

Remit – Scrutiny Review into Community Mental Health Services in Care of Young People

Summary

1. This report presents the Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee with work undertaken to date by the Task Group appointed to this review. It specifically presents the remit for the review, which the Committee are asked to agree.

Background

2. At a meeting of Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee on 23rd July 2012 Members gave consideration to a topic that had been suggested by Councillor Runciman. They received information prepared by officers (**Annex A refers – online annex**) on this topic and decided they would like to undertake a scrutiny review. It was agreed that a Task Group¹ formed from Members of the Committee would undertake the bulk of the work.
3. The Task Group met for the first time on 5th November 2012 to set a remit for the review. Councillor Runciman, who had submitted the topic, was in attendance at the meeting to give an overview of where her concerns were. She told the Task Group that youth offending was a concern and that she was interested in the correlation between such behaviour and mental health problems in adolescents. There is strong evidence to suggest that effective early intervention can prevent an escalation in mental health problems for young people and consequently contribute to a reduction in youth crime and other poor outcomes for young people.

¹ The Task Group is comprised of Councillor Funnell, Councillor Richardson and Councillor Hodgson

A key message from specialist practitioners at York's recent Children's Mental Health Matters Conference confirmed that early intervention can be highly effective in putting things right at an earlier stage.

4. The Assistant Director – Children's Specialist Services and the Youth Offending Team Service Manager were also present at the meeting to advise the Task Group. Discussions touched on the background of adolescents with mental health issues and an offending record, emotional support provided in primary schools and the challenges associated with providing emotional support to young people in secondary school settings. The impact of low level mental health issues on young people's ability to learn and make positive choices were also considered.
5. On consideration of these discussions the following remit was set for the review:

Aim

To raise awareness of:

- emotional and mental health issues for young people.
- the services and interventions available

with a view to ensuring that the wider children's workforce are well informed and equipped to identify and respond to children and young people with emotional problems and / or emerging mental health issues.

Key Objectives

- i. To identify current levels of understanding and awareness of the importance of recognising early symptoms of emotional and mental health problems in young people.
- ii. To look at ways of disseminating learning from effective targeted emotional and mental health support in schools – with particular reference to the successful TaMHS (Targeted Mental Health In Schools) arrangements.
- iii. To look at ways to further improve multi agency working in relation to supporting the emotional and mental health needs of children and young people in the City. In particular, to consider how the developing Children and Young People's Mental Health Strategy 2013 - 2015 will support this objective.

6. The Task Group then identified the following, who they felt should be involved in the review:

- Head Teachers (2 Secondary School and 1 Primary School)
(Primary School to understand pastoral transition)
- City of York Council Education Psychology Service
- Young people
- Youth Council
- Youth Offending Team
(Pick out patterns from case studies of behaviours and backgrounds)
- Community and Mental Health Services (CAMHS)
(CAMHS could promote early intervention and advise on what 'signs' to look for)
- City of York Council Officers
- Police/Neighbourhood Police Officers
- Representative from the Voluntary Sector

Consultation

7. To date consultation has taken place with City of York Council officers and Councillor Runciman, who had originally submitted the topic. Further consultation will take place as the review progresses.

Options

8. Members have the following options:

Option 1 – Agree to the remit and key objectives for this review as set out in **paragraph 5** of this report

Option 2 – Amend the remit and key objectives for this review

Analysis

9. In order to set a workable remit, the Task Group took advice from City of York Council Officers as to the way forward that was likely to add the most value.

10. Once the remit and key objectives for this review have been agreed by the Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee a date can be set for work on this review to begin.

Council Plan 2011-2015

11. This review is directly linked to the 'Protect Vulnerable People' element of the Council Plan 2011-2015.

Implications

12. **Financial** – There are no financial implications associated with the recommendations in this report; however implications may arise as the review progresses and these will be addressed as part of the review work.
13. **Human Resources (HR)** - There are no Human Resources implications associated with the recommendations in this report; however implications may arise as the review progresses and these will be addressed as part of the review work.
14. There are no other implications associated with the recommendations within this report.

Risk Management

15. There are no risks associated with the recommendations within this report. Should risks arise as the review progresses these will be identified and clearly set out in the final report arising from the review.

Recommendations

16. Members are asked to approve the remit set out at **Paragraph 5** to this report.

Reason: To enable the Task Group to commence this review

Contact Details

Author:

Tracy Wallis
Scrutiny Officer
Scrutiny Services
Tel: 01904 551714

Chief Officer Responsible for the report:

Andrew Docherty
Assistant Director Governance and ICT
Tel: 01904 551004

Report
Approved



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Specialist Implications Officer(s) None

Wards Affected: *List wards or tick box to indicate all*

All



For further information please contact the author of the report

Background Papers:

None

Annexes

Annex A – Briefing Note 23rd July 2012 – Online only