

21 March 2023		ITEM: 6
Corporate Parenting Committee		
SET Child and Adolescent Mental Health Service Report for Looked After Children, January 2022 – December 2022		
Wards and communities affected: All	Key Decision: None	
Report of: Tina Russell, Assistant Director SET CAMHS and Partnerships.		
Accountable Assistant Director: Tina Russell, Assistant Director SET CAMHS and Partnerships		
Accountable Director: Sheila Murphy, Corporate Director of Children’s Services		
This report is Public		

Executive Summary

The attached report describes and analyses the service provided by the local Child and Adolescent Mental Health service, known as SET CAMHS to children looked after. This is a health service that is jointly commissioned between Local Authorities and Integrated Care Boards in the wider Essex Area and provides services to children of all ages and backgrounds who have a level of mental health need.

The attached report in Appendix One focuses on the work of SET CAMHS in relation to looked after children in Thurrock in the period between January 2022 – December 2022. It provides an overview of the children referred and the mental health services they received.

The outcome for looked after children is that by receiving a priority assessment of their needs this aids identification of emerging emotional health issues and enables support to be put in place to prevent mental health difficulties developing or escalating.

1. Recommendation(s)

- 1.1 That the SET Child and Adolescent Mental Health Service Report for Children Looked After, January 2022 – December 2022 is noted and reviewed by Members**

2. Introduction and Background

- 2.1 The Local Authority, through its Corporate Parenting responsibilities, has a duty to promote the welfare of Looked After Children. This includes promoting the child's physical, emotional and mental health. Every Looked After Child should have a health assessment so that a health plan can be developed to reflect the child's health needs and be included as part of the child's overall care plan. As corporate parent, the local authority must ensure that children and young people receive the health care services they require as set out in their health plan. This includes medical and dental care treatment as well as advice and guidance on personal health care and health promotion issues. The Local Authority should advise the Integrated Care Board when a child is initially accommodated.
- 2.2 The relevant Integrated Care Board and NHS England have a duty to cooperate with requests from the Local Authority to undertake health assessments and provide any necessary support services to Looked After Children without any undue delay and irrespective of whether the placement of the child is an emergency, short term or in another Integrated Care Board. This also includes services to a child or young person experiencing mental illness. Both the Local Authority and relevant Integrated Care Board should develop effective communications and understandings between each other as part of being able to promote children's wellbeing.

3. Issues, Options and Analysis of Options

- 3.1 The attached report (See Appendix 1) sets out the service provided thus far. There are no forward options that require consideration as an outcome of this report.

4. Reasons for Recommendation

- 4.1 The attached report within Appendix 1 provides detail of the CAMHS service from January to December 2022 which updates members

5. Consultation (including Overview and Scrutiny, if applicable)

- 5.1 None

6. Impact on corporate policies, priorities, performance and community impact

- 6.1 None

7. Implications

7.1 Financial

Implications verified by: **David May**
Strategic Lead, Corporate Finance

There are no financial implications, however any costs associated with this report need to be met from existing resources.

7.2 Legal

Implications verified by: **Judith Knight**
Interim Deputy Head of Legal (Social Care and Education)

Under the Children and Social Work Act 2017 the Council must in carrying out its functions in relation to looked after children have regard to the 'corporate parenting principles' which include 'to act in the best interests, and promote the physical and mental health and well-being, of looked after children and 'to help those children and young people gain access to, and make the best use of, services provided by the local authority and its relevant partners'.

The Council must have regard to the statutory guidance 'Applying corporate parenting principles to looked-after children and care leavers'.(February 2018)
The guidance states that:

"4.6 Local authorities should consider and be able to demonstrate how they have regard to this need when discharging their functions, for example:

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- The arrangements in place to ensure that looked after children are not refused a mental health or other health service on the grounds of their placement being short term or unplanned."

The Council should also have regard to the statutory guidance 'Promoting the health and well-being of looked after children' (March 2015). This sets out the requirements for reviews of a child's health plan and at paragraph 54 notes:

"The local authority that looks after a child must take all reasonable steps to ensure that the child receives the health care services he or she requires as set out in their health plan. Those services include mental health services, medical and dental care treatment and immunisations, as well as advice and guidance on personal health care and health promotion issues."

7.3 **Diversity and Equality**

Implications verified by: **Roxanne Scanlon**
**Community Engagement and Project
Monitoring Officer**

The Service is committed to practice, which promotes inclusion and diversity, and will carry out its duties in accordance with the Equality Act 2010 and related Codes of Practice and Anti-discriminatory policy. Some diversity data related to number of referrals is included within the Appendix.

7.4 **Other implications** (where significant) – i.e. Staff, Health, Sustainability, Crime and Disorder, or Impact on Looked After Children)

- Impact on Looked After Children

8. **Background papers used in preparing the report** (including their location on the Council's website or identification whether any are exempt or protected by copyright):

- **None**

9. **Appendices to the report**

- Appendix 1 – SET Child and Adolescent Mental Health Service Report for Looked After Children, January 2022 – December 2022 (Power Point)

Report Author:

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