

Cabinet

13 March 2013



**Joint Report of Children & Young  
People's & Adults Wellbeing & Health  
Joint Working Group  
Support for Children and Young  
People with Mental Health Issues**

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**Report of Lorraine O'Donnell, Assistant Chief Executive**

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**Purpose of the Report**

- 1 To present a joint report from the Council's Children and Young People's and Adults Wellbeing and Health Overview and Scrutiny committees that looked at support for children and young people with mental health issues.

**Background**

- 2 The topic was identified from Children and Young People's Overview and Scrutiny Committee's work programme. The topic is cross cutting with Adults Wellbeing and Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee and therefore membership of the working group was taken from both committees.
- 3 The review focused on:
  - How early intervention and prevention methods can reduce the need for specialist services
  - How services are commissioned
  - How looked after children are served by mental health services
  - Current levels of support to children and young people with mental health issues and how quickly they can access services.
  - Transition to adult mental health services from Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS).
- 4 Improving the emotional health and wellbeing of the children and young people of County Durham is a priority which is detailed in the Altogether Better for Children and Young People section of the Council Plan 2012-2016 and the Children, Young People and Families Plan 2012-2016 which is under pinned by the Sustainable Community Strategy.
- 5 The Health and Social Care Act 2012 makes significant changes to the way in which health services will be organised from April 2013. The Act makes provision for:
  - The establishment of Health and Wellbeing Boards.
  - The transfer of commissioning of services to NHS Commissioning Boards and Clinical Commissioning Groups.

- Local authorities and commissioning consortia to prepare a Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (JSNA) and to produce a Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy (JHWS) to meet the needs identified in the assessment.
- 6 The attached report makes five recommendations including systematic review that relates to:
- Early intervention
  - Future commissioning of services
  - Continuation of partnership working
  - Corporate Parenting responsibilities
  - Transitional arrangements

### **Service Response**

- 7 The report has been considered by the Council's Children and Adults Service group. There was general acceptance of the conclusions and recommendations in the report although the following comments were offered by the service:

The report will be shared with the Health and Wellbeing Board, the recently published strategy highlights the importance of the mental health of children and young people.

The service works with members to recognise their role as corporate parents and will continue to do so particularly following the County Council elections to encourage members to take up training opportunities.

### **Recommendation**

- 8 Cabinet is asked to note:
- the recommendations in the report (attached at appendix 2) and to formulate a response within the six month period identified in the report for systematic review of the recommendations; and
  - that the report is shared with the Health and Wellbeing Board and Children and Families Trust for information.

### **Background Papers:**

None

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## **Appendix 1: Implications**

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**Finance** - The report makes reference that there is no intention of reducing funding to children and young people's mental health services however, reductions to the Early Intervention Grant funding from central Government may impact on local authority contributions.

**Staffing** – None

**Risk** - None

**Equality and Diversity / Public Sector Equality Duty** – An equality impact assessment of the recommendations has been carried out and can be found at appendix 3.

**Accommodation** - None

**Crime and Disorder** - None

**Human Rights** - None

**Consultation** – During the course of the review evidence was provided from colleagues in Children and Adolescent Mental Health, Children and Adult Services and Investing in Children who consulted with young people to obtain their views of transitional arrangements when moving from child and adolescent mental health services to adult mental health services. Area Action Partnerships were also asked to provide information on their involvement of any projects that have helped/supported children and young people with mental health issues.

**Procurement** - None

**Disability Issues** – None

**Legal Implications** - None