

Item 7: Children and Young People's Emotional Wellbeing and Mental Health Service - update

By: Kay Goldsmith, Scrutiny Research Officer

To: Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee, 24 November 2020

Subject: Children and Young People's Emotional Wellbeing and Mental Health Service - update

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Summary: This report invites the Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee to consider the information provided by Kent and Medway CCG.

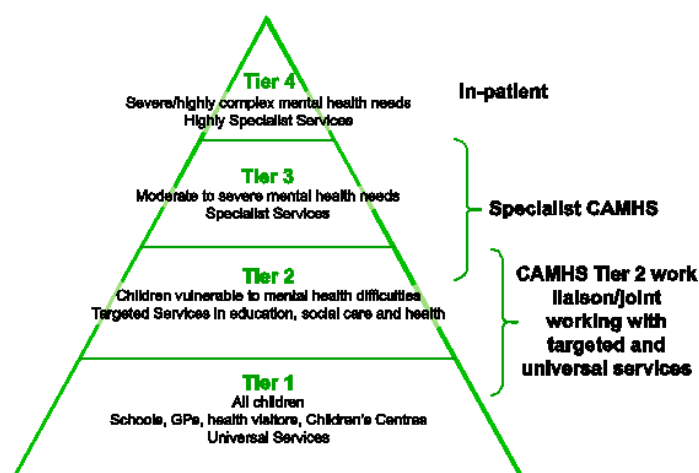
It provides background information which may prove useful to Members.

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## 1) Introduction

- a) Children and young people's mental health services (CYPMHS) is an umbrella term covering a wide range of services commissioned by the NHS and local Government. The diagram below helps to explain the tiered provision of the overall service.

### Diagram: How CAMHS is structured<sup>1</sup>



- b) Locally, specialist CYPMHS (Tier 3) is commissioned by Kent & Medway CCG and provided by North East London NHS Foundation Trust (NELFT).

## 2) Previous visits to Kent's HOSC

- a) HOSC have raised a number of concerns about the CYPMHS over recent years. These concerns have centred around waiting times; service provision because of capacity issues; and communication during waiting times.
- b) The commissioner and provider last attended HOSC in March 2020. Key points from that update include:

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<sup>1</sup> Parliament (2014) CAMHS as a whole system, <https://publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201415/cmselect/cmhealth/342/34206.htm#note29>

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- The service was experiencing a rise in demand and also difficulty in recruiting staff (they had a 22-26% vacancy rate).
  - For general mental health conditions, NELFT were meeting the Referral to Treatment (RTT) standard (18 weeks) by about 82%.
  - There were between 6,000 – 7,000 children on the Neurodevelopmental (ND) waiting list, mainly for diagnostics.
  - A new ND pathway was to be implemented in July 2020 – there would be a period of transition between the two pathways.
  - The Looked After Children (LAC) caseload remained high.
  - A new initiative had been piloted in Canterbury, showing the importance of early information which was offered via a handbook. The pilot had been well received and it was intended to roll this out across the county.
  - NELFT had been awarded the contract for Kent Tier 4 inpatient mental health beds for children and young people. They were due to take over the management of the Woodland House unit (near Staplehurst) on 1 April 2020.
- c) Following the discussion, the Chair requested that the following updates be provided when the item returned to HOSC:
- i. the implementation of the new pathway
  - ii. the rollout of the Canterbury pilot
  - iii. the changes to the Woodlands Unit
  - iv. the new care model, and
  - v. demand and financial projections
- d) Representatives from the CCG have been invited to attend today's HOSC meeting to provide an update.

### **3) CAMHS Tier 4 provision at Cygnet Hospital, Godden Green**

- a) Specialist in-patient provision for CAMHS (Tier 4) is commissioned by NHS England. The Chair of HOSC was notified on 26 October 2020 that two CAMHS wards at Cygnet Hospital in Godden Green near Sevenoaks had been closed. A recent Care Quality Commission (CQC) inspection did not provide assurance that the service met the standards expected or that the provider could implement and sustain the improvements required. Cygnet advised NHS England of its intention to close the two wards as a result of this inspection and this closure happened on Monday 26<sup>th</sup> October.
- b) The small number of patients cared for on the CAMHS wards have been transferred or discharged. Additional services provided at the Hospital remain unaffected.
- c) There remains one inpatient unit in Kent, which is the Kent and Medway Adolescent Hospital (formerly known as the Woodlands Unit) provided by NELFT.
- d) An investigation is currently underway led by NHS England into a serious incident that took place at Cygnet Hospital prior to its closure and it is proposed the item be brought to HOSC for scrutiny once that investigation has concluded.

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- e) Kent and Medway CCG are not responsible for commissioning in-patient Tier 4 services and therefore will be unable to answer questions about the closure at today's meeting.

**4. Recommendation**

RECOMMENDED that

- i. the report on Children & Young People's Emotional Wellbeing & Mental Health Service (Tier 3) be noted and Kent & Medway CCG be invited to provide an update at the appropriate time.
- ii. The closure of the inpatient unit at Cygnet Hospital in Godden Green is brought to HOSC once the investigation has concluded.

**Background Documents**

Kent County Council (2016) '*Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee (04/03/16)*', <https://democracy.kent.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=112&MId=6257&Ver=4>

Kent County Council (2016) '*Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee (02/09/16)*', <https://democracy.kent.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=112&MId=6261&Ver=4>

Kent County Council (2017) '*Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee (20/09/17)*', <https://democracy.kent.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=112&MId=7788&Ver=4>

Kent County Council (2018) '*Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee (21/09/18)*', <https://democracy.kent.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=112&MId=7921&Ver=4>

Kent County Council (2019) '*Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee (01/03/19)*', <https://democracy.kent.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=112&MId=7926&Ver=4>

Kent County Council (2020) '*Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee (05/03/20)*', <https://democracy.kent.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=112&MId=8286&Ver=4>

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