

Time commenced – 18.00pm

Time finished – 19:00pm

## **Children and Young People Scrutiny Review Board 06 September 2021**

Present: Councillor Lind (Chair)  
Councillors Bonser, Hezelgrave, Eyre, Kus (Vice Chair), Pandey  
and Pearce  
Co-optees – Tracey Churchill, Stephen Grundy and Chris Hulse

In Attendance: Councillor Evonne Williams Cabinet Member CYP and Skills  
Andy Smith, Strategic Director of Peoples Services  
Connie Spencer – Youth Mayor  
Priya Gill – Deputy Youth Mayor  
Mick Burrows, Director of Commissioning, CCG  
Helen O'Higgins, Head of Mental Health for CYP, CCG

### **08/21 Apologies for Absence**

No apologies had been received.

### **09/21 Late items introduced by the Chair**

There were none.

### **10/21 Declarations of Interest**

There were none.

### **11/21 Minutes of the meeting held on 21 June 2021**

The minutes of the meeting held on 21 June 2021 were agreed as a correct record.

### **12/21 Update report on CAMHs and Mental Health of Young People demand and response and Draft Plan**

The Board considered a presentation from the Director of Commissioning for Mental Health and the Head of Mental Health for CYP Mental Health, Learning Disability and Children's Commissioning Directorate, CCG.

The officer explained that the Futures in Mind Plan (FIM) plan began in 2015 and was refreshed every year. The Board heard about the work done during COVID and how services had adapted significantly throughout so that they became services facing towards the family. There had been a lot of challenges with children and young people who had more familiar disharmony than normal. But the service had been successful in maintaining a digital offer for young people. The Plan would be published by the end of September and it has now been through Boards in the City and the County. The Plan comprised of 89

lines of enquiry. Young people and citizens as well as MH2K had been involved in the design and delivery of the plan. The Plan today focuses on 2021.

The officer detailed some of the successes and progress and outlined key changes for moving forward in the next twelve months, including finance and investment and also demand for services.

### **Futures in Mind (FIM) Progress**

There have been significant improvements made to the CYP mental health offer during the 5 years of the Derbyshire FIM Transformation programme. There has been a rise in the proportion of CYP accessing mental health services. In 2020/21 Derbyshire exceeded the national target by providing services to 38.1% of CYP requiring mental health support which was more than the 35% national target.

The officer detailed some the successes which included a digital offer which gave universal access to a digital support platform (Kooth), which provides text-based therapeutic support, and 24/7 access to moderated online forums, where concerns and articles can be shared. A Website for Emotional and Wellbeing was set up ahead of planning due to COVID. The site offers resources for professionals, teachers, parents, and carers as well as children. Specialist Community Advisors from CAMHs work in localities and have a good understanding of services locally in the community where they are based. There has been good feedback about connecting children to the right support. Six school networks have been set up across Derby and Derbyshire, two in the City for Mental Health support teams in schools. The CAMHs offer has been extended in the Eating Disorder Services, and CAMHS core service was enhanced.

### **Key Changes after end of FIM**

The officer explained that the service was working to the NHS long term plan and the ambitions set out in that; the next steps take them to 2024. There was a new raft of investment provided to support developments. A key area was looking at the more acute end of the pathway in Urgent Care. There was now a requirement to have a 24/7 response for all children and young people in crisis by 2024. There was a plan to expanding crisis liaison and intensive home treatment service to all children and young people, and one that was not siloed to diagnosis. Communication and navigation to access services was being improved so that children and young people can get the right support early and at the right time

The CYP Mental Health workforce was also being developed. The biggest risk to delivery was the lack of skilled workforce. The service was looking at creative ways to train and develop the workforce using the knowledge and skills of those staff with experience, and recruiting new staff using recruit to train opportunities.

The officer outlined some of the schemes coming online including urgent care with significant funding across Derbyshire (over £5.5m). There was a significant amount of money being used to look at young adults 18 – 25, who

were more at risk and known to the Youth Offending Service (YOS) to offer as good a transition to adulthood as possible. Other key priorities were around eating disorders and continuing to support children in community pathway.

There are 12 chapters to the Plan; each explain about working together as a system to address the needs of children in different categories. Crisis is one of the key areas and the plan sets out the current priorities, positions and actions going forward.

Access to CAMHS: looking at demand the numbers of non-face-to-face appointments increased drastically during Covid period and continue to be high because of both an increase in referrals and the transition and move across to the digital on-line system enabling more contacts. Comparing June to July 2021 with 12 months ago in 2020 CAHMs Service have seen a 128% increase in the number of contacts with children and young people, which is a significant increase.

Although Referrals dipped in wave 1 of Covid, but they have continued to increase, so by June and July 2021 there has been seen an increase in accepted referrals, compared to pre-COVID period of 2019.

Key areas worryingly seeing an increase in demand is the eating disorder pathway, there are more urgent and acute presentation of CYP eating disorders. The transformation plan reports on 2020-21 when targets of 95% were being met for urgency seen in a week and non-urgency seen within 4 weeks. In the first quarter of this year these targets are not quite being met; some of this was due to the number and acuity of children reporting with eating disorders. A councillor requested a breakdown of figures for the Eating Disorder Services, for Derby; the officer confirmed they could provide these. The councillor also asked what is considered an urgent case. It was explained that it was about risk, BMI was used as a key trigger, how quickly someone was physically deteriorating and losing weight.

Targeted Early Intervention; the waiting time is 11 weeks, just below the 12-week threshold. Steady increase at the beginning of the year, but in July there was a significant increase in referrals due to a number of those children wanting to wait until schools open and take a group or face to face offer.

Changing lives teams: across the 6 teams have lower wait times with an average wait time of a week, in those school networks where there are a higher number of children at risk of mental health issues, support can be accessed quickly.

The capacity in "Kooth" was highlighted where in Quarter 1 they delivered over the contracted hours and were running at 119%. The demand continues to increase across the whole pathway for children with mental health needs.

Across whole pathway, data aggregated for mental health data set. Median waiting time for both core and urgent services, a year again July 2019 and current July 2020 – 21 across the board the median waiting time has reduced. Both for the First Contact when children and young people are assessed and when their treatment starts at the second contact.

The Chair thanked officers and their colleagues for all the time, dedication, and way issues have been looked at to try improving services for children and young people in the City and asked what would be needed to assist in the recruitment of specially trained staff. The officer highlighted the plans across Health Education England where recruit to train initiatives are being looked at. There was also work with Joined up Care Derbyshire (JUCD) on a wider strategic plan, and work with the Local Authority and Voluntary Sector. The Mental Health Trust and Chesterfield Royal are working with Derby University on “recruit to train” opportunities.

A councillor had concerns about waiting time for first appearance of psychotic episode, which was two weeks before seeing someone, can they be seen sooner? Officers explained that all services will triage referrals, if someone is in crisis they will be seen quickly as possible, children and young people may also be getting care and support in other areas.

A councillor asked for more information about the Art of Brilliance package. This was a local package and has been made available to the workforce. The package was about empowering people to feel more confident, improve their wellbeing and help them in dealing with situations better. The package was available to schools.

A councillor asked what the areas of challenge in the Plan were. Officers confirmed that workforce challenge was significant. Derby University was confident of a good number of nursing staff accessing courses, but the dispersed model for allied health professionals such as Occupational Therapists and Physios was run in other universities and attracting those people to Derby was challenging. There was a Development Programme for non-registered staff to undertake their own training, plus an expanded apprenticeship scheme. A single workforce plan with Derby and Derbyshire was being put in place to avoid competition.

#### **The Board resolved**

- 1. To consider and note the report and presentation and requested an update report for February or March 2022.**

#### **13/21 Special Needs Provision - request of the Chair of CYP Scrutiny**

The Chair explained that she had requested this item be brought to the Board following publication in online media of an article relating to school placements for children with special educational needs and disabilities. The Cabinet member for CYP (CM) and Strategic Director (SD) had been invited to attend the meeting to give an explanation as to why the local authority had proposed that children were placed at a school that had yet to open or had not yet been approved.

The Strategic Director (SD) outlined the background to the two cases and explained that it was not possible to talk about individual cases or refer to children. It involved two tribunal cases where Jasmine Hall was proposed as a possible special school for children to attend, but that was never actually named in the Education Health Care Plans EHCPs.

The SD explained that as part of the usual EHCP process, several schools within Derby's framework would have been approached and asked to consider whether they could take the children and help with their needs, but none felt that they could. The Service had worked successfully in the past with Jasmine House, which was an established school for children with Special Education Needs and Disabilities (SEND). Outcomes at the school were good and the provider was planning to open another school in Derby, named "Jasmine Hall". During conversations with the parents as the EHCP document and process continued, Jasmine Hall was stated as the Local Authority preference, but ultimately during negotiation with parents as part of the Tribunal process, a different school was named.

The SD explained that it was not against the law to name unopened schools on an EHCP, however, it was unhelpful even if the provider had a track record of providing good provision for children with SEND which was relevant in this case. The SD confirmed that the practice in the team had been changed to make certain there would be no repetition of this situation.

The Chair was pleased to hear that changes had been made in the process. It was agreed that schools should not be named where no planning consent, which could lead to pre-emption of planning processes, or statutory licences were in place and there should be processes put in place to ensure that this did not happen again. The Cabinet Member agreed that it was not acceptable practice, but it was not illegal, and the Board could be assured that the processes had been changed and staff had been trained to ensure this would not be repeated.

The SD highlighted that the Board would be aware that the Council had a SEND strategy and Vision which was co-produced with Partners and the Parent Carer Together Forum. Regular updates on the Strategy and Vision had been brought to the Board.

The Chair stated that children must not have long breaks in their education; should not wait for a school to open; and they should be back in a school environment as soon as possible.

The Cabinet member reiterated that particular details of cases could not be discussed. It was stated that the Council always tried to ensure that children get to the right school, at the right time, with their needs being met, as soon as possible. It was emphasised that the Council would never keep children away from school on purpose: the Service tried to ensure that children and young people could get the best education and have their personal needs met.

A Councillor asked if a child gets an EHCP in February and the named school would not open until at least September, would the child not be in education until that school opened or would an alternative provision be given, even though it was not specified in the EHCP

The SD explained that it was one of the practical challenges in this particular context: whilst naming a school that was not yet open, schools that were planning to open could be in different phases of development. They could be almost at the point of registration by Ofsted, or they could be in the planning stage. When looking at the context in this case, opening was not likely to happen in the near future; this was part of the concern in understanding the impact on the child and the family, but there could be cases where the opening of a school was close. However, the Council's priority was to ensure that children were matched to the right school with right needs, which in some circumstances could lead to a period of time out of school.

The EHCP system was under significant pressure which could be seen from previous presentations to the Board and in the national press, however this context did not mitigate the concerns of the Chair. A child would not be in education, but this was partly why the Council needed to make practices as robust as they could be, even though what happened in these circumstances was not unlawful.

The Chair thanked both the Cabinet Member and Strategic Director for attending and proposed two recommendations: firstly, for Derby City Council to have a policy in place to ensure that any SEND school placement proposed or offered to SEND children and young people has the appropriate planning consents, authorisations, and registrations in place, particularly from the Council, Department for Education and OFSTED. Secondly, that this matter should be referred to the Audit and Governance Committee for further consideration.

The Board agreed the two recommendations. The Cabinet member accepted the first recommendation but asked what the intention of the second recommendation was. The Chair stated it was up to the Audit and Governance Committee to discuss and deliberate and declined to discuss the matter further.

**The Board Resolved that:**

- 1. Derby City Council should have a policy in place to ensure that any SEND school placement proposed or offered to SEND children and young people has the appropriate planning consents authorisations, and registrations in place, particularly from the Council, Department for Education and OFSTED.**
- 2. The matter is referred to the Audit and Governance Committee for further consideration.**

## 14/21 Review of Holidays Activities and Food (HAF) Programme over the Summer

The Board noted that this report had been deferred to a later meeting as a presentation was not available for the meeting.

## 15/21 Work Programme and Topic Review 2020/21

The Board considered a report which allowed the Board to study its Terms of Reference and Remit for the forthcoming Municipal Year. The report set out key work areas, issues, and potential topic review subjects within the service areas, for discussion or inclusion in the work programme.

The Board agreed the work programme set out in appendix 1 to the report. Councillors were asked if they wanted to add anything on to the Agenda

**The Board resolved to note the terms of reference and the Overview and Scrutiny Rules as set out in the Council's Constitution**

MINUTES END