

REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR OF CHILDREN'S SERVICES

**COMMISSIONING OF CHILDREN AND ADOLESCENT MENTAL
HEALTH SERVICES**

1. Purpose of the Report

- 1.1 To receive a report on the progress made in relation to the review of commissioning arrangements of children and adolescent mental health services (CAMHS) in the city.

2. Background

- 2.1 On 23 November 2016, a report was submitted to the Cabinet in relation to proposals for the existing and future commissioning of children and adolescent services (CAHMS) with the city with Sunderland Clinical Commissioning Group.
- 2.2 The Cabinet report was prepared to update Cabinet members on the ongoing work programme with SCCG to better understand the funding arrangements and delivery of mental health services. The report to Cabinet also set out the background to the CAMHS service and how it was originally funded through a ring fenced grant arrangement. A copy of the full Cabinet report is attached at Appendix A.
- 2.3 SCCG's responsibility is to fund and deliver a universal, targeted and specialist model of community mental health services and related national KPI's and targets. This remains their key priority within the current contract arrangement.
- 2.4 The historical arrangements between SCCG and the Local Authority are that the Council makes a financial contribution to this service model in order to meet our own responsibility to provide early intervention and preventative services to improve children and young people's mental health and emotional wellbeing and minimise the number of referrals for CAMHS.
- 2.5 The November Cabinet report identified that both the existing arrangements and potential alternative options needed to be explored in more detail to ensure that the future model is up to date, addresses the right priorities and outcomes for these services and demonstrates value for money.
- 2.6 The most critical issue identified was that because there was not a Section 75 arrangement put in place at the start of the arrangement with SCCG for the provision of CAMH services, the Local Authority does not subsequently receive regular performance information which identifies what services are being delivered or whether the current service offer was meeting the needs of children and young people in the city. A Section 75 arrangement is a formal

agreement between the Local Authority and health in order to transfer funds for the provision of services and also outlines what measurable outcomes and performance monitoring arrangements will be established in order to be able to monitor delivery and impact.

- 2.7 Following discussion at the November Cabinet Board about the issues surrounding the commissioning of CAMHS services, Cabinet agreed the following recommendations:-
- (i) Endorse and agree to the extension of the existing contract and funding arrangements for the Children and Adolescent Mental Health (CAMHS) for the period up to 31st March 2017;
 - (ii) Agree to work in collaboration with the Sunderland Clinical Commissioning Group (SCCG) as the existing lead commissioner of CAMHS in Sunderland and other partners to undertake a review of the options for the future commissioning and delivery of these services; and
 - (iii) Agree to receive a further report in due course for further consideration in relation to the outcome of this commissioning and service review and the proposed next steps.

3. Current Position

- 3.1 The existing contract and funding arrangements are being maintained as agreed to the end of March 2017 whilst the review of CAMH service across the City is ongoing.
- 3.2 In terms of collaboration with the SCCG, the review began prior to the November Cabinet meeting. Local Authority senior managers are leading three working groups with partner organisations coming together to look at what services are available and the referral pathways. The completion date for this work has been set for June 2017.
- 3.3 At this point, the outcome of the review is not complete and further work is needed to develop a CAMHS commissioning strategy. The review will support the future development of CAMHS services across the City and robust commissioning arrangements, supported by a clear specification of need, to be established going forward from 2017 and beyond.
- 3.4 Whilst we are in a position of needing to better understand what services we require from CAMHS, it would be pertinent to commit to only maintaining the current funding to maintain a level of service at this point.
- 3.5 During the period of review the Local Authority will work with SCCG to agree improved commissioning arrangements. During this time, a Section 75 arrangement will also be put in place to ensure that there are measurable outcomes and a performance monitoring arrangement which will allow us to report to Members and monitor impact.

4. Conclusion

- 4.1 The arrangements proposed above are being taken forward in order to negate any risk of withdrawing funding which will result in a reduced service offer from SCCG at this time whilst the review is ongoing.

5 Recommendations

- 5.1 Scrutiny Committee is asked to note and discuss the contents of this report in relation to the work being undertaken by the Local Authority and SCCG to review the CAMHS provision for children and young people.