (in this case the Democratic Governance and Scrutiny Manager) the following are the background papers relating to the subject matter of this report:

[Agenda for Overview and Scrutiny Performance Board on Monday, 27th February, 2023, 10.00 am - Worcestershire County Council \(moderngov.co.uk\)](#)

[Agenda for Cabinet on Thursday, 30th March, 2023, 10.00 am - Worcestershire County Council \(moderngov.co.uk\)](#)

[Agenda for Health and Wellbeing Board on Tuesday, 23rd May, 2023, 2.00 pm - Worcestershire County Council \(moderngov.co.uk\)](#)

[All agendas and minutes are available on the Council's website here.](#)

Updated CAMHS Action Plan November 2023

Revised Action 1	Revised Action 2	Revised Action 3	Revised Action 4
<p>Service providers to work together to create a clear “Roadmap” of all services to assist navigation through services. To provide information about all available mental health services, to provide on-line resources and for this to be available on websites and locations across the partnership.</p>	<p>Integrated Care Board should consider increasing provision of services supporting young people with lower levels of emotional and mental health need in order to provide timely support and reduce the need for specialist services and consider approaches in other geographical areas.</p>	<p>Herefordshire and Worcestershire Health and Care Trust to review CAMHS criteria to ensure that children who are in the care of the local authority are enabled to access appropriate support for their emotional and mental health even if they are not in a settled placement</p>	<p>Herefordshire and Worcestershire Health and Care Trust to review processes of data collection and reporting of performance information on CAMHS.</p>
Activity	Activity	Activity	Activity
<p>Roadmap to be created using the Virtual Family Hub.</p> <p>Sue Harris to recommend to the ICB that funding is provided for a Children’s Communication and Engagement Worker in order to bring the necessary information together</p>	<p>Integrated care board to undertake a review of the range of advice and support available to schools ensuring early help and support for mental health issues is made available to all schools</p> <p>Look at further opportunities for national investment for mental health in schools programme.</p> <p>Through the Mental Health Collaborative, the commissioners to develop a report to evidence what services have been commissioning, what the take up was and what is the feedback from the children and young people</p>	<p>WCF to share the previous ten case partnership work which identified strengths and barrier in enabling children on the edge of care and looked after from accessing CAMHS</p> <p>The recommendations of this work to be represented to the MH collaborative to review and progress</p>	<p>The publication of data to include referrals to Specialist Services, declined referrals to Specialist Services.</p> <p>Audit to be undertaken of decision where referrals are declined to ensure they record a clear rationale and assessment of level of need</p> <p>Data collection to allow for trends to be identified and service improvements.</p> <p>Review the current process and structure to ensure regular data is provided</p>
Lead: Sue Harris H&WHCT	Lead: Anne Marie Dolan ICB	Lead: Sonja Upton H&WHCT/Adam Johnston WCF	Lead: Sonja Upton H&WHCT and WCF leads
Measure of Outcome	Measure of Outcome	Measure of Outcome	Measure of Outcome
<p>Parents / Carers and Young People tell us they know where to access support services.</p> <p>Parent/Carer and Children/Young People and Professionals tell us they know which support services meet what needs.</p> <p>Those working in the field are able to guide and sign post children young people and their families to the right support</p>	<p>Provide information to identify value for money investment in current programme / gaps and barriers in take up and understating impact and outcomes</p>	<p>Learning and recommendations to improve emotional and mental health support for children in care and reduce placement breakdown will be identified from case reviews and presented to the MH Collaborative.</p> <p>Process will be established across providers (WCF & H&WHCT) to ensure multi-agency review and prioritisation for any child who is at risk of being placed in care, or placement breakdown, due to unmet mental health, emotional health, or therapeutic need.</p>	<p>WCF have regard data to undertake take up of CAMHS by “vulnerable children”</p>

The original CAMHS action plan has been considered and each of the above revised actions incorporates and or supersedes actions identified in the original plan. The original actions are listed below for reference

Recommendation 1: The Task Group recommends that all service providers work together to create a clear 'road map' of all services to assist navigation through the system, possibly via the NHS CAMHS Herefordshire and Worcestershire website, including the development of a central online resource to allow parents and non-specialist professionals to clearly identify all available mental health services and support for CYP with Neurodivergent conditions.

Recommendation 3: The Task Group recommends that all partners engage in a review of the current method of access to services for children and young people with emotional and mental health needs, seeking to simplify and streamline the process. As part of this, specific consideration should be given to:

3a) The establishment of a single point of initial contact to provide effective signposting/triaging to appropriate services at an early stage.

3b) Supporting direct referral to an appropriate alternative service in cases where a referral to Tier 3 CAMHS does not meet the threshold.

3c) Improving communication so that the expectations of those referring are managed more effectively, and advice is offered on support available whilst waiting for a service.

3d) Ensuring that a child's journey through the CAMHS system is recorded, whether it is completed or not, including all requests for support and the outcome of those requests.

Recommendation 8: The Task Group recommends that guidance is produced to clarify the thresholds for each Tier.

Recommendation 11: The Task Group recommends that the Herefordshire and

Worcestershire Health and Care NHS Trust:

- Seeks to improve the information and guidance available to GPs to help them in navigating the system of support for children and young people's mental health and emotional wellbeing including CAMHS and other lower-level sources of support
- Considers how a closer working relationship between CAMHS and GPs can be developed.

Recommendation 14: The Task Group recommends that the Herefordshire and Worcestershire Health and Care NHS Trust reviews its referral criteria, to ensure that children who are in the care of the local authority are not prevented from accessing CAMHS support due to the lack of a settled placement.

Recommendation 15: The Task Group recommends that the Herefordshire and Worcestershire Mental Health Collaborative (HWMHC) (on behalf of the HWICB) reviews the way in which children and young people with Autistic Spectrum Disorder are able to access appropriate mental health support and reports back to the Scrutiny Task Group

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3d) Ensuring that a child's journey through the CAMHS system is recorded, whether it is completed or not, including all requests for support and the outcome of those requests.

Recommendation 5: The Task Group recommends that the Herefordshire and Worcestershire Mental Health Collaborative (HWMHC) (on behalf of the HWICB) consider alternative approaches to the organisation of services, including those which appear to be successful in other local authority areas.

Recommendation 7: The Task Group recommends that the Herefordshire and Worcestershire Health and Care NHS Trust look again at support for higher Tier 2 to address the gap in provision identified by schools including for those pupils who are unable to attend school due to emotional wellbeing and mental health related issues.

Recommendation 9: The Task Group recommends that partners should consider increasing the provision of services supporting young people with a lower level of need in order to provide timely support and reduce demand for specialist services.

Recommendation 10: The Task Group recommends that all partners undertake a review of the range of advice and support available to schools, ensuring that early help and support for mental health issues (from whichever source) is made available to ALL schools. In addition, there should be improved publicity to encourage access to available services.

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Recommendation 13: The Task Group recommends that the Cabinet Member with Responsibility for Children and Families and Worcestershire Children First continue to focus on ensuring that all children coming into the care of the local authority receive a mental health assessment as a matter of course.

Recommendation 14: The Task Group recommends that the Herefordshire and Worcestershire Health and Care NHS Trust reviews its referral criteria, to ensure that children who are in the care of the local authority are not prevented from accessing CAMHS support due to the lack of a settled placement.

Recommendation 12: The Task Group recommends that the Herefordshire and Worcestershire Health and Care NHS Trust reviews its approach to collection and publication of performance information relating to CAMHS including referrals which did not meet the threshold for support, to ensure that the data collected allows trends to be identified and service improvements to be supported

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