

COUNCIL		
Report Title	Motion 1 in the name of Councillor Holland to be seconded by Councillor Bernardas	
Key Decision		Item No.
Ward		
Contributors	Acting Chief Executive (Head of Business & Committee)	
Class	Part 1	Date: July 24 2019

Improving mental health support for BAME children and young people

Lewisham Council notes:

- Nationally, demand for mental health support is up but services are diminishing, and Lewisham is no exception to this trend. In June last year the NHS England boss, Simon Stevens, said a major expansion of services is needed to deal with growing demand.
- The SLAM 'Meeting the public sector equality duty' 2017 report shows that BAME young people in Lewisham gain less access to CAMHS services than their peers: approximately 58% of the young population were BAME according to the last census in 2011, but only approximately 46% of our CAMHS services were supporting BAME young people.
- The Up My Street report by the Centre for Mental Health¹ sets out how young African/ Caribbean young men are less likely to access conventional statutory therapy because current service offers are rarely culturally sensitive and can reinforce stereotypes. Similarly, Charlie Taylor's review for the Ministry of Justice² (paragraph 26) found that that a clinic-based approach rarely works for excluded young people.
- An approach based on co-production which empowers young people and meets them 'where they are at', has been demonstrated to be the most effective means of supporting excluded young people or those at risk of exclusion. This community psychology approach has been delivered in other parts of London and often starts out in a park or within an estate and doesn't rely on young people who may have a chaotic home life and a distrust of 'authorities' turning up to appointments.
- Young people affected by serious youth violence in their communities are much more likely to become psychologically distressed. Supporting these young people should emphasise relationships and engagement through co-production and holistic support in their communities.

This Council resolves to:

- 1) Call on the government to reverse its aggressive cuts programme which has led to a crisis in mental health support for children and young people and increase funding.

¹ www.centreformentalhealth.org.uk/against-the-odds

² www.gov.uk/government/publications/review-of-the-youth-justice-system

- 2) Ensure that the development of the borough's children and young people's mental health provision adequately and effectively supports BAME young people and those at risk of exclusion.
- 3) Puts effective mental health support for BAME and excluded young people at the heart of our public health approach to serious youth violence and ensures that young people with lived experience of serious youth violence are central to the development of this provision.
- 4) Invite VCS organisations/ LAs with a track record of delivering mental health support to BAME (and excluded) young people to share practice in an all member session, involving young people with lived experience.