

Scrutiny Café 2022 – 16 September 2022

Adults and Health Scrutiny Panel

Top Priorities from within terms of reference:

1. Transitions
2. Social Care/Services for Adults with Disabilities and Additional Needs
3. Mental Health and Well Being
4. Violence Against Women and Girls

Issues Suggested in Scrutiny Survey or at Scrutiny Café

Suggestion	Comments and Feedback from Survey and Cafe	Response (Item for Panel meeting/potential review/Cabinet Member Question/no further action)
Transitions	<p>There is a lack of continuity in service provision for young people and many slip through the net.</p> <p>Young people going through transitions having to tell their story multiple times due to the lack of integration between services.</p> <p>Adults and children’s services don’t work together or communicate sufficiently well.</p> <p>There should be more support for families when children with disabilities move to adult care. It seems they do not get anywhere near the help and support they do as children.</p> <p>People get blocked by the process – there needs to be a clearer process. Transition to adult services should start at 17 so that everything is in place by the time they are 18.</p>	

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	<p>Learning difficulties – if applying for college the EHCP statement of needs process has to be repeated even though there is already an existing document.</p> <p>Mental health – young people can struggle for months after being dropped by CAMHS and waiting to access adult services.</p> <p>Mental health - If receiving therapy/counselling such as CBT then transition results in being placed on a long NHS waiting list with a wait of several months.</p>	
Social Care	<p>There are a lot of difficulties in getting access to the right care.</p> <p>There are delays to care assessments.</p> <p>People should always receive hard copies of their care plan.</p> <p>The Council should be aware that disabled people who live independently still require some degree of support from social workers.</p> <p>Carers are under a lot of pressure.</p> <p>Carers don't get paid enough so there are not enough carers to do the job.</p> <p>Need to be more community representation on decision making for care services.</p>	
Mental Health & Well-being	<p>Mental health was a big issue even before the pandemic but it is now even worse.</p> <p>It is difficult to access services.</p>	

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	<p>Men's mental health is sometimes looked down upon as an issue.</p> <p>More support for young people is needed both from mental health trusts and from community services. More youth clubs in the summer would be helpful.</p> <p>There needs to be a better understanding of the impact of ACEs (Adverse Childhood Experiences) on mental health and wellbeing.</p> <p>Schools are not referring to CAMHS unless the person is suicidal because the waiting list backlog is so large.</p> <p>Services are not always available for Police to refer people to when they attend incidents where mental health crisis is a factor.</p> <p>Mental health training for all Police officers should be strengthened.</p>	
Violence Against Women & Girls (VAWG)	<p>There is a lack of support for victims who can experience deep-rooted trauma. The right mental health support can be difficult to access – CBT is not necessarily suitable for victims of sexual abuse.</p> <p>There needs to be more funding and staff for VAWG services and stronger links with neighbouring boroughs.</p> <p>There is often a focus on street lighting and safety at night but most VAWG takes place in the home.</p> <p>VAWG should be overseen by the Children and Young People panel as well as the Adults & Health panel. This behaviour starts from an early age.</p> <p>The proportion of children experiencing domestic abuse is underreported as many do not speak up. This can also be a cause of high exclusion rates.</p>	

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	<p>The impact of peer-on-peer/child-on-child abuse should not be overlooked.</p> <p>There is no-one to talk to on safety issues.</p> <p>There should be safe spaces available in all schools.</p>	
GP surgeries	<p>It is very difficult to get an appointment with a GP.</p> <p>Some vulnerable groups also found it difficult to get the Covid vaccine.</p>	
Support for carers	<p>Unpaid carers are stressed, alone and isolated.</p> <p>More mental health support is needed for carers, who especially needed help during the pandemic.</p>	
Co-production	<p>Co-production is hugely important but full implementation of this is a big step and needs to properly involve people at the design stage, not afterwards.</p>	
Health inequalities	<p>Please look at health inequalities including on mental health and wellbeing – and the impact of Covid.</p>	
Physical health	<p>There should be better public health advice on diet, nutrition and exercise or stronger promotion of existing resources.</p> <p>There should be free access to exercise classes and nutritionists.</p>	
Learning difficulties	<p>The appropriateness of work placements needs to be carefully considered (e.g. being placed on a construction site has been known to cause difficulties)</p>	

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Integration of NHS and adult social care services	Looking at the integration of NHS services with adult services and those of the third sector; patient and public involvement in commissioning services and governance of the new structures.	