

Report title: Mental Health Services for Young People joint Task and Finish Group Review Report – response to recommendations	
Report to: Cllr Kevin Bentley, Leader of the Council	
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Date: 1 June 2023	For: Discussion
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County Divisions affected: Not applicable	

1. Introduction

With thanks to the members of the Task and Finish Group for their time and effort in producing the review, and importantly its recommendations given to the Leader and respective Cabinet Members. This report seeks to provide a written update on the actions and progress of those recommendations.

2. Response to recommendations

Recommendation 3 – schools

- b) Currently, schools have to invest their Pupil Premium in order to run the Primary School Wellbeing Hubs Project in Tendring and Colchester. Given the early success identified and the benefit it provides to both the children and their families, **the group recommends that the ECC Cabinet Members for Adult Social Care and Health, Education Excellence, Lifelong Learning and Employability and Children's Services and Early Years, lobby the Secretary of State for Education to obtain funding to provide a Primary School Wellbeing Hub in every school in Essex.**

Progress is being made towards these actions. We appreciate the great work of the project in Tendring and welcome the support given to this project by Tendring DC and SNEE ICB. ECC officers are currently both working on the scalability of the Wellbeing Hub based on the Tendring model and also assessing a new approach to supporting mental health which is being piloted across schools in Harlow as part of ECC Levelling up funding. Officers need to assess both models and to work with schools on the best way to spread the good practice of both models across more schools. Once this has been developed, and lessons have been learned, officers and Cabinet Members will then agree how to approach the Department and health colleagues to see what support they can give.

- c) The group recognises and agrees that the Primary School Wellbeing Hubs Project in Tendring has been a success, and that it is everyone's collective responsibility to support young people requiring mental health support. To further enhance the offer, the hub should be extending its services and offer support to the parent/carers of those experiencing poor mental health.

Because of its success the Chief Executive of the North Essex and East Suffolk ICB is considering rolling this out in East Suffolk. **The group therefore recommends that the Leader of Essex County Council prepares a letter seeking support from all Essex Leaders and Chief Executive's, requesting that the three Essex (ICS) provide grant funding to enable the scheme running in Tendring to be rolled out countywide.**

The Leader agrees to write to Leaders and Chief Executives with this request, acknowledging that ECC is developing a Hub in Harlow, and will take learning from that into how a countywide solution might be developed, before any approach to government is made. The letter will therefore bring this to Leaders' attentions and will include the Task and Finish report. This letter will be sent once all Leaders are confirmed post-election. The Leader will also raise this at the next meeting of Essex Leaders and Chief Executives in June.

- d) The group was reassured to hear that take up of the Council's Trauma Practice Perceptive Programme training is high, with over half of Essex schools engaged. This training helps schools to be able to positively help pupils who require mental health support. **The group recommends that all schools in Essex engage with the Council to complete this training as soon as practically possible. The group also asks that the Cabinet Member for Education Excellence, Lifelong Learning and Employability ensures that Essex County Council has sufficient resources in place to meet the demand.**

As of April 2023

- 80% of schools have engaged with the training TPP; they have commenced*
- We now have 769 people who have completed the 2 days of train the trainer*
- 11% have completed the whole of the training within their school- this is 60 schools*
- We have since the start of the autumn term provided an intermediate offer as a way of engaging some schools who may not have been willing just yet to participate in the advanced offer.*
- The Essex TPP Hive Platform is where all the training material and the resources are shared.*
- In this spring term there were 23,000 active views of the content on Hive.*
- The TPP of families is a new offer and thus far we have 42 schools who have been trained in this. This is only available to those who have completed – 70% of those completed have gone to do the families offer.*

- e) The group felt that the evidence provided to them, highlighted a lack of awareness of mental health support across some schools in Essex. **The group recommends that Essex County Council's Education Team**

provide clearer, more concise guidance to all schools in Essex detailing the support available and how it can be accessed.

We now have accurate data on which schools have completed a DfE recognised Designated Mental Health Lead 3-day training.

	<i>Trained</i>	<i>Not Trained</i>
<i>secondary</i>	<i>62</i>	<i>17</i>
	<i>77.50%</i>	<i>22.50%</i>
<i>primary</i>	<i>185</i>	<i>263</i>
	<i>41%</i>	<i>59%</i>
<i>PRU</i>	<i>2</i>	<i>2</i>
	<i>50%</i>	<i>50%</i>
<i>Tier 4</i>	<i>2</i>	
	<i>100%</i>	
<i>special</i>	<i>8</i>	<i>12</i>
	<i>40%</i>	<i>60%</i>

This helps with our SEMH Strategy as it enables the targeting of information and communication. We have since September produced a focussed news bulletin once per half term – 123 schools are now subscribe to this. This contains information about guidance, resources, help, as well as including changes in legislation; it provides opportunities for their school/setting to be involved in.

The Essex Schools Info Link Pages are where we host all our information. This is continually reinforced as our 'go to' place for help, support and guidance. We have made it more easy to navigate and find what is being sought:

 National Guidance	 Is It An Emergency?	 Let's Talk Recovery and Returning to Education Settings (Covid-19)
 Essex Guidance and Let's Talk Resources	 Designated Mental Health Lead Newsletter	 SEMH Jargon Buster
 SEMH Training	 Teaching Resources and Assessment Tools	 Useful Links, Advice and Support
 What is SEMH?	 Enhanced Provisions for SEMH	 Self-care for CYP Library

An example of how we know that schools' awareness for the help and the seeking of that help is getting better can be exemplified in consistent increase in the use of the SEMH/CAMHS Educational Psychology consultation line.

	2019- 2020	2020- 2021	2021- 2022	2022- 2023
Autumn Term	20	18	11	46
Spring Term	22	3	14	27
Summer Term	0	20	4	18
Totals	42	41	29	91

We are hosting a conference this term inviting schools' settings to hear about best practice, and this includes a keynote from Professor Lord Layard.

The EWMH Strategic Board also enables and facilitates partnerships for shared outcomes.

Recommendation 4 – communications

- a) The group recommends that ECC Communications Team, undertakes a review of its external Child and Adolescent Mental Health communications plan, specifically around access to the Child and Adolescent Mental Health Service (CAMHS) and referral pathways and prepare an interim report for the Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee at its November 2022 meeting.

The review of the communications plan is underway, and it is intended that referral pathways will be included as part of that. Communications will provide a copy of this to the Committee when it is ready.

- b) The group recognises it is important to promote the services that are currently available to young people in Essex such as dance, drama and sport clubs, youth clubs and the Duke of Edinburgh award. **The group recommends that the Communications and Marketing team continue its focus on promoting mental health support available to young people and prepare an interim report for the Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee at its November 2022 meeting.**

This is also confirmed by Communications and Marketing and they will report back at the same time as the above.