

## Appendix 1: Health Overview & Scrutiny Recommendation Response Pro Forma

*Where a joint health overview and scrutiny committee makes a report or recommendation to a responsible person (a relevant NHS body or a relevant health service provider [this can include the County Council]), the Health and Social Care Act 2012 and the Local Authority (Public Health, Health and Wellbeing Boards and Health Scrutiny) Regulations 2013 provide that the committee may require a response from the responsible person to whom it has made the report or recommendation and that person must respond in writing within 28 days of the request.*

*This template provides a structure which respondents are encouraged to use. However, respondents are welcome to depart from the suggested structure provided the same information is included in a response. The usual way to publish a response is to include it in the agenda of a meeting of the body to which the report or recommendations were addressed.*

### **Issue: Children's Emotional Wellbeing and Mental Health Strategy**

#### **Lead Cabinet Member(s) or Responsible Person:**

- Cllr John Howson – Cabinet Member for Children's Services.
- Cllr Kate Gregory – Cabinet Member for SEND.
- Lisa Lyons - Corporate Director of Children's Services.
- Ansaf Azhar – Corporate Director for Public Health.

It is requested that a response is provided to each of the recommendations outlined below:

**Deadline for response:** Tuesday 30<sup>th</sup> January 2023

#### **Response to report:**

#### **Response to recommendations:**

**NOTE** regarding the frequency of updates/responses to these recommendations: Most of the changes required for emotional health and wellbeing of children and young people require actions over a long term. HOSC will therefore receive a progress update on these recommendations in 6 months-time, and a full update with a full report at a formal HOSC meeting in approximately one years-time.

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Recommendation	Accepted, rejected or partially accepted	Proposed action (including if different to that recommended) and indicative timescale.
<p>1. To work on developing explicit and comprehensive navigation tools for improving communication and referral for services at the neighbourhood level and within communities. It is recommended that piloting such navigation tools in specific communities may be a point of consideration.</p>	<p>Partially accept</p>	<p>We work closely with partners across Oxfordshire who offer advice, support and interventions for children, young people and their families and are currently tendering for a peer support app for CYP to support their mental health and well-being with a directory of local services to meet their needs. We recognise the importance of ensuring that local communities and neighbourhoods are connected to service provision in their areas. This is also important to the workforce so that they know who their local link is for support and services.</p> <p>This recommendation applies to all system partners to ensure that information is made available. HOSC can also support this approach with members of the scrutiny committee sharing information through their networks.</p> <p>The new SEND Local offer also provides details how to apply for help and includes a directory of local provision that both CYP and their families as well as professionals can access. This has been co-produced with Oxfordshire Parent Carer Forum and is key action in the priority action plan the link for the new website: <a href="#">Oxfordshire SEND local offer   Oxfordshire County Council</a></p> <p>As part of the early help strategy refresh this year OCC Children's Services will be ensuring the offer of early help is accessible to all families to find information to support them along with resources available within the local offer and linked with FIS.</p>

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<p>2. To ensure adequate co-production with children and their families as part of continuing efforts to deliver the strategy, including considerations of how children and families can be placed at the heart of commissioning. It is also recommended for an early review with the users of the digital offer once this becomes available; to include testing with neurodivergent children and other children known to be at higher risk of mental ill health.</p>	<p>Accepted</p>	<p>Co-production is a critical part of the strategy development and the commissioning cycle. This approach was adopted for the development of the emotional health and wellbeing strategy and in the commissioning of the digital offer. The Council recognises that improvements can be made and in future tenders we would like CYP to be able to be part of the evaluation process. We are working with procurement and legal colleagues to enable this to happen without being at risk of breaching contract procurement regulations and legal challenge.</p> <p>We have built reviews and service improvement into the digital offer and will be able to provide updates in due course.</p>
<p>3. To continue to explore and secure specific and sustainable sources of funding for the Strategy to be effectively delivered in the long-run.</p>	<p>Accepted</p>	<p>Funding for supporting emotional health and wellbeing comes from a number of government departments and organisations. This includes Department for Education and NHS England as well as funding provided to the voluntary and community sector and for research and evaluation to grow the evidence base on what works. As a system we will strive to identify sustainable sources of funding for Oxfordshire. Local funding streams will be determined by the financial envelope provided to us nationally for this work.</p> <p>Any proposals to increase resources to better meet the needs of CYP in Oxfordshire are being managed by the SEND Priority Action Plan to address priorities identified during the Local Area SEND inspection by OFSTED and CQC.</p>
<p>4. To ensure that children and young people and their families continue to receive support that is specifically tailored toward their needs. It is recommended that a</p>	<p>Accepted</p>	<p>System partners recognise the recommendation to be needs led and provide support to children, young people and families at the earliest opportunity utilising the Think Family Approach and as</p>

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<p>Needs-Based Approach is explicitly adopted, as opposed to a purely Diagnosis-Based Approach. This could allow for early intervention to be initiated as soon as possible.</p>		<p>endorsed within the Early Help Strategy to offer the right support at the right time.</p> <p>Oxford Health are already taking this needs-led approach through Universal Public Health Services for CYP.</p> <p>Oxford Health CAMHS service also commission Autism Oxfordshire to give CYP and their families pre-diagnoses support for those waiting for a Neuro-development Conditions assessment. We are exploring different ways of commissioning and delivering Neuro-development Conditions assessment services across the BOB ICB as long waits are a national issue. Addressing waits for Neuro-development Conditions assessments is also an action in the SEND Priority Action Plan.</p>
<p>5. That consideration is given to the use of a simple and evidence-based standardised evaluation measure, that is suitable across all services that are working on Children's mental health in community settings.</p>	<p>Partially accepted</p>	<p>Evaluations tell us what works and what does not. An evaluation should be a rigorous and structured assessment of a completed or ongoing activity, intervention, programme or policy that will determine the extent to which it is achieving its objectives and contributing to decision-making.</p> <p>Collecting feedback, data and local intelligence from children and young people, communities and services is essential to inform a needs-led approach. We will explore what guidance and evidence-based practice is available to address this recommendation.</p> <p>We would also like to recommend that this is broader than 'children's mental health in community settings' to recognise the impact of wider determinants on emotional health and wellbeing for children, young people and their families.</p>

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		Children's Services already utilise SDQ's to measure and evaluate children's Mental Health for Children We Care For and we could look to expand this practice to a wider cohort of children to further explore their needs.
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