

Schools Forum

11 December 2012

Targeted Mental Health in Schools (TaMHS)

1. Introduction

- 1.1 To provide the School Forum with an update on possible options in relation to the TAMHS borough wide project currently funded until the end of March 2013.

2. Current position

- 2.1 The current specification for the delivery of the service by Alliance Psychological Services Ltd. is for the delivery of a range of accessible, reliable, flexible and appropriate evidence based interventions and assessments including one to one counselling sessions, motivational interviewing and solution focused work, to children aged between 0 and 18 and their families or carers who are deemed at risk of developing mental health problems
- 2.2 The service is currently funded at a total cost of £500,000 per annum (£250,000 from the Local Authority including Early Intervention Grant and £250,000 from brought forward surplus on the Schools Budget and as such is one off in nature).
- 2.3 The North Tees and Stockton and Hartlepool CCG are additionally considering a case to provide additional resource in the current year to increase capacity, provide additionally and reduce waiting lists. They are not yet in a position to make any longer term commitments.
- 2.4 All schools receive an allocation based upon pupil numbers; to date all but 7 schools have referred.
- 2.5 In the period April – September there were a total of 375 referrals. Of these 49% came from schools, 22% from GPs and 95 from CAMHS. Direct Social care referrals represent 18% but this is in addition to children with Social Care involvement referred from other routes. Significant numbers of referrals come from schools in challenging areas.
- 2.6 Whilst Alliance reports indicate high levels of satisfaction rates from clients and schools and LA members of the TAMHS board reported generally positive commentary from schools a number of issues have been raised by schools, particularly:
- High level of Health referrals despite initial low level of resource provided
 - Lack of clear system for prioritisation of referrals
 - Query as to the appropriateness of some CAMHS referrals
 - Difficulties in accessing provision on site for small schools
 - Allocation of hours of input solely based on school numbers
- 2.7 Without a commitment before the end of December 2012 to continuation of the contract Alliance will need to begin their exit strategy

3 Options

3.1 To cease the contract as of 31.03.13

Advantages:

- Each school/academy could purchase to meet individual need and as their budget allows

Disadvantages:

- Loss of potential economies of scale, overall performance management and strategic overview of need
- Lack of shared engagement with Health and Social Care in holistic provision

3.2 To procure for a further year (with review of contractual clauses)

Advantages: opportunity to improve on current arrangements reflecting identified issues and continue to maintain a Stocktonwide perspective

Disadvantages:

- Financial implications in an uncertain financial context

3.3 To go out to procure a joint service from 01.04.13

Disadvantages:

- The timescale is prohibitive, particularly if we are to take the opportunity of engaging with the new health Clinical Commissioning Group
- Financial implications in an uncertain financial context

3.4 To extend the contract until the end of the academic year at a cost of approx £167k (with review of contractual clauses)

Advantages:

- opportunity to improve on current arrangements with a more sharply focused contract whilst continuing to maintain a Stockton wide perspective
- Short term financial commitment whilst giving the time to consider the issue in the wider emerging financial and operational context and future engagement with reconfigured health partners

Disadvantages:

- Financial implications in uncertain financial context

4 Recommendation

- 4.1 To consider proceeding with option 3.4 whilst further considering the range of alternative options as the financial and structural landscape is clarified.**