

Progress Update of Youth Participation

Children's Health, Social Care and Education Overview & Scrutiny

Date: 29th March 2017

Author:	Project Manager – Swindon 10 to 18 Project (STEP)
Wards:	All
Locality Affected:	All
Parishes Affected:	All

1. Purpose and Reasons

- 1.1 This report provides the Children's Health, Social Care and Education Committee with an update of performance and key issues relating to youth participation; Swindon's Members of Youth Parliament (MYPs), Swindon Youth Council, Young Inspectors and Thought Tank.
- 1.2 A key purpose of Children's Health, Social Care and Education Overview & Scrutiny Committee is to hold Commissioners of Children's Health and Social Care Services to account.
- 1.3 This work links to the following One Swindon Priorities:
 - Everyone is enjoying sports, leisure and cultural opportunities
 - Improve health and wellbeing for all by widening participation in sports, leisure and cultural activities
 - Living independently, protected from harm, leading healthy lives and making a positive contribution
 - Increased community involvement so that everyone is able to make a positive contribution

2. Recommendations

The Committee is recommended to:

- 2.1 Continue to support the work of the Members of Youth Parliament, Swindon Youth Council, Thought Tank and the wider youth participation agenda across Swindon.
- 2.2 Make available opportunities for children and young people to contribute to the work streams of Health, Adults & Children Services Overview and Scrutiny Committee.
- 2.3 Agree when a further report on progress should be brought back to the committee.

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3. Detail

Swindon Members of Youth Parliament

- 3.1 The 'Emotional Health & Well-being Survey' has been completed with a total of 601 responses, 14 schools, special schools, colleges, and children and young people who are home schooled. 3% of respondents stated that if they needed support they did not know of anybody who could help, those that did, felt they had support favoured by family and friends in the first instance.

Other than family, school, friends, the internet or a doctor, over half were not aware of any other organisations who they could reach out to for support. 261 children and young people were aware of other avenues of support; however 16% were unsure how to access these services.

53 respondents were happy to say that they had accessed additional support, these included: TaMHS, CAMHS, School Counselling, STEP and support from social care, all were reasonably positive about their experiences, with 37% stating that services were 'Slightly Useful', 39% found services 'Useful', and 22% found them 'Very Useful'.

- 3.2 Following the findings of this survey, with a particular focus around service promotion, information and access; at the request of the Senior Public Health Manager, we have been asked to review and support current mental health and emotional well-being provision.

Phase 1

We will undertake a mapping exercise to understand the kinds of mental health and support services that are available in Swindon. We will run a children and young person led campaign, with the aim of promoting current services and reducing the stigma around mental health.

We will provide an up-to-date list of all mental health and support services – statutory, voluntary and private – available to children and young people within the Borough (including those accessed through GP surgeries).

The scope of this piece of work will gather information to include:

- General information about the service; it will include what is available and who it is for. Any restrictions to accessing the service (age, location, opening times etc;) where appropriate or practical
- Where they are, how to get in contact
- Referral process and what to expect if you use the service

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- What it is like from a young person's viewpoint – inspections and client feedback
- Waiting times
- Universal services across the board that are available, to avoid going into crisis before help is needed

Objectives

- Carry out a minimum of three inspections of current service providers, alongside children and young people designed reviews; including Marlborough House (CAMHS Inpatient service) – reports will be forwarded to service managers with the expectation that young peoples recommendations will be actioned
- Database of support services available to children and young people created in a clear accessible format
- Promotional campaign designed by young people to highlight recommended services and points of information and access – distribution throughout schools, youth organisations and GWH (Great Western Hospital)
- Database and findings will be shared with Health, Social Care, Education, the Local Offer website and The Dock. This will feed into Community Children's Services Swindon Review and Children and Young People's Reference Group, currently working alongside Oxfordshire Health, to advise the CAMHS Procurement Board on what children and young people need from their child and adolescent mental health service for implementation on 1st April 2018.

Phase 2

We will carry out 'targeted' consultation with those dealing with well-being and mental health issues, as well as those who have no experience of services. Developing the original survey to include an additional focus around stigma and self-harm. We will create a 'working group', made up of young people aged 11 to 19, who will use the information gathered to develop a dual campaign – to support the promotional campaign in Phase 1 – using mixed media to educate, inform and dispel myths around mental health and self-harm.

The scope of the piece of work will gather information to include:

- To undertake a further 'targeted' consultation, building on the base line information gathered through the recent 'Mental Health & Emotional Well-being' survey, to assess the impact of the review of current provision and the promotional campaign

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- Understand how much stigma creates barriers to accessing help and support
- Gather information on the types of prejudice and lack of understanding exhibited amongst children and young people
- Gauge the best approach to tackle ignorance and discrimination amongst young people

Objectives

- Carry out a survey in schools with young people aged 11 – 16 years, to measure mental health related attitudes, knowledge and behaviour
 - Conduct focus groups with a number of young people to find out more about their experiences of mental health and mental health stigma; ensuring we capture the widest audience possible to include Lesbian, Gay, Bi-sexual, Transgender (LGBT), Black & Minority Ethnic (BME) and children looked after
 - Create a 'working group' of young people to produce a powerful mixed media campaign, challenging stigma, discrimination and dispelling myths around mental health and highlighting positive experiences and success stories
- 3.3 The Information gathered from the survey has also contributed to the work of The Children and Young People's Reference Group - a sub-group of the CAMHS Procurement Board - formed to commission a single provider of Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services across Bath & North East Somerset, Swindon and Wiltshire. Its role is to: participate in appointing a provider of a newly-commissioned Child and Adolescent Mental Health Service and work in partnership with the appointed provider to develop consultation activities with children and young people to develop the new service to be launched on 1st April 2018

Swindon Youth Council

- 3.4 The Swindon Youth Council has met three times this year with a core membership of 13 young people. 12 schools are currently represented and we have representation from young people in care, young carers, and young people with SEND.
- 3.5 The Youth Council has continued to work closely with hospital representatives and has researched and designed 'Useful websites for young people in Swindon' as part of the transitions Commissioning for Quality & Innovation (CQUIN) for the Great Western Hospital <http://www.gwh.nhs.uk/wards-and-services/a-to-z/transition-to-adult-care/useful-websites-for-young-people-in-swindon/>
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- 3.6 The Youth Council has also created a questionnaire to be used by GWH to obtain feedback about treatment experience and how to improve the experience for young people and to ensure they are providing a 'young person friendly' environment, scheduled for distribution, in Spring 2017.
- 3.7 During November, children in care and care leavers were given the opportunity by the Children's Commissioner to visit Whitehall and work alongside Members of Parliament. Aliyah who is a member of the Youth Council was selected to represent Swindon. She was given the opportunity of shadowing Gavin Barwell, (Minister of State for Housing and Planning) for the day on 17th November. Aaliyah attended various meetings, public events and met many ministerial staff at their government offices in London. Throughout the day Aaliyah impressed the Minister with her positivity, focus and interest in learning more about his role within Parliament.

4. Alternative Options

- 4.1 None

5. Implications, Diversity Impact Assessment and Risk Management

Financial and Procurement Implications

- 5.1 There are no financial or procurement implications arising from this report.

Legal and Human Rights Implications

- 5.2 There are no direct legal or human rights implications arising from this report.

All Other Implications (including Staff, Sustainability, Health, Rural, Crime and Disorder)

- 5.3 There are no implications arising from this report.

Diversity Impact Assessment

- 5.4 A diversity risk assessment is not required as this is an ongoing service.

Risk Management

- 5.5 A risk assessment has not been completed as this report is not recommending a specific amendment to a policy or strategy.

6. Consultees

- 6.1 The Board Director, Resources (Section 151 Officer) and Director of Law and Democratic Services (Monitoring Officer) are consulted in respect of all reports.

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7. Background Papers

7.1 None

8. Appendices

8.1 None