

Scrutiny Proposal

Topic: Children and Adolescent Mental Health Services

Background to the issue
(what is it and why is it being considered for scrutiny)

The Child and Adolescent Mental Health Service (CAMHS) provides support to children and families where a young person is experiencing significant mental health difficulties.

Commissioning and planning of most health services for children and adolescents are NHS funded. CAMHS report through the children's health commissioning team which is jointly funded by the Worcestershire Clinical Commissioning Groups and Worcestershire County Council. Services are provided by Worcestershire Health and Care NHS Trust.

Mental health for children and adolescents has been identified as a priority on the work programme of the Children and Families Overview and Scrutiny Panel. The nature of services means scrutiny work is also relevant to the Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee, which last reviewed the service in September 2018 and asked to revisit the topic after 12 months.

Terms of reference

To investigate the availability of and access to mental health services for children and adolescents.

Suitability for scrutiny. Which of the following criteria does it meet?

<i>Is the issue a priority area for the Council?</i>	Yes	<i>Does it examine a poorly performing service?</i>	<i>Unsure</i>
<i>Is it a key issue for local people?</i>	Yes	<i>Has it been prompted by new Government guidance or legislation?</i>	<i>National issue</i>
<i>Will the scrutiny have a clear impact on services?</i>	<i>Possibly</i>	<i>Will it result in improvements to the way the Council operates?</i>	<i>Possibly</i>
<i>Are improvements for local people likely as a result?</i>	<i>Possibly</i>		

Scope of scrutiny
(what issues will it cover and what won't it cover)

To investigate what mental health services are available to children and adolescents and how they are accessed, including out of hours, provision during times of crisis and wider issues such as autism and behaviour. We will also review whether our most vulnerable children, i.e those in care, subject to child protection and child in needs plans and their parents, where MH needs and risk exist, are able to access appropriate services and in a timely way

To include:

- current performance (e.g.waiting times)
- demand for services
- feedback from service users

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • feedback from service providers • how the situation in Worcestershire compares with statistical neighbour authorities and the national picture. • Childrens Social Care Data <p>It has been suggested that the Task Group may wish to take into account the following recommendation from the House of Commons Education Committee report into Mental Health and Well-being of Looked After Children:</p> <p><i>It is important that all children who need access to CAMHS get it in a timely manner. In recognition of the distinct challenges which looked-after children and young people face, we recommend that they should have priority access to mental health assessments by specialist practitioners but that subsequent treatment should be based on clinical need.</i></p> <p><i>N.B. O&S has committed to ensure that the following are considered in all scrutiny reviews as appropriate</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • equality and diversity issues • commissioning • localism
<p>Advantages to conducting scrutiny & Indicators of success (ie how will you know a good scrutiny has been done?)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reassurance about capacity, performance and availability of CAMHS • Increased councillor knowledge about how CAHMS works and the issues involved
<p>Has anyone else examined the issue?</p>	<p>An overview was provided to the Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee on 19 September 2018</p>
<p>Any disadvantages or pitfalls to conducting this scrutiny?</p>	<p>CAMHS is a wide service and as the scrutiny progresses, care may be needed to determine the main focus of the scrutiny work</p> <p>Care will be needed with potentially sensitive information about individuals</p>
<h2>INFORMATION NEEDS</h2>	
<p>Key Documents, Reports & Data required</p>	<p>Initial overview of services and issues Data on numbers and performance National research Evidence from service users, service providers and schools about mental health support Worcester Youth Cabinet's recent mental health campaign Evidence from other support groups Report of the House of Commons Education Committee <i>Mental Health and Well-being of Looked After Children</i> 2016</p>
<p>Is an expert adviser needed?</p>	
<p>Possible interviewees</p>	<p><u>Council Cabinet Members and Directors:</u> Cabinet Member with Responsibility for Education and Skills Cabinet Member with Responsibility for Health and Wellbeing</p> <p><u>Worcestershire Children First</u> Director of Education and Early Help, Worcestershire Children First Assistant Director for SEND and Vulnerable Learners</p>

	<p>Corporate parenting Board?</p> <p>Health Provider (Worcestershire Health and Care Trust) Director of Strategy and Partnerships (Worcestershire Health and Care Trust) Service Delivery Unit Lead Clinical Service Manager CAMHS</p> <p><u>Service commissioner (Clinical Commissioning Groups - funded by both the CCG and Public Health)</u> Transformation and Delivery Lead for Mental Health (Worcestershire CCGs)</p> <p>Public Health WCC, Commissioner/ funded by both the CCG and Public Health</p> <p>Healthwatch Worcestershire Representatives of schools and colleges Worcester Youth Cabinet Who cares, we care (<i>for looked after young people in Worcestershire 12-18 years old</i>) Care Leavers Council</p>
Is this an issue that young people would be interested in? If so, ask Youth Cabinet for evidence.	Yes – they are the ones using the services
Site Visits	As appropriate
Types of meeting/ consultation needed? (eg workshops/ focus groups/ public meetings/ questionnaires etc)	Task group meetings and visits as appropriate
Any meetings to be held outside of County Hall?	Possibly
Media & publicity needs?	Yes
OUTLINE TIMETABLE	
Proposal to OSPB	10 December 2019
Evidence Gathering	January onwards – OSPB to determine
Scrutiny Report to OSPB	
Scrutiny Report to Cabinet	