

## **HEALTH AND WELLBEING BOARD**

### **23 MAY 2023**

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

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### **Board Sponsors**

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

### **Author**

Dr Lisa McNally, Director of Public Health

### **Priorities**

This report is relevant to the following Joint Local Health and Wellbeing Strategy priorities:

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Prevention & inequalities | <input type="checkbox"/> Homes, Communities & Places |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Mental Health & Wellbeing | <input type="checkbox"/> Jobs & Opportunities        |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Healthy Living at All Ages           |  |

### **Safeguarding**

This report does not have a direct impact on safeguarding children or adults

### **Item for Decision, or Information & Assurance**

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Decision | <input type="checkbox"/> Information/assurance |
|--|--|

### **Recommendation**

1. **The Health and Wellbeing Board is asked to:**
  - a. **receive the Scrutiny Report about Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services; and**
  - b. **agree 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 Members with Responsibility and Herefordshire and Worcestershire Integrated Care Board to ensure a system wide collaborative approach is taken.**

### **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.
5. The OSPB considered the Scrutiny report on 27 February 2023 and fully endorsed the recommendations, requesting that it is provided with an update on progress in approximately six months' time. The report is included at Appendix 1.
6. Cabinet received the Scrutiny report and responses on 30 March 2023 and noted the findings and recommendations, adopting the responses of the Cabinet Members with Responsibility as the way forward.

## **Responses to the Scrutiny Report**

7. The response of the Cabinet Members with Responsibility is included as Appendix 2. 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, included as Appendix 3.
8. It is proposed that the Health and Wellbeing Board ask the Children and Young People's Strategic Partnership to take forward discussions with relevant strategic professionals, agreeing appropriate actions. One of the key purposes of Health and Wellbeing Boards is for health and care services to be better joined up, and it is envisaged that the statutory basis of this board will ensure it will be able to exert pressure should it appear that such an approach is not being followed.

## **Supporting Information**

- Appendix 1 – Scrutiny report: Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS) [4a. CAMHS FINAL REPORT agreed at OSPB, item 2148.](#)
- Appendix 2 – Response of the Cabinet Members with Responsibility [4b. CMR response, item 2148.](#)
- Appendix 3 – Response of the Herefordshire and Worcestershire Integrated Care Board [4c. CAMHS scrutiny response ICB HWHCT, item 2148.](#)

## 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 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](#) and Cabinet on [30 March 2023](#)