

## **OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**

**4<sup>th</sup> July 2017**

### **MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES FOR YOUNG PEOPLE TASK GROUP – RESPONSE TO RECOMMENDATION 4**

|                            |   |
|----------------------------|---|
| Relevant Portfolio Holder  | Councillor Bill Hartnett, Leader of the Council |
| Portfolio Holder Consulted | No.   |
| Relevant Head of Services  | Head of Legal, Equality and Democratic Services |
| Ward(s) Affected           | All wards.                                      |

#### **1. SUMMARY OF PROPOSALS**

This report provides Members with an update on the response received from the former Minister of State for Vulnerable Children and Families in relation to the Mental Health Services for Young People Task Group's fourth recommendation.

#### **2. RECOMMENDATIONS**

**The Committee is asked to RESOLVE whether any further action should be taken in respect of the Mental Health Services for Young People Task Group's fourth recommendation.**

#### **3. KEY ISSUES**

##### **Background**

- 3.1 The Mental Health Services for Young People Task Group reviewed mental health service provision in the Borough in 2016/17. At the end of the review Members proposed seven recommendations. Three of the group's recommendations were reported to the Executive Committee for consideration.
- 3.2 At a meeting of the Executive Committee on 4<sup>th</sup> April 2017 Members endorsed two of the group's recommendations. This included the group's fourth recommendation which proposed that 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.
- 3.3 As requested the Leader of the Council contacted the Secretary of State for Education in April 2017 to raise this issue on behalf of the group. A copy of the group's final report was sent with this correspondence.
- 3.4 In May 2017 a response was received from the then Minister of State for Vulnerable Children and Families, former MP Edward Timpson (to view a copy of the letter please see Appendix 1).

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- 3.5 At a meeting of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee on 1st June 2017 Members received a report which provided an update on action that had been taken to implement recommendations made through the scrutiny process. Reference was made in this report to the response that had been received from the Minister, though a decision was taken not to publish the letter at this time due to the purdah arrangements that were in place in the lead up to the general election that took place on 8th June 2017.
- 3.6 During consideration of the correspondence from the Minister Members welcomed the news that in future all secondary schools in England and Wales, including academies and free schools, will be required to teach Relationships and Sex Education (RSE). Parents will retain the power to request that their children are withdrawn from these lessons.
- 3.7 However, whilst reference was made in the letter to PSHE lessons Members raised concerns that no commitment was received in the letter to investigating the potential to make PSHE lessons a compulsory part of the national curriculum. The Committee therefore asked to view the correspondence from the Minister at their next meeting and to discuss whether any further action should be taken in response.

### **Financial Implications**

- 3.8 There are no direct financial implications for the Council.

### **Legal Implications**

- 3.9 There are no direct legal implications for the Council.

### **Service / Operational Implications**

- 3.10 There are no specific service or operational implications.

### **Customer / Equalities and Diversity Implications**

- 3.11 The Mental Health Services for Young People Task Group concluded that delivery of PSHE lessons as a compulsory part of the national curriculum would have a beneficial impact on young people. In particular the group agreed that this would enable young people to develop greater resilience and useful life skills that would have a positive impact on their mental wellbeing in the long-term.

## **4. RISK MANAGEMENT**

No specific risks have been identified.

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**5. APPENDICES**

Appendix 1 – Letter from the former Minister of State for Vulnerable Children and Families.

**6. BACKGROUND PAPERS**

Mental Health Services for Young People Task group – final report

**AUTHOR OF REPORT**

Name: Jess Bayley, Democratic Services Officer  
Email: [jess.bayley@bromsgroveandredditch.gov.uk](mailto:jess.bayley@bromsgroveandredditch.gov.uk)  
Tel: (01527) 64252 Ext: 3268