

Children, Families, Lifelong Learning and Culture Select Committee response to the report of the Mental Health Task Group

The Children, Families, Lifelong Learning and Culture Select Committee (the Select Committee) thanks the Mental Health Task Group for its inquiry and findings in respect of adult mental health services in Surrey.

The Select Committee will not form a 'similarly broad and wide-ranging mental health journey task group concentrating on both children and those transitioning to adult mental health services' at this time for the following reasons:

1. Surrey's Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS) are to be replaced by new Emotional Wellbeing and Mental Health (EWMH) services for children and young people, which are in the process of being commissioned as part of the Emotional Wellbeing and Mental Health Transformation Programme, in April 2021. Therefore, a task group inquiry into CAMHS would consider a service which would be defunct or soon to be defunct at the conclusion of the inquiry – a time at which it would not be possible for the findings and recommendations of the task group to significantly influence the EWMH services as the services will be near implementation or recently implemented. The Select Committee is monitoring the commissioning of those services.
2. Whilst the Children, Families, Lifelong Learning and Culture Select Committee elects to scrutinise CAMHS from time to time due to its clear connections with the Select Committee's portfolio, health services and their commissioning fall directly within the remit of the Adults and Health Select Committee (Articles 7.02 and 7.03(k) of the Constitution of the Council), not that of the Children, Families, Lifelong Learning and Culture Select Committee. Therefore, it would be more appropriate for the Adults and Health Select Committee to dedicate a task group to these matters, if the Adults and Health Select Committee considers it an appropriate time to conduct scrutiny of CAMHS.
3. The issues with the current CAMHS are well known to the Select Committee, and it is intended that the new EWMH services will address those issues. For further information, see: <https://mycouncil.surreycc.gov.uk/mqAi.aspx?ID=25783>.

The Select Committee will:

1. consider undertaking scrutiny of pathways into CAMHS/EWMH services at an appropriate time, although such scrutiny may not be conducted by a task group;
2. consider undertaking scrutiny of transitions between different CAMHS/EWMH services and between CAMHS/EWMH services and adult mental health services at an appropriate time, although such scrutiny may not be conducted by a task group;
3. monitor the performance of the new EWMH services from time to time; and
4. scrutinise the new EWMH services as the Select Committee considers appropriate, including by reviewing the services' impact six months after their implementation – this is scheduled for the October 2021 meeting of the Select Committee

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