

Expanded or new services for 2022/23 responding to new demand in the Kent system

Several new services will commence throughout 2022/23 and will contribute to increasing access. These include:

- *Together with Parents*: A new KCC-commissioned service (that KMCCG contributes to) that has been co-produced with parents, carers and key partners that offers robust and consistent support to parents and carers whose child has either received a diagnosis, are awaiting diagnosis, or considering a referral to the Neurodevelopmental and Learning Disabilities pathway. The overarching aim of the new service is to ensure parents can access support and information in a timely way before reaching crisis point.
- *Imago Siblings Project*: This KMCCG pilot aims to improve the quality of life of young people growing up with a sibling who has a lifelong disability or serious medical condition. The project will work to ensure that the family unit has access to the right help, at the right time, with the aim of reducing social isolation, increasing confidence and self-esteem.
- *Primary Care Mental Health Practitioner roles*: Mental health practitioners within NELFT will work within a Primary Care Network (PCN) to support the primary care offer of mild to moderate interventions to children. There are 10 posts in place currently with more expected in 2022/23.
- *PCN Navigator / Social Prescribing roles*: Primary Care Network-funded posts to support children and their families navigate the system to access support. Families have fed back that these roles have been immensely helpful to find and access appropriate services.
- *Unaccompanied Asylum-Seeking Children and Young People (UASC) emotional wellbeing projects*: KMCCG recently awarded two short-term contracts to the British Refugee Council and Pie Factory to help provide support to UASC living in Kent and Medway. These services are currently in the mobilisation phase.
- *UASC emotional wellbeing and mental health service*: procurement of a KMCCG-funded bespoke emotional wellbeing and mental health service for UASC has begun, with Invitations To Tender expected to be published in May 2022.

- *Increased investment into School Health Counselling Service:* Reconnect funding and Public Health funding will be used to increase investment into School Health's Counselling Service, with an aim to reduce the referral to treatment wait to 6 weeks. This service is delivered by Kent Community Health NHS Foundation Trust (KCHFT).
- *Counselling pilots:* Kent Public Health will invest in 3 cognitive behavioural therapy counselling pilots relating to Cognitive Behavioural Therapy, Family Therapy and Play Therapy.

There are also existing services where capacity is expected to increase in 2022/23:

- *Specialist Bereavement Service:* CHUMS have seen their referral numbers rise month-on-month since the service went live in September 2021. CHUMS is working with commissioners to explore how best to support the increased demand.
- *KCHFT multi-disciplinary team for neurodevelopmental assessments:* Piloting a new model of diagnostic assessment for under 5s.
- *Additional diagnostic assessments within NELFT:* Significant investment to increase the number of diagnostic assessments to children and young people waiting for an autism and/or ADHD assessment.
- *Emerge expansion into Darent Valley Hospital, Maidstone Hospital and Tunbridge Wells Hospital:* Emerge volunteers support children and young people attending hospital due to self-harm, suicide attempt or emotional crisis, spending time with them to offer a positive distraction and emotional care. They also provide follow-up support.
- *Mental Health Support Teams:* KMCCG and NELFT will continue to roll-out Mental Health Support Teams (MHSTs) (known as Emotional Wellbeing Teams in Kent, and as Emotional Support Teams in Medway). It is anticipated that there will be 21 teams live across K&M by 2023/24.