



CHILDREN, YOUNG PEOPLE & EDUCATION COMMITTEE

Wednesday, 21 June 2023

REPORT TITLE:	NEW CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S EMOTIONAL HEALTH AND WELLBEING MODEL
REPORT OF:	DIRECTOR FOR CHILDREN, EDUCATION AND FAMILIES

REPORT SUMMARY

This report sets out the new local model to be jointly commissioned from April 2024. The joint commission between Children, Families and Education Services, Public Health and Wirral Place Integrated Care Board (ICB) will transform available support and will provide a more effective and co-ordinated approach to improve outcomes for children and young people.

The activities outlined in this report support the vision of the Wirral Plan 2021-2026, specifically the themes of 'Brighter Futures' and 'Active Lives' and Priority Area 3 of the Wirral Health and Wellbeing Strategy 2022-27 to 'Ensure the best start in life for all children and young people'.

The proposed actions affect all wards within the borough.

RECOMMENDATION/S

The Children, Young People and Education Committee is requested to:

- 1 Note the report and to request any further updates as appropriate.

SUPPORTING INFORMATION

1.0 REASON/S FOR RECOMMENDATION/S

- 1.1 To update Committee members on the transformation work taking place to remodel emotional health and wellbeing services through a joint commissioning approach aligning resources and creating a single point of access for children and young people.

2.0 OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED

- 2.1 Expanding the existing offer to become a collaborative partnership to include multiple organisations such as Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS), Integrated Front Door and 0-19 service. However, this does not address the issues of multiple waiting list management and improved coordination of services. The single point of access is a transformational project across the whole system of support for emotional health and wellbeing for children and young people. In order to meet the needs of children and young people more effectively, increase access, improve outcomes and provide value for money, it was agreed by key stakeholders that this support should be a joint commissioning venture rather than standalone commissions.

3.0 BACKGROUND INFORMATION

- 3.1 A recent Children's Society report on wellbeing shows that children's happiness with their lives continues to decline in the UK. In Wirral, things are no different, as evidenced by the Emotional Health and Wellbeing Needs Assessment: a considerable number of children and young people are struggling with their emotional health and wellbeing. Stretched services, tight thresholds and long waiting lists can make it very hard for children and young people to get the help that they need when they need it. This is putting pressure on children, young people, families, communities and the many teams and organisations trying to help them.
- 3.2 Whilst there is a wide range of effective services supporting children and young people, the offer across Wirral is not well coordinated. Many services work independently, making it difficult for professionals, young people, and parents to navigate what is available. It also makes it very hard to understand the issues within specific areas in the system, as it is not possible to track a child or young person's journey through services – or understand what someone has accessed before they hit a crisis point.
- 3.3 The Children's Emotional Health and Wellbeing Transformation project is a partnership project between Children and Young People's services, Public Health and Wirral Place Integrated Care Board (ICB). The project intention is to bring emotional health and wellbeing services together to provide a single route to access support in Wirral, to make it easier for children and young people to get the support they need when they need it. The scope of this project is all services that support emotional health and wellbeing for 0-18s with a GP in Wirral and/or resident in Wirral.

- 3.4 An organisation called 'Capacity' who work with Public Services supporting social innovation have been commissioned to facilitate the project working through Wirral's Future in Mind steering group to understand the challenges in the existing system and design a more effective model of services. At various points, professionals with expertise in other areas have also supported the design of different elements. In addition to this, we have worked with different groups of children and young people to understand their priorities for this project, as well as to ask for and test ideas.
- 3.5 An Emotional Health and Wellbeing Needs Assessment has been completed to help inform and shape the provision of Wirral's future model and to prioritise and identify key areas for development and ensure that any decisions are based on the available evidence. The needs assessment includes quantitative data on emotional health and wellbeing in Wirral, alongside qualitative research involving key groups to best inform service development.
- 3.6 The new model will be in place from April 2024 and will focus on empowering children and young people to learn how to look after their wellbeing and make it easy to access extra support when they need it, as well as share their learning with their peers. A key element of the model will be a Single Point of Access (SPA) to provide a co-ordinated approach to support and prevent duplication/multiple referral routes etc.

4.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 The cost of the project development phase including the commissioning of a digital agency to build the electronic platform is £493,806. This consists of a contribution from the Public Health Grant of £82,969, a contribution from the ICB of £140,000 and a contribution from Children's Services of £270,837. This will encompass the operationalising of the new model for the single point of access and the development of the pre-support offer.
- 4.2 The new model of services to deliver emotional health and wellbeing support will receive recurrent annual funding of £755,734. This is made up of £338,604 from Public Health and £417,130 from the ICB. This is an additional investment of £417,130 per year into emotional health and wellbeing services.

5.0 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 The commissioning of the service detailed within this report are compliant with the Public Contract Regulations 2015 and Wirral Council Contract Procedure rules.
- 5.2 Wirral Place ICB will be the host procurement body for the ongoing commissioning arrangements as the strategic and financial weight of the project sits predominantly with the ICB's Health and Social Care agenda.

6.0 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS: STAFFING, ICT AND ASSETS

- 6.1 Transfer of Undertakings (Protection of Employment) Regulations 2006 (T.U.P.E.) may be applicable. The incumbent provider will provide the Council with anonymised details of staff engaged in the provision of relevant services, who may be subject to TUPE. This information will be shared with the tender documentation. It is the responsibility of tenderers to liaise with incumbent suppliers to establish whether TUPE regulations apply to the contract and to ensure that TUPE information provided by incumbent suppliers is accurate.

7.0 RELEVANT RISKS

- 7.1 It is necessary to commission the support highlighted in order to comply with the Public Contract Regulations 2015 and Wirral Council Contract Procedure rules. There is always a risk of disruption to service provision during service redesign, recommissioning and commencement of new services. To mitigate against this and minimise disruption, adequate time to plan for, and implement the mobilisation of new services, is built into the procurement process between contract award and commencement.
- 7.2 The procurement process is also subject to scrutiny and at risk of legal challenge. Particular regard is given to contract procedure rules and relevant legislation at all stages of the process. Wirral Place ICB will be the host procurement body as the strategic and financial weight of the project sits predominantly with the ICB's Health and Social Care agenda. The procurement will be supported by the Midlands and Lancashire Commissioning Support Unit (MLCSU), technical procurement team.
- 7.3 In the current challenging financial climate, the impact of any future reductions in budget or policy implications on the amount of funding available for emotional health and wellbeing services is unknown. The value and availability of the Public Health grant for 2024/25 onwards is not yet known. This risk will be mitigated by the insertion of appropriate termination clauses in the contracts.

8.0 ENGAGEMENT/CONSULTATION

- 8.1 There has been extensive engagement and consultation with key stakeholders in order to inform the development and design of the future model. This has included:
- Engagement sessions with a wide range of stakeholders to understand their current strengths and challenges and gain insight into the issues that are affecting Wirral children and young people
 - Engagement with children, young people and parents/carers
 - Qualitative insight work with local children and young people to understand their needs and the ways support can be tailored to meet their needs
 - Worked through the Future in Mind Steering Group to shape the project
 - Strengthened everyone's understanding of what a more effective model needs to achieve by conducting an in-depth strategic needs assessment across partners (completed in August 2022 and updated in November 2022)

- Gained a solid understanding from key professionals of the appetite for a new way of working as well as potential barriers and challenges of the new model and Single Point of Access.
- Worked with diverse groups of professionals to generate and refine ideas about how the new model could work.

9.0 EQUALITY IMPLICATIONS

- 9.1 Wirral Council has a legal requirement to make sure its policies, and the way it carries out its work, do not discriminate against anyone. An Equality Impact Assessment is a tool to help council services identify steps they can take to ensure equality for anyone who might be affected by a particular policy, decision or activity.
- 9.2 The Equality Impact Assessment for these decisions can be found at:
<https://www.wirral.gov.uk/communities-and-neighbourhoods/equality-impact-assessments/equality-impact-assessments>

10.0 ENVIRONMENT AND CLIMATE IMPLICATIONS

- 10.1 During the procurement process, bids will be evaluated on any social value added to the service. Bidders will need to consider and demonstrate how they can have a positive impact on Wirral's environment and climate.
- 10.2 The content and/or recommendations contained within this report are expected to have no direct impact on emissions of carbon dioxide.

11.0 COMMUNITY WEALTH IMPLICATIONS

- 11.1 Community Wealth building is a new approach to economic development that proposes a more common-sense approach to how we create a good local economy. Emotional health and wellbeing is essential for resilient communities.

REPORT AUTHOR:

Carol Roche
Joint Commissioning Lead
email: carolroche@wirral.gov.uk

APPENDICES

None

BACKGROUND PAPERS

Adult Social Care and Public Health Committee; Integration of Public Health Commissioning into the new Children and Young People's emotional health and wellbeing model; July 2023.

Wirral Children's Emotional Health and Wellbeing Needs Assessment; November 2022

NHS Cheshire and Merseyside Integrated Care Board: Finance, Investment and Resources Committee Meeting; Wirral's Children's Emotional Health and Wellbeing Transformation Project. April 2023

Variations of this report have been to:

- The Wirral Place Leadership Team
- The Wirral Borough Council Senior Leadership Team
- The Wirral Joint Health and Care Commissioning Executive Group
- The Wirral Strategy and Transformation Group
- The Partnership for Children, Young People and Families

TERMS OF REFERENCE

This report is being considered by the Children, Young People and Education Committee in accordance with its Terms of Reference.

SUBJECT HISTORY (last 3 years)

Council Meeting	Date