

## **CABINET**

### **30 MARCH 2023**

# **SCRUTINY REPORT: CHILD AND ADOLESCENT MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES**

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### **Relevant Cabinet Members**

Councillor Karen May, Cabinet Member with Responsibility for Health and Wellbeing  
Councillor Tracey Onslow, Cabinet Member with Responsibility for Education  
Councillor Andy Roberts, Cabinet Member with Responsibility for Children & Families

### **Relevant Chief Officers**

Director of Public Health  
Director of Children's Services

### **Recommendation**

- 1. The Cabinet Member with Responsibility for Health and Wellbeing recommends that Cabinet:**
  - (a) receives 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) notes the Scrutiny Report's findings and recommendations and adopts the response of the Cabinet Members with Responsibility as the way forward.**

### **Background**

2. In 2019, the Children and Families Overview and Scrutiny Panel identified services supporting the mental health of children and adolescents in the County as a priority for scrutiny. In December 2019, the Overview and Scrutiny Performance Board (OSPB) agreed that a Scrutiny Task Group should be set up to look into this area. Unfortunately, this work was interrupted by the Covid-19 pandemic and was restarted in December 2021.

3. The Terms of Reference for the scrutiny exercise were '*to investigate access to and the availability of appropriate mental health services for children and adolescents*'.

4. The Task Group gathered evidence on mental health services currently available to children and young people in the County, with a focus on how and by whom these services are accessed. In particular, the Task Group:

- Met with representatives of a range of organisations involved in the provision of services.

- Gathered evidence from the main referrers to the services, namely schools and GPs.
- Obtained feedback from children and young people and their parents/carers about their experiences.
- Looked into the work of a local youth provision in supporting young people.
- Obtained an understanding of an alternative way of organising services by meeting with representatives of Solar, which provides emotional wellbeing and mental health services to children, young people and families in Solihull, and visiting their offices.

## **Overview and Scrutiny Performance Board**

5. The OSPB considered the Scrutiny report on 27 February 2023 and fully endorsed the recommendations. The Board also requested that it is provided with an update on progress in approximately 6 months time. The report is included at Appendix 1.

## **Responses to the Scrutiny Report**

6. The Scrutiny process provides for the relevant Cabinet Members with Responsibility to submit to the Cabinet a response to the Scrutiny Report's findings and recommendations to be considered alongside the Scrutiny Report.

7. The response of the Cabinet Members with Responsibility on behalf of the Cabinet, is included as Appendix 2.

8. Given the cross-cutting nature of the subject matter and the collaborative way in which services are delivered, a response to the Scrutiny Report was also requested from the Herefordshire and Worcestershire Integrated Care Board.

9. The response of the Herefordshire and Worcestershire Integrated Care Board is included as Appendix 3.

## **Supporting Information**

- Appendix 1 – Scrutiny report: Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS)
- Appendix 2 – Response of the Cabinet Members with Responsibility (available electronically)
- Appendix 3 – Response of the Herefordshire and Worcestershire Integrated Care Board (available electronically)

## **Contact Points**

### Specific Contact Points for this report

Samantha Morris, Scrutiny Co-ordinator and Alison Spall, Overview and Scrutiny Officer.  
01905 844963. [scrutiny@worcestershire.gov.uk](mailto:scrutiny@worcestershire.gov.uk)

## **Background Papers**

In the opinion of the proper officer (in this case the Assistant Director for Legal and Governance) the following are the background papers relating to the subject matter of this report:

Agenda and minutes of the OSPB meetings on [10 December 2019](#) and [27 February 2023](#)

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