

**EXECUTIVE  
COMMITTEE**

4th April 2017

**MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES FOR YOUNG PEOPLE TASK GROUP – COVERING  
REPORT**

Relevant Portfolio Holder	Councillor Bill Hartnett, Portfolio Holder for Community Leadership and Partnership (including Voluntary Sector and Health Services)
Portfolio Holder Consulted	No
Relevant Head of Service	Judith Willis, Head of Community Services
Ward(s) Affected	No specific ward relevance.
Non-Key Decision	

**1. SUMMARY OF PROPOSALS**

This report provides an overview of the findings of the Mental Health Services for Young People Task Group. More detailed information about the evidence basis for the group's recommendations can be found in the group's final report attached at Appendix 1.

**2. RECOMMENDATIONS**

The Committee is asked to **RESOLVE** that

- 1) **The Leader of the Council should write to the Secretary of State for Education, the Rt. Hon. Justine Greening, urging her to ensure that Personal, Social, Health and Economic Education (PSHE) Lessons, to include lessons about mental health and wellbeing issues, become a statutory part of the national school curriculum.**

*(Recommendation 4 in the report).*

- 2) **A new theme should be added to the Council's grants programme which is dedicated to projects which help people experiencing mental health and wellbeing problems.**

*(Recommendation 5 in the report).*

- 3) Senior officers, following consultation with the Portfolio Holders for Corporate Management and Housing respectively, should review the implications for Council Services of the following actions detailed in the West Midlands Combined Authority Mental Health Commission's *Thrive West Midlands Action Plan*:

**Action 4:** the proposal to evaluate a financial incentive to encourage companies to demonstrate their commitment to mental health and wellbeing.

**Action 5:** the proposal to help people to gain housing and work (including potentially supported accommodation).

The outcomes of this work should be reported for the consideration of the Executive Committee.

*(Recommendation 6 in the report).*

The Committee is asked to NOTE the following recommendations from the group to the Emotional Wellbeing and CAMHS Partnership Board and Worcestershire County Council that

- 4) Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS) should not withdraw services from young people who fail to engage during their appointments.

*(Recommendation 1 in the report)*

- 5) A representative of the new Liaison and Diversion Service for Worcestershire should work as a Change Champion in Connecting Families once the service starts to operate in the county.

*(Recommendation 2 in the report)*

- 6) Worcestershire County Council's Public Health Department should review the provision of Youth Mental Health First Aid training to determine whether a concessionary rate could be offered to enable staff from smaller Voluntary and Community Sector organisations to participate.

*(Recommendation 3 in the report)*

The Committee is asked to NOTE the following recommendation from the group to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee that

- 7) The Mental Health Services for Young People Task Group should be reconvened in 12 months' time to receive monitoring updates from officers about progress in the Borough with the implementation of:
- a) the actions detailed in the *Worcestershire Transformation Plan for Children and Young People's Emotional Wellbeing and Mental Health*;
  - b) the West Midlands Combined Authority Mental Health Commission's *Thrive West Midlands: An Action Plan to Drive Better Health and Wellbeing in the West Midlands*; and
  - c) the Suicide Prevention Plan for Redditch.

*(Recommendation 7 in the report)*

### **3. KEY ISSUES**

#### **Background**

- 3.1 In May 2016 Elected Members attended an Overview and Scrutiny Work Programme planning event at the Town Hall. The purpose of this session was to provide Members with an opportunity to discuss issues that might be suitable for scrutiny during the year. One topic that Members identified during this event as suitable for further investigation was mental health services.
- 3.2 In July 2016 Councillor Nina Wood-Ford submitted a scoping document for the consideration of the Committee which was endorsed by Members. This document detailed the terms of reference for a review of mental health services for young people. The decision was taken to concentrate on services for young people to enable scrutiny Members to consider action that could be taken to support people manage their mental health and wellbeing difficulties before they reached adulthood.
- 3.3 Councillor Wood-Ford was appointed to Chair the Task Group. Councillors Andrew Fry, Gay Hopkins, David Thain and Jenny Wheeler were also appointed to this group.

#### **Financial Implications**

- 3.4 All the financial implications arising from the group's recommendations are detailed in the final report.

**Legal Implications**

- 3.5 All the legal implications arising from the group's proposals are detailed in the final report.

**Service / Operational Implications**

- 3.6 This review has been a very intense exercise. A total of 23 meetings took place over a period of eight months creating a significant workload for both Members and Officers.
- 3.7 Subject to the group's seventh recommendation being approved by the Overview and Scrutiny Committee on 28<sup>th</sup> March the Mental Health Services for Young People Task Group will need to be reconvened in 12 months' time. If this recommendation is endorsed the group leaders are asked to consider reappointing Councillors Fry, Hopkins, Thain, Wheeler and Wood-Ford to serve on the group due to the expertise they have developed in the subject matter.

**Customer / Equalities and Diversity Implications**

- 3.8 The group has proposed numerous actions which are designed to enhance mental health services for children and young people. Some of these recommendations could also have a positive impact on services for adults.

**4. RISK MANAGEMENT**

No specific risks have been identified.

**5. APPENDICES**

Appendix 1 – The Mental Health Services for Young People Task Group's final report and appendices.

**AUTHOR OF REPORT**

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