

North Somerset Council

Report to the Children & Young People Policy & Scrutiny Panel and Health Overview and Scrutiny Panel (HOSP)

Date of Meeting: Thursday 10 March 2022 (CYPS) Thursday 24 March 2022 (HOSP)

Subject of Report: Overview of Findings from CAMHS Working Group

Town or Parish: N/A

Officer/Member Presenting: Cllr Ciaran Cronnelly, HOSP Chairman and Member of CYPS

Key Decision: No

Reason: To update Scrutiny Panels on Findings from CAMHS Working Group

Recommendations from the Working Group:

- HOSP/CYPS appreciates the collaboration and transparency of all parties involved in the working group discussions about parity of funding for children's and young people's mental health services in North Somerset.
- HOSP/CYPS believes it's clear that North Somerset children and young people do not receive parity of funding – and service – for mental health services when compared with Bristol and South Gloucestershire.
- HOSP/CYPS calls on the council, CCG and system partners to work together to begin to close the estimated £700k funding gap and to specifically improve services for eating disorders, learning disabilities, and primary & infant mental health services
- A progress report be provided to CYPS by no later than October 2022 outlining the steps that have been taken to improve parity from a funding and service delivery model perspective, and where gaps remain, what steps will be taken to improve these

Summary of report

As part of the SEND agenda for CYPS on 11 March 2021 there were discussions about parity of provision for mental health services for children and young people when compared to Bristol and South Gloucestershire. This led to a recommendation that a working group would be set up to further investigate this and report back.

Due to the nature of the issue – children/young people and health – it was agreed that this would be a joint working group made up of HOSP and CYPS councillors and would be co-chaired by the Chair of HOSP (Cllr Cronnelly) and the Chair of CYPS (Cllr Griggs). The working group was supported by officers from North Somerset Council, BNSSG CCG, Sirona, AWP.

This report sets out an overview of those findings and makes a set of recommendations for both HOSP and CYPS to consider at their next meetings.

Policy

N/A

Details

The focus for the working group was to review and understand the parity in provision for North Somerset children and young people's mental health services when compared with other areas within the CCGs footprint.

To understand this issue the working group relied on a gap analysis that was co-ordinated by Avon and Wiltshire Metal Health Partnership (AWP). All parties such as AWP, North Somerset Council and the CCG were able to input into this. The working group are very appreciative of the work that everyone has put into this gap analysis.

This gap analysis looked at a range of children and young people's mental health services across the CCG's footprint and detailed the various service delivery models and funding differences in North Somerset.

At the time of writing this report the gap analysis – and subsequent remedial actions - are going through the internal governance process for the CCG and NSC, however, the working group already has enough information to report back to the panels. The contents of the gap analysis contained confidential information such as the service delivery model, funding and resourcing structures across various organisations and due to this it would be inappropriate for this information to be in the public domain. Therefore the Chairs have decided that the gap analysis report won't be included within this report to scrutiny.

However, a high level summary of what was reviewed, and what was discovered can be found below:

What services were reviewed and what did it show

The assessment reviewed all provision across BNSSG CAMHS services in Bristol, South Gloucestershire and North Somerset. In North Somerset specifically the CAMHS service has two teams – Core and Crisis – whilst in Bristol and South Gloucestershire there are additional specialist services. We learnt:

Core service

- North Somerset has a higher caseload figure than Bristol and South Gloucestershire due to a large number of young people on the waiting list
- The number of staff within the North Somerset core CAMHS team was broadly similar to Bristol and South Gloucestershire but they didn't have the same skills or specialist services

Eating Disorders

- The service in North Somerset is smaller, and is not a stand alone service, compared to Bristol and South Gloucestershire

Crisis service

- The North Somerset service does not provide a service at weekends or in the evening like the Bristol and South Gloucestershire services do
- This issue has already been identified and there is currently work underway to provide a 24/7 crisis service across the full BNSSG footprint

Getting advice

- North Somerset has lower administration support than Bristol and South Gloucestershire

Learning Disabilities

- There is support available for children/young people with Learning Disabilities across all of BNSSG's footprint but North Somerset has less support available for those with mild learning disabilities
- North Somerset has no intensive positive behaviour support service unlike in Bristol and South Gloucestershire
- This is a gap that needs to be rectified

Autism Intensive Service

- There is no Autism intensive Service in North Somerset like there is in Bristol or South Gloucestershire
- This is a gap that needs to be rectified and there are plans in place to develop the service in 2022/23 and expand this into North Somerset

Specialist Substance Misuse

- This service is provided across the BNSSG footprint but the slight difference in North Somerset is this is a Tier 2 service whilst Bristol and South Gloucestershire has access to a Tier 3 service.

Youth offending service

- North Somerset provides this service and has a different service model to Bristol and South Gloucestershire

Thinking Allowed Service

- This is a specialist CAMHS service for children in care and the networks around them
- There is no Thinking Allowed service in North Somerset

Primary Mental Health Specialist

- This is a service across Bristol and South Gloucestershire that works to support the mental health, emotional wellbeing and resilience of children, young people and their families. This is provided through a specialist team
- There is no equivalent specialist service in North Somerset

Primary Infant Mental Health Service

- This is a service that aims to promote the mental health and wellbeing of the infant population.
- There is no service in North Somerset and this is only provided in Bristol and South Gloucestershire

Tier 2 services

- Kooth is a service that provides young people with online access to a community of peers and experienced counsellors. North Somerset has an increased offer compared to Bristol and South Gloucestershire and offers this to 11 – 25 year olds

- Off the Record: Provides free wellbeing info and support for young people. This has just launched in North Somerset. This service is already available in Bristol and South Gloucestershire

Summary of findings

The gap analysis showed that North Somerset did not have parity of funding and service with Bristol and South Gloucestershire and for there to be true parity in North Somerset the following service models need to be changed:

- Eating disorder pathway needs to be redesigned to align with Bristol and South Gloucestershire, including developing access to a specialist hub team
- CAMHS needs to develop a number of evidence-based care pathways using the I-Thrive framework. This will include training and development for staff in interventions such as supporting young people with more acute and complex mental health presentations
- Waiting list and service performance need to be improved, which includes redesigning the pathways
- The Bristol and South Gloucestershire Getting Advice Service needs to extend to include North Somerset
- Appropriate resourcing needs to be in place to support the transition of these services

From the perspective of parity of funding the following needs to happen:

- There needs to be increased investment in primary and infant mental health specialists. A focus specifically needs to be on provision for under 11s
- Investment is needed in Learning Disability Services, specifically intensive behaviour support and autism

What is the level of investment needed

It's estimated that the cost of trying to achieve parity in services will be £700k+. Responsibility for the funding and design of these services does not sit alone with either the local authority or the CCG and both will need to work together collaboratively.

However, it should be noted that it's anticipated the bulk of the £700k would need to be found by the local authority if the approach was to be aligned to how services are funded in Bristol and South Gloucestershire.

Has it been established if there's parity of funding and service

From the gap analysis seen by the councillors on the Working Group, and from conversations with officers, it is clear that North Somerset's children and young people do not receive the same parity of service when compared with Bristol and South Gloucestershire.

A lot of working is needed to close this gap and it will take a collaborative approach from everyone in the system to achieve this.

Next steps

The working group has now concluded and everyone has acknowledged that more work is needed across North Somerset to improve the parity with Bristol and South Gloucestershire. Currently the gap analysis is going through the governance process of North Somerset and BNSSG CCG to get internal sign-off and to agree next steps and responsibilities for dealing with the lack of parity.

The working group has made several recommendations based on what we've learnt which we hope that both HOSP and CYPS approve. We'd also recommend that both HOSP and CYPS should turn their focus to the scrutiny of the actions agreed to improve the gap analysis.

Consultation

N/A

Financial Implications

N/A

Legal Powers and Implications

N/A

Climate Change and Environment Implications

N/A

Risk Management

N/A

Equality Implications

N/A

Corporate Implications

N/A

Options Considered

N/A

Author: Councillor Ciaran Cronnelly, Chairman Health Overview and Scrutiny Panel