

**HEALTH AND WELL-BEING BOARD  
25 FEBRUARY 2020****IMPROVING THE MENTAL HEALTH WELLBEING OF  
CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE IN WORCESTERSHIRE**

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**Board Sponsor**

Dr Catherine Driscoll, Chief Executive, Worcestershire Children First

**Author**

Dr Catherine Driscoll

(Please click below  
then on down arrow)

**Priorities**

Mental health & well-being

Yes

Being Active

No

Reducing harm from Alcohol

No

Other (specify below)

**Safeguarding**

Impact on Safeguarding Children

Yes

If yes please give details

Impact on Safeguarding Adults

No

If yes please give details

**Item for Decision, Consideration or Information**

Decision

**Recommendation****1. The Health and Well-being Board is asked to:**

- a) **approve the proposed approach to improving mental wellbeing for children and young people, and**
- b) **ensure that senior system commitment is provided.**

**Background**

2. In recent months there have been a number of strategic and operational discussions about the need to focus on a system wide approach to improving the mental health wellbeing of children and young people. Ofsted's inspection report into children's services, published in July 2019, identified that engagement with partners to deliver timely early help and the availability of a dedicated pathway for the provision of mental health services for children in care were areas for improvement. Partners from across the local area have been discussing the current position in

preparation for an expected Joint Targeted Area Inspection (JTAI) of mental health services.

3. The Children and Young People Strategic Board (CYPSB) discussed mental health services at its last meeting on 29 January 2020. Partners were very pleased to note the CQC Outstanding judgement for CAMHS services in Worcestershire.

However, members recognised that this positive experience was not the same for children and young people with mental health challenges who did not meet the CAMHS criteria and were keen to consider how best to respond to reported growing levels of concern for our children and young people. The Board recognised that no one organisation has the solution and that there is the need to work in partnership to ensure a clear pathway for children and young people.

4. Jenny Dalloway, the CCG lead commissioner for mental health and Sue Harris, the Health and Care Trust's Director of Strategy and Partnerships led the discussion at the CYPSB in the light of the NHS Long Term Plan focus on mental health services and the need to consider evidence based preventative approaches to supporting children and young people with mental health challenges. Members of the Board were agreed that there was a shared and collective agreement that mental health needs were broad and increasing. Jenny and Sue agreed to develop recommendations on how a collaborative approach could identify need and ways to ensure there are responses to this. This work has started and will continue in the coming weeks.

5. The Health and Wellbeing Board are asked to approve this approach to improving mental wellbeing for children and young people and to provide senior system commitment. The outputs of the work will be taken back to the CYPSB and the HWBB for approval.

## **Contact Points**

### County Council Contact Points

County Council: 01905 763763

Worcestershire Hub: 01905 765765

### Specific Contact Points for this report

Dr Catherine Driscoll, Chief Executive, Worcestershire Children First

Tel: 01905 846303

Email: [cdriscoll@worschildrenfirst.org.uk](mailto:cdriscoll@worschildrenfirst.org.uk)

## **Background Papers**

In the opinion of the proper officer (in this case the Director of Children and Families) there are no background papers.