

## Children and Young People's Health - Update on activity

### Purpose of report

For information.

### Summary

Children's health is a joint priority between the CYP and the CWB Board. This paper is designed to update the Children and Young People Board as to the current activities in relation to the LGA's work related to children's health issues.

### Recommendation

That the Children and Young People Board note the update in the report.

### Action

Officers to incorporate feedback from the Children and Young People Board into future work.

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### Background

1. The LGA launched its campaign "Brighter Futures: Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services in February 2018. It highlights our calls on the Government to prioritise early intervention and preventative services, to provide funding to councils to allow them work with schools to commission independent school based counselling in every secondary school. To improve standards, release the full £1.7 billion funding promised and to ensure there is sustainable and adequate funding. These calls feature heavily in our response to the Government Green Paper on children's mental health.
2. As part of the [Bright Futures campaign](#), the LGA successfully hosted an exhibition in Parliament from Monday 21 to Friday 25 May 2018. The exhibition showcased some of the incredible early intervention and prevention work which councils across the country are doing to support our children and young people, including work to help those struggling with mental health issues.
3. As part of our support offer to councils, we have been running the Children and Young People (CYP) Mental Health Peer Learning Programme. The programme is supporting eight councils and their partners to overcome a tricky issue which is prohibiting them from moving forward in transforming their CYP mental health services. The programme matches participants with peers from other councils or voluntary organisations who are delivering a similar service and helps to support participants on their learning journey. The programme will come to an end in June and will be followed by a report that shares learning with the wider sector.
4. The LGA undertook a survey of Local Authorities around complex needs children and the interface between youth justice, social care and NHS. The survey findings are being shared and a short report will be published. The findings and related calls will be featured in an upcoming APPG report on A Fit and Healthy Childhood.
5. A joint seminar with the CYP Mental Health coalition was held on 8 June 2018. It brought together key stakeholders from the CYP mental health children's charities to take stock of the reforms, build stronger alliances and support for our campaign policy calls.
6. We have held meetings with the Department for Health and Social Care, NHS to reflect our calls and members concerns on the slow pace of reform, the unequal distribution of the Future in Mind money (to the NHS only) and the lack of acknowledgement of the role of Local Authorities in children's mental health and well-being in any of the reform proposals.
7. Going forward we want to do some short focussed projects on transitions (children's to adults) and on strengthening the Health and Wellbeing Board governance/role in children's mental health.

### **Update on children's end of life care**

8. Following recent reports highlighting the national variation, and in some cases, unacceptably poor quality of end of life care services there has been increasing attention from the Government and from wider stakeholders about the quality and funding of end of life care.
9. Officers consulted office holders of the Children and Young People Board and Community Wellbeing Board in April 2018 for their steer on the LGA's work on end of life care for children, young people and adults.
10. Office holders agreed that we should;
  - 10.1. seek clarity from the government on roles and responsibilities of local bodies and write to the Minister about our concerns;
  - 10.2. develop support materials for local authorities on end of life care for children and young people and a separate resource for adults and to join up with work with Health and Wellbeing Boards; and
  - 10.3. respond to the upcoming green paper on care and support for older people and highlight our concerns about children and young people and working adults who are not addressed in the green paper.

### **New Government plans to support children of alcohol dependent parents**

11. New plans announced by health and social care secretary Jeremy Hunt will help identify at-risk children more quickly, and provide them with rapid access to support and advice. The package of measures is backed by £6 million in joint funding from the Department of Health and Social Care and the Department for Work and Pensions. It is designed to help an estimated 200,000 children in England living with alcohol-dependent parents.
12. Public Health England (PHE) will finance up to eight local authorities to implement innovative, evidence informed interventions to improve outcomes for children whose parents are dependent on alcohol. Areas will be selected by the autumn.
  - 12.1. PHE estimate 200,000 children living in households with an alcohol dependent adult. An estimated three in four adults with alcohol dependency who were living with children, did not have their treatment needs met last year. Parental alcohol dependency is associated with child maltreatment and poor outcomes. Between 2011 and 2014 parental alcohol misuse was recorded as a factor in 37 per cent of cases where a child was seriously hurt or killed, often alongside mental ill-health and domestic violence. 85,000 referrals to social services involved parental alcohol misuse in 16-17.

- 12.2. It is envisaged that the eight local authorities selected will develop;
- 12.2.1. Access to earlier help and targeted interventions should help to reduce longer term harms to children of dependent drinkers.
  - 12.2.2. Intensive case management for parents. Including outreach, care coordination, facilitated access to treatment services including transportation and/or onsite services, and the provision of child care.
  - 12.2.3. Parental support programmes including mentors working alongside social workers, schools and other professionals can improve outcomes both in relation to parental alcohol use and children not going into care.
  - 12.2.4. Support to improve the quality of the parental relationship, alongside traditional treatment services - evidence indicates that outcomes for parents and children can be significantly improved compared to treatment offered on its own.

### **Implications for Wales**

13. There are no distinct implications for Wales.

### **Financial Implications**

14. There are no financial implications arising from this report.

### **Next steps**

- 15. The Children and Young People Board are asked to note the update in the report.
- 16. Officers to incorporate feedback from the Children and Young People Board into future work.