



<u>Committee and Date</u>
Young People's Scrutiny Committee
26 March 2014

<u>Item</u>
8
<u>Public</u>

Responsible Officer Tina Russell, Head of Children's Safeguarding
e-mail: tina.russell@shropshire.gov.uk Tel: 01743 254254 Fax:

Transformation activities – Early Help / COMPASS / Mental Health/Targeted Mental Health Support (TaMHS)

1. Summary

This report outlines the requirements made of Local Authorities by the 2004 Children Act and the 2013 Working Together publication and provides information on the service re-design which is underway to review and develop the process, systems and services that deliver Early Help for Shropshire's children and young people.

2. Recommendations

- 2.1 That Members note the re-design and future plans for development of Early Help support services to children and Families.
- 2.2 That Members note developments in mental health provision and agree that future reports come to Scrutiny Committee in order to understand the impact this is making.

3. Risk Assessment and Opportunities Appraisal

There is a need to balance investment in early help whilst retaining specialist services for the current cohort of children requiring specialist services. The impact of effective early help will be evidenced by a reducing number of referrals that require social work assessment and intervention (high cost specialist services) and an increase in the number of children subject to early help plans delivered through lead professionals (lower cost services supported through voluntary and community delivery).

4. Financial Implications

Investment in good quality evidenced based Early Help services will reduce the likelihood of families reaching crisis and family breakdown that results in children suffering harm and neglect. This in turn reduces the need for the

more costly specialist services of Child Protection and Local Authority care provision. This will lead to a re-balance of resources and financial investment.

5. Background

- 5.1 The 2004 Children Act requires each Local Authority to make arrangements to promote cooperation between the authority and each of its partners to provide services that promote the well-being of all children in its authority.
- 5.2 Working Together 2013 sets out responsibilities for local authorities and its partners. They need to have in place a process for the effective assessment of children who may benefit from early help. Working Together also sets out principals that for early help to be effective Local Authorities need to offer evidence- based programmes, that include a range of support services and that are delivered in a co-ordinated way through Lead Professionals.
- 5.3 Local Safeguarding Children Boards have a duty to monitor the effectiveness of Early Help support services, specifically in relation to safeguarding children and young people.

6 Additional Information

- 6.1 A service re-design is underway to review and develop the process, systems and services that deliver Early Help. The re-design priorities are to ensure professionals in universal services and those acting as Lead Professional are supported to undertake assessments of need, to develop Early Help plans and specifically identify and manage risk.
- 6.2 An Early Help strategic partnership forum has been established which will report into the Children's Trust Board. A Leadership team of senior operational managers has also been established. These managers bring together collective experiences and resources and they will lead the redesign and future delivery.
- 6.3 Four key work streams have been identified. Each has a lead officer who will work with stakeholders and families to design and deliver the work stream and as a collective they will ensure there is co-ordination and collaboration of the work streams through the Early Help Leaderships forum. The four key work streams are:
 - a) To develop the delivery of Early Help services to families with professionals based in localities to improve community engagement and promote local needs- led services.
 - b) To review and develop processes for assessment, referral and review of Early Help plans to ensure these are free from unnecessary bureaucracy supporting professionals to provide timely Early Help services.

- c) To further develop collation and management of performance measures across services that provide a wide range of outcome measures evidencing the impact of early help to children and families and informing the strategic needs analysis.
 - d) To review and develop a process for information sharing and recording across the Early Help service provisions that enables professionals to effectively record and share information safely and in a timely way, reducing delay and bureaucracy.
- 6.4 The attached organisational delivery chart (Appendix A) provides an illustrative version of how the Early Help Leadership and services will work as a collective.
- 6.5 'Compass' was developed as a single point of referral for parents and professionals with concerns regarding children's emotional welfare and mental health. With the exception of emergency referrals, which will continue to be taken by the Child and Adolescent Mental Health Service (CAMHS) duty officer, requests relating to child and adolescent mental health that would previously have been referred to CAMHS will now be co-ordinated at 'Compass'. Information has been sent out to all GPs, schools, colleges and other stakeholders, informing them of 'Compass' and the new process for CAMHS referral.
- 6.6 Professionals and Parents receive advice on how to access and deliver emotional health and wellbeing support to children and young people at tier 1 and 2. This advice is delivered by an integrated team of Family Information Service, Early Help Advisors (Senior Social Workers) and CAMHS Senior Primary Mental Health Practitioners who are co-located to receive referrals and triage cases on a daily basis to ensure that children and young people get the right support, at the right time.
- 6.7 'Compass' went live on 13th February. As at March 5th there had been 66 calls into Compass. Initial feedback through the stakeholder implementation group is that calls made in are requesting an appropriate level of support and the triage team are able to make a response. A significant early indicator is an increase in parents phoning Family Information Service for information and advice as directed by their GP. This appears to demonstrate some indication of change as intended by 'Compass' to manage demand for specialist services down.
- 6.8 Further development of 'Compass' will be co-ordinated with the development of the wider Early Help re-design as outlined above. Specifically, the work-stream to review how referral and assessment process for parents and professionals to access Early Help is best delivered through simple, timely and non- bureaucratic processes.

6.9 Strategic Development for Mental health

A comprehensive approach to CAMHS has been developed which covers emotional health and wellbeing across a pathway covering the varying degrees of need through the lowest level (tier 1- tier 3) need for specialist intervention.

- 6.10 The Local Authority commissioning and provider leads and the Women's and Children's Commissioner for the Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG), working closely with the Adult Commissioner for Mental Health, have produced a Shropshire- wide pathway approach covering tier 1-3.
- 6.11 Service re-design has taken place and a new service specification has been developed for tier 3 services and tier 2 (this has been jointly between the Local Authority and CCG) and includes the newly developed 'Compass'. A working Group including CAMHS, the CCG, clinicians (including a local GP) has overseen and developed this over the past nine months. This has ensured there are strong links to work taking place at tier 3 and tier 2.

6.12 Think Good Feel Good

From April 2014 Targeted Mental Health Support (TaMHS) known locally as **Think Good Feel Good** will be included as part of the Healthy Child Programme development and delivery of Public Health. This is a Shropshire wide universal offer of mental ill health prevention and is available to all schools. A report to the Shropshire Children's Trust and leaflet is attached at Appendix B.

- 6.13 Think Good Feel Good is a whole school approach and is based on an evidenced- based training programme. It supports school- based staff to set up projects in schools that can identify need and then provide emotional and behavioural support to young people at an early stage. Currently 84% of schools have signed and report feeling more confident in dealing with and understanding emotional health and wellbeing.

6.14 Self-Harm Pathway

Reporting and incidence of self-harm in young people rose last year in Shropshire in line with a national trend. In response to this a self-harm pathway has been developed in consultation with parents and young people who self-harm. The self-harm strategy is attached at Appendix C.

- 6.15 The purpose of the pathway is to provide consistent approaches of early identification and support, including information for young people and families. This has been endorsed by the Safeguarding Board and briefing sessions held across the county. Evidence tells us that young

people seek support from their peers before family members or professionals. The information, advice and guidance leaflets were seen as particularly valuable for young people who are supporting their friends who self-harm.

List of Background Papers (This MUST be completed for all reports, but does not include items containing exempt or confidential information)
Cabinet Member (Portfolio Holder) Ann Hartley
Local Member All Members
Appendices Appendix A: Local Authority Early Help Leadership organisational chart Appendix B: TaMHS Report to Children's Trust and TaMHS Leaflet Appendix C: Self Harm Strategy