

## Equality Impact Assessment - head of service review

Reference: EQIA209891862

Submitted: 09 September 2020 11:22 AM

### Executive summary

**Title of policy or decision:** Children and Young People's (CYP) Emotional Wellbeing and Mental Health Service (EWMHS) contract variation

**Describe the main aims, objectives and purpose of the policy (or decision):** The 'Collaborative' (Essex, Southend and Thurrock Councils and the seven Clinical Commissioning Groups (CCGs) (Mid, West, North East, South East and South West Essex, Thurrock and Southend CCGs)), commissioned North East London Foundation Trust (NELFT) to deliver EWMHS, an integrated Tier 2 (targeted) and Tier 3 (specialist) service providing emotional wellbeing and mental health service for children and young people (cyp) in greater Essex. EWMHS is managed by a Lead Commissioning Team, presently hosted by West Essex CCG. This is overseen collectively by the Collaborative Commissioning Forum (CCF) which comprises senior officers from all 10 commissioning partners in the Collaborative.

The service has a single point of access which provides screening, directing and/or signposting for all referrals delivered by staff with a range of differing, but complimentary skills and competencies. It also offers advice and guidance, consultation and support to those referring, including Education, Primary Care, Secondary Care, Social Care, voluntary/independent sector, young people and their families.

A contract variation is required in order to ensure continuation of service until a new service can be procured.

In addition to the section below the CYP EWMH Service contributes towards the delivery of the following ECC priorities:

ECC Organisation Strategy 2017-21

Help people get the best start and age well

- To keep vulnerable children safer and enable to fulfil their potential
- To improve the health of people in Essex.

Essex Children and young people's plan 2016 onwards

- Children and young people are emotionally health and make good decisions
- Children and young people are engage in positive activities and are physically healthy

No Health without Mental Health sets out a clear vision centered around six objectives:

- More people will have good mental health
- More people with mental health problems will recover
- More people with mental health problems will have good physical health
- More people will have a positive experience of care and support
- Fewer people will suffer avoidable harm
- Fewer people will experience stigma and discrimination

NHS Outcomes Framework Domains & Indicators

Domain 1 Preventing people from dying prematurely ✓

Domain 2 Enhancing quality of life for people with long-term conditions ✓

Domain 3 Helping people to recover from episodes of ill-health or following injury ✓

Domain 4 Ensuring people have a positive experience of care ✓

Domain 5 Treating and caring for people in safe environment and protecting them from avoidable harm ✓

**What outcome(s) are you hoping to achieve?:** Help people get the best start and age well

**Which strategic priorities does this support? - Help people get the best start and age well:** Help keep vulnerable children safer and enable them to fulfil their potential, Improve the health of people in Essex

**Is this a new policy (or decision) or a change to an existing policy, practice or project?:** a change to an existing policy, practice or project

**Please provide a link to the document / website / resource to which this EqlA relates:**

<https://www.nelft.nhs.uk/services-ewmhs/>

**Please upload any documents which relate to this EqlA, for example decision documents:**

<https://www.nelft.nhs.uk/services-ewmhs/>

## Assessing the equality impact

**Use this section to record how you have assessed any potential impact on the communities likely to be affected by the policy (or decision):** There has been universal acknowledgment in policy over the past ten years of the challenges faced by children and young people in developing resilience and psychological wellbeing. For those children and young people with diagnosable mental health problems and their families/carers and the agencies that support them, the challenges are greater. A number of disorders are persistent and will continue into adult life unless properly treated. It is known that 50% of lifetime mental illness (except dementia) begins by the age of 14 and 75% by age 18.

We know that mental health for children and young people nationally continues to increase year on year. We also recognise that Covid-19 will greatly affect the mental health of children, young people (cyp) and their families.

The Joint Strategic Needs assessment 2019 tells us that in 2018 the estimated population in Essex was 1.47 million and the mid-year population estimates 2018 tells us there were 279,020 children and young people aged 0-15.

An independent report by Apteligen evaluated the EWMH Service for the period September 2018 and February 2019. Findings showed that the Single Point of Access into EWMHS received between 1,000 - 1,200 referrals monthly with 25% being signposted and around 98% of the rest accepted into assessment and treatment. At the end of March 2019, the EWMH service had an active caseload of over 5,700 young people.

The top three presenting problems across Southend, Essex and Thurrock were:

- Emotional Disorder
- Conduct Disorder
- Deliberate Self Harm

EWMHS performance data from April 2019– March 2020 shows 10,281 referrals went through the Single Point of Access for children and young people within the 5 Essex CCGs during this period. Out of these 4,999 were male and 5,282 were female with the majority recorded as being white British but there was a high number who did not state their ethnicity.

Break down of referrals by CCGs:

CCG Total no. referrals

Basildon and Brentwood 1,962

Castle Point and Rochford 1,119

Mid Essex 2,614

North East Essex 2,660

West Essex 1,926

A national report by Kooth, (online cyp mental health support) dated 15th May 2020 was recently released; week 10 report 'How Covid-19 is affecting the mental health of cyp' which identifies an increase across the following issues in the Eastern Region: child abuse + 248%; sadness + 230%; eating issues + 76%; sleep issues + 86%; family relationships + 151%; loneliness +33%; Autistic Spectrum Disorder (ASD) + 467%; school/ college worries + 161%; and suicidal thoughts + 12%. There was a marked increase of the number of logins by 33%.

## **Does or will the policy or decision affect:**

**Service users:** Yes

**Employees:** No

**The wider community or groups of people, particularly where there are areas of known inequalities:** No

**Which geographical areas of Essex does or will the policy or decision affect?:** All Essex

**Will the policy or decision influence how organisations operate?:** Yes

**Will the policy or decision involve substantial changes in resources?:** No

**Is this policy or decision associated with any of the Council's other policies?:** No

**Is the new or revised policy linked to a digital service (website, system or application)?:** No

## **Description of impact**

**Description of Impact. If there is an impact on a specific protected group tick box, otherwise leave blank. You will be given the opportunity to rate identified impacts as positive, negative or neutral on the next page:** No impact on any of the above groups

**I confirm that I have considered the potential impact on all of the protected characteristics:** I confirm that I have considered the potential impact on all of the protected characteristics

**Describe any actions that have already been taken to mitigate negative impacts on any of the protected characteristics:** The Service is for children and young people up to 18 (or 25 if they have special educational need and/or disability) and meet the criteria for the service. The service was commissioned in 2015 and is due to end 31st October 2020. This contract variation is to ensure that the current service continues whilst a procurement can be carried out to commission a new service.

## **Action plan to address and monitor adverse impacts**

**Does your EqIA indicate that the policy or decision would have a medium or high adverse impact on one or more equality groups?:** No

## **Details of person completing the form**

**I confirm that this has been completed based on the best information available and in following ECC guidance:** I confirm that this has been completed based on the best information available and in following ECC guidance

**Date EqIA completed:** 09/09/2020

**Name of person completing the EqIA:** Jane Bloom

**Email address of person completing the EqIA:** jane.bloom@essex.gov.uk

**Your function:** Children, Families and Education

**Your service area:** Commissioning

**Your team:** Children, Families and Mental Health Commissioning

**Are you submitting this EqIA on behalf of another function, service area or team?:** No

**Email address of Head of Service:** Clare.burrell@essex.gov.uk