

MAYOR AND CABINET			
Report Title	Response to the Recommendations of the Children and Young People Select Committee Service Review into Young People's Mental Health		
Key Decision	No	Item No.	
Ward	All		
Contributors	Executive Director for Children and Young People, Director of Public Health, Heads of Law		
Class	Part 1	Date: 13 May 2015	

1. Purpose

- 1.1 This report sets out the response to the recommendations made in the Children and Young People Select Committee Service Review into Young People's Mental Health.

2. Recommendations

It is recommended that the Mayor:

- 2.1 Note the response from the Executive Director for Children and Young People.
- 2.2 Agree that this report should be forwarded to Children and Young People's Select Committee.

3. Policy Context

- 3.1 Lewisham's Sustainable Communities Strategy¹ sets out six key priorities for the borough as a whole. The review falls under the 'Safer' priority, which aims to keep our children and young people safe from harm, abuse and criminal activity as well as the 'Healthy, Active and Enjoyable' priority which endeavours to improve health outcomes and tackle specific conditions that affect our citizens.
- 3.2 Lewisham's Children and Young People's Plan² for 2012-2015, entitled 'It's Everybody's Business' sets out key areas for impact and priorities surrounding children and young people. This review comes under the 'Be Healthy' (BH6) priority, which aims to 'Promote Mental and Emotional Well-being'.

¹ Lewisham's Sustainable Community Strategy 2008-2020
<http://www.lewisham.gov.uk/mayorandcouncil/aboutthecouncil/strategies/Documents/Sustainable%20Community%20Strategy%202008-2020.pdf>

² Lewisham Children and Young People's Plan 2012-2015
<http://www.lewisham.gov.uk/myservices/socialcare/children/Documents/CYPP2012-15.pdf>

- 3.3 Mental health has been identified as one of nine Health and Well-Being Board priorities as part of the Health and Wellbeing Strategy.

4. Background

- 4.1 On 1 July 2014, the Children and Young People's Select Committee decided as part of its work programme to undertake a rapid review of children and young people's emotional well-being and mental health provision in Lewisham. The review was scoped and agreed in October 2014 and evidence sessions were held with young people from the HeadStart Young People's Steering Group on 23 October 2014 and with colleagues from the Local Authority, Place2Be and South London and Maudsley NHS Foundation Trust on 12 November 2014.
- 4.2 The Children and Young People's Select Committee has made a number of recommendations.

5. Recommendations and Specific Responses

- 5.1 **R1. While waiting times for CAMHS services in Lewisham are well within set targets and are performing well in comparison to neighbouring boroughs, any wait can feel like a long time when a young person is experiencing mental health difficulties. Therefore the Committee recommends that the ability of CAMHS to respond appropriately to mental health issues should be maintained and, if possible, improved.**

Response

Lewisham CAMHS and the Local Authority recognise the importance to continually drive down waiting times. CAMHS manage referrals through the telephone triage system, to ensure that cases are prioritised accordingly. Waiting times and any capacity issues will be managed quickly and efficiently within the service.

Officers in the Joint Commissioning Team continue to monitor referral to assessment waiting times for young people referred to CAMHS as a priority. Any issues are raised and mitigated/managed as exceptions, as part of monthly performance monitoring processes. It was announced recently by central government that the first ever waiting time standards will be introduced to CAMH services - date for introduction to be confirmed.

- 5.2 **R2. Further integration of mental health support and intervention across levels of need should be explored with the aim of ensuring that young people and agencies know how and where to access appropriate support early, reducing the time between identifying a need for support and/or intervention and the provision of this support and/or intervention.**

Response

This is a very helpful recommendation and we will continue to work with stakeholders to review existing provision, further improving access points and awareness of available services. A primary aim of HeadStart is early intervention and promotion of a whole system approach to prevent escalation of need. There is a focus on building resilience in young people to prevent the onset of more serious mental health concerns.

We will continue to work with SLaM as the main provider of tier 3 and 4, specialist CAMHS, to ensure that new provision / systems are embedded within existing practice. Significant emphasis will be given to develop and maintain clear, consistent and effective care pathways across all tiers of delivery.

- 5.3 **R3. As identified throughout the report, it is important that awareness and education about mental health are improved. This will enable young people affected by mental health issues to identify and seek appropriate help and advice, and assist those who work with and care for them to provide access to it. Accordingly, the Committee recommends that further work is carried out to raise awareness of mental health issues amongst young people and the population in general.**

Response

We agree with the importance of improved awareness and better education about mental health and through the development of work as part of HeadStart. We are working in partnership with providers, schools, young people and the voluntary sector to work together when delivering approaches that 'improve emotional literacy'. One key element of the programme is a youth-led awareness and marketing campaign, which will have a focus on developing key messages about mental health and well-being. This will provide information and access to support and resources, and involve training for young people to develop and lead local campaigns in their school or out of school settings.

- 5.4 **R4. As part of this, awareness raising and increased acceptance of mental health issues as a normal part of life should be included in the local outcomes for the HeadStart Programme.**

Response

We will ensure, as part of the national work with Big Lottery and Young Minds, that 'improved emotional literacy' is a key outcome for the overall HeadStart Lewisham programme.

We are intending that the new Children and Young People's Plan 2015 – 18, alongside the HeadStart Lewisham programme will have a focus

on building resilience and young people, which will have an emphasis on workforce and practitioner skill development.

- 5.5 **R5. In addition, schools should continue to build upon the work that has already been carried out in the borough to improve education, awareness and support around young people's mental health.**

Response

We welcome this recommendation. The existing partnership between schools and local mental health providers is well established and will be strengthened further through the next phase of HeadStart. Stage Two funding provides a valuable opportunity to test and evaluate a range of interventions, a large proportion of which is operating in schools. Information gathered through the national and local evaluation will provide valuable insight into future requirements, which will be included as part of Stage Three developments.

As a main provider of tier 2 CAMHS services in the borough, Place2Be will continue to offer insight into the emotional well-being needs of young people attending Lewisham schools.

- 5.6 **R6. The strong governance systems and good stakeholder engagement that is in place in the HeadStart Programme in Lewisham should continue.**

Response

HeadStart Lewisham governance arrangements are well established and will remain central to the success of this work.

- 5.7 **R7. The Children & Young People Select Committee should carry out further work looking at the incidence of self-harm amongst young people in the borough and why this has increased.**

Response

If the Children & Young People Select Committee carry out further work on this recommendation, officers will provide information as requested.

- 5.8 **R8. The Children & Young People Select Committee should carry out further scrutiny of the HeadStart Programme as it progresses.**

Response

If the Children & Young People Select Committee carry out further work on this recommendation, officers will provide information as requested.

6. Financial Implications

6.1 There are no direct financial implications arising from this response.

7. Legal Implications

7.1 There are no specific legal implications arising from this response, save for noting that the Council's Constitution provides that the Executive may respond to reports and recommendations by the Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

8. Crime and Disorder Implications

8.1 There are no direct crime and disorder implications arising from this response.

9. Equalities Implications

9.1 The Council works to eliminate unlawful discrimination and harassment, promote equality of opportunity and good relations between different groups in the community, and recognise and take account of people's differences.

10. Environmental Implications

10.1 There are no environmental implications arising from this response.

Background Papers

1. Young People's Mental Health Review – Final Report:

Children & Young People Select Committee Select Committee
February 2015

<http://councilmeetings.lewisham.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=134&MId=3434>

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