

Title of report: Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services

Meeting: Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee

Meeting date: Tuesday 14 November 2023

Report by: Statutory Scrutiny Officer

Classification

Open

Decision type

This is not an executive decision

Wards affected

(All Wards);

Purpose

This report provides supporting information for the committee's scrutiny of Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services available to children and young people in Herefordshire.

Recommendation(s)

That:

- a) investigate access to and the availability of appropriate mental health services for children and young people and
- b) identify gaps in provision and explore opportunities for more effective commissioning of services.

Alternative options

1. The committee may wish to make alternative recommendations during the course of their scrutiny of this topic.

Key considerations

2. The Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee agreed at its previous meeting to scrutinise child and adolescent mental health services available to children and young people in Herefordshire.
3. To support this work, Appendix 1 of this report provides an overview of services available to all children and young people. Appendix provides a similar overview with a specific focus on looked after children.

Community impact

4. Effective scrutiny strengthens council and partner services. Better public services will have a beneficial impact on people and communities in Herefordshire. This impact will depend on the topic being considered, the recommendations made by the committee, and the extent to which those recommendations are implemented.

Environmental Impact

5. Whilst this activity will have minimal environmental impacts, consideration has been made to minimise waste and resource use in line with the Council's environmental policy

Equality duty

6. Under section 149 of the Equality Act 2010, the 'general duty' on public authorities is set out as follows:

A public authority must, in the exercise of its functions, have due regard to the need to –

- a) eliminate discrimination, harassment, victimisation and any other conduct that is prohibited by or under this Act;
 - b) advance equality of opportunity between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it;
 - c) foster good relations between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it.
7. The public sector equality duty (specific duty) requires us to consider how we can positively contribute to the advancement of equality and good relations, and demonstrate that we are paying 'due regard' in our decision making in the design of policies and in the delivery of services. Whilst this is an update on the work of the partnership and in itself has minimal equalities impacts, consideration will be made in the future where changes to services are being considered.

Resource implications

8. Currently there are none that cannot be managed within existing budgets.

Legal implications

9. There are no explicit legal implications in respect of this report.

Risk management

10. There are no direct risks associated with this report.

Consultees

11. None.

Appendices

Appendix 1: Overview of CAMHS

Appendix 2: Summary of services available to children in care

Background papers

None identified.

Report Reviewers Used for appraising this report:

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