

UNION BOARD

Agenda Item: 10

Date of Meeting: 24th November 2020

Subject: Mental health and emotional wellbeing service for children and young people

Presented by: Councillor Lindley – Portfolio Holder for Children, Education and Young People

Status of Report (auto check relevant box):

- For Information
- For Discussion
- Report Exempt from Public Disclosure No Yes

Executive Summary:

Part of the Union Board's Terms of Reference is to:

“Oversee, and provide strategic direction/leadership for the delivery of the S75 arrangements and the development, implementation and on-going operation of the S75 Services”

There is a national requirement to commission a mental health and emotional wellbeing service for children and young people. The current service has been in place since 2018 between North East Lincolnshire Council and the service provider Lincolnshire Partnership NHS Foundation Trust (LPFT). It is nationally recognised that this service effectively supports children and young people (families and carers) to attain and maintain emotional resilience and wellbeing using effective interventions through the person centred, needs led THRIVE Framework of service delivery and has been rated by CQC as ‘outstanding’.

This contract is due to expire on 31st March 2021, as such the Board are requested to note the intention to extend this contract for up to a two-year period subject to successful negotiations with the incumbent provider. Firstly, as the provider is delivering well against the outcomes of the contract and secondly there will be a significant increase in demand following the COVID-pandemic and consistency of service is key to support our vulnerable children and young people.

North East Lincolnshire's vision for a future service is to provide a mental health and emotional wellbeing service which supports children and young people to have access to timely, integrated, responsive, safe, high quality and multi-disciplinary services which are connected by effective pathways. The service will ensure mental health support is more visible and easily accessible by ensuring children and young people in crisis are treated in the right place, at the right time whilst

providing a better offer for the most vulnerable children, aligning to the Government's vision in the Future in Mind report.

The Future in Mind report states we need to value the importance of recognising and promoting good mental health and wellbeing:

1. Promote good mental wellbeing and resilience to support children and young people to adopt and maintain behaviours which support good mental health
2. Prevent mental health problems from arising by taking early action
3. Early intervention of need so that children and young people are supported as soon as problems arise, preventing more serious problems developing wherever possible

Local Statistics

- Public Health England¹ identifies there are an estimated 3,000 children and young people in North East Lincolnshire aged 5-17 with mental health conditions, this highlights a need to build resilience and promote prevention and early help across the borough
- The rate of child inpatient admissions for mental health conditions at 72.5 per 100,000 and the rate of self-harm 426.0 per 100,000 is similar to England
- Pupils with a primary need of social, emotional, and mental health, have by far the highest rates of fixed period exclusion nationally in both primary and secondary schools²
- There were 69 hospital admissions as a result of self-harm for young people ages 10 to 19 in 2016/17³
- The most common primary needs in North East Lincolnshire secondary schools are moderate learning difficulty; specific learning difficulty; and social, emotional, and mental health
- The main primary SEN needs were social, emotional, and mental health at 57%

To ensure that the service meets current, and emerging needs, a project team will be formed, and a new service specification will be developed in consultation with stakeholders which will reflect the changing complexities of the needs of children and young people locally. The new service specification will acknowledge the issues that have been raised within the recent health needs assessment and from consultations undertaken with children, young people and their families/carers.

Should there be a decision to undertake a procurement process it is requested that the Union Board delegates the award of tender decision to the Acting Director of Children's Services, in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Children, Education and Young People.

Recommendations:

It is recommended that the Union Board:

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<https://fingertips.phe.org.uk/profilegroup/mentalhealth/profile/cypmh/data#page/0/gid/1938133090/pat/6/par/E12000003/ati/102/are/E06000012>

² Health Needs Assessment Vulnerability of Children and Young People Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) 2020

³ North East Lincolnshire Mental Health and Well Being Needs Assessment 2018

1. Notes the intention to extend the current service by up to a further 24-months (from 1st April 2021 to 31st March 2023) with the current service provider of the children and young people's emotional health and wellbeing service, Lincolnshire Partnership NHS Foundation Trust, subject to successful contract negotiations
2. Authorises the Clinical Commissioning Group's Chief Operating Officer together with the Acting Director of Children's Services (both in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Children, Education and Young People) to undertake a procurement exercise, if this is deemed appropriate, to appoint a suitably experienced provider(s) to deliver new mental health and emotional wellbeing service(s) for children and young people.
3. Authorises the Clinical Commissioning Group's Chief Operating Officer together with the Acting Director of Children's Services (both in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Children, Education and Young People) if this is deemed appropriate to make an award and to deal with any ancillary matters arising including implementation and mobilisation.
4. Authorises respective Authorised Signatories to complete and execute legal documentation in connection with an award.

Risks and Opportunities:

Risks

An impact assessment will be undertaken as part of the re-commissioning process.

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Opportunities

The vision of the service is to support children and young people to have access to timely, integrated, responsive, safe, high quality and multi-disciplinary mental health and wellbeing services which are connected by effective pathways into acute settings. Making mental health support more visible and easily accessible, improving the care for children and young people in crisis so they are treated in the right place at the right time and a better offer for the most vulnerable children, aligned to the Government's vision outlined in the 'Future in Mind' report.

It would also be sensible to await the outcomes of the new formed Mental Health Support Team once they have been delivering a year in the summer of 2021 to better understand opportunities and gaps for service development and to ensure connectivity with the Thrive approach across the pathway.

We are also aware of the developments around the Early Help approach and the outcomes of the written statement of action for SEND and are keen to align future service provision to these approaches and strategies.

Finance Implications:

North East Lincolnshire Council has delegated responsibility for the commissioning of children and young people's mental health and emotional wellbeing services on behalf of the CCG as part of the Section 75 agreement and there is a national requirement to have a commissioned service.

The majority of the funding for the service comes from the CCG as part of the Children's Trust agreement.

The intention to extend the current contract for up to a further 24 months is subject to successful contract negotiations with Lincolnshire Partnership Foundation Trust.

Legal Implications:

Preliminary Market Consultation and the procurement exercise are governed by the Public Contracts Regulations 2015. The Preliminary Market Consultation activity will enable the specification to be developed, in line with the appropriate contractual documentation. Such activity enables the seeking or accepting of advice from independent experts, authorities or from market participants providing it does not distort competition nor breach the requirements for non-discrimination and transparency. The contract is the key governing document through which the resulting relationship will be governed and Legal Services in consultation with Clinical Commissioning Group colleagues will complete the contractual documentation on any award.

The procurement exercise, if deemed appropriate, will be conducted to comply with the Clinical Commissioning Group and Council's policy and legal obligations, specifically in compliance with the Council's Contract Procedure Rules and the Public Contracts Regulations 2015 and supported by relevant officers. The delegations sought are consistent with an exercise of this nature.

Quality Implications:

There will be an improved offer for children and young people within North East Lincolnshire. This will enhance the support available, making it more accessible and increasing the choice for children, young people, and their families.

Engagement Implications:

The Union approach recognises the extensive engagement and research already undertaken as part of our local transformation plan and the recent mental health needs assessment. The Future in Mind project board has engaged extensively with schools, pupils, and professionals over the last 4 years.

A project team will be established to engage key partners in the development of the service specification.

There are also engagement activities being planned over the next 24-month period to consult with professionals, children, young people, and their families/carers.

There will be a focus on the following vulnerable groups as we shape the service specification:

- CYP involved in criminal justice
- CYP not in education, employment, or training (NEET)
- Young Carers
- Elected Home Educated (EHE)
- CYP at risk of exclusion/excluded
- Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE)
- Children Looked After (CLA)
- Care Leavers
- Black and Minority Ethnic (BME)
- LGBTQ+
- Additional needs/SEN
- Asylum seekers, refugees, and new migrants

This list is not exhaustive and will be concluded through engagement activities.

Supporting Papers:

None.

