

CAMHS REFERRAL PATHWAY REVIEW - Third Witness Session

Committee name	Health and Social Care Select Committee
Officer reporting	Nikki O'Halloran, Democratic Services
Papers with report	Nil
Ward	All

RECOMMENDATION

That the Health and Social Care Select Committee notes the report and comments on the information presented.

SUPPORTING INFORMATION

At its meeting on 22 November 2022, the Select Committee agreed to undertake a review of the referral pathway into Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS) in Hillingdon with the scoping report agreed by the Committee at its meeting on 26 January 2023. The review is being loosely structured around three themed information gathering sessions: the first related to the commissioning of mental health services for children and young people in the Borough; and the second related to the experience of secondary schools in the Borough and the voluntary sector. In addition to the Committee's formal meetings, Members may also meet informally with service users and / or their carers and families.

CAMHS is just one of many services that are provided in the Borough to support children and young people who are experiencing mental ill health. This witness session will provide further context and understanding of the services commissioned in the Borough to support children and young people's mental health. Representatives from the following organisations have been invited to attend this meeting:

- Healthwatch Hillingdon
- Hillingdon GP Confederation
- NHS North West London Integrated Care Board
- Central and North West London NHS Foundation Trust

Terms of Reference

At its last meeting, the Select Committee agreed the review's Terms of Reference as follows:

1. to gain a thorough understanding of how children and young people are referred to CAMHS and the associated timescales;
2. to scrutinise the referral pathway and review its effectiveness;
3. to review the current availability of alternative support and how these options are communicated to children, young people and their families;
4. to explore the effectiveness of the different agencies in communicating with each other as well as the effectiveness of their communication with the child, young person and their family on their journey to assessment and treatment; and

5. subject to the Committee's findings, to make any conclusions, propose actions and make service and policy recommendations to the decision-making Cabinet (who may then refer formally to the relevant external body).

Possible Lines of Enquiry

Members may like to consider the following lines of enquiry during the course of the review (these can be expanded as the review progresses):

1. How are services able to help children and young people in need?
2. Why / when are children and young people being turned away from services?
3. Are service users' needs being met? How are needs being met?
4. Are parents and young people aware of the range of services that can provide support?
5. How is a child or young person referred to CAMHS?
6. What is CAMHS service capacity and current usage levels?
7. How many rejected referrals are then re-referred to CAMHS?
8. What alternative provision or support is offered to children, young people and their families when they are turned away from CAMHS and how is this communicated?
9. How does the CAMHS service collect information on patient satisfaction (including responses from the families of patients)?
10. How is the effectiveness of communication with families monitored?

RESIDENT BENEFIT

The Health and Social Care Select Committee holds the statutory health scrutiny responsibility for the London Borough of Hillingdon. The Committee hopes to find improvements to the referral pathway into CAMHS. The improvements should help young people and their families to access the help they need sooner. The earlier young people can get the help they need, the better the chance there is of minimising the impact of mental ill health. This not only helps the young person themselves and their families but could also relieve some pressure placed on adult mental health services due to resolving mental health issues before the young person reaches adulthood.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

There are no financial implications directly related to the recommendation in this report.

LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

There are no legal implications arising from this report.

BACKGROUND PAPERS

None.