

Response to a Scrutiny Report

Cabinet Member for Health & Wellbeing

Summary of Report details:

Title of Scrutiny Report: Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services

Lead Member of the Task Group: Councillor Steve Mackay

Response required from: County Council Cabinet Members
Herefordshire and Worcestershire Integrated Care Board

Date of Overview and Scrutiny Performance Board approval: 27 February 2023

Date of Cabinet: 30 March 2023

Purpose of the Scrutiny Task Group

To investigate access to and the availability of appropriate mental health services for children and adolescents.

Any general comments on the Report:

The issue of children's mental health is a matter of the highest priority in the Council and across health systems for both Herefordshire and Worcestershire. Overall, it is considered that the scrutiny report on Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services contains an insightful and comprehensive set of recommendations that provide a positive focus for further exploration. These recommendations will be jointly considered with NHS and wider partners at the Health and Wellbeing Board and its sub-group, the Children and Young People's Strategic Partnership.

This is in line with Recommendation 4 of the scrutiny report, which rightly highlights the importance of a system-wide collaborative approach, with effective working relationships and improved communication between organisations. The next step will be to continue discussion with the relevant strategic professionals. This can be achieved by the Health and Wellbeing Board asking the Children and Young People's Strategic Partnership to take forward those discussions, agreeing appropriate actions. One of the key purposes of Health and Wellbeing Boards is for health and care services to be better joined up, and it is envisaged that the statutory basis of this board will ensure it will be able to exert pressure should it appear that such an approach is not being followed.

Work is already underway across the system to improve the support available to children and families. It is important to remember that this work is also seeking to address the wider determinants of poor mental wellbeing,