

**CABINET- 23 July 2024**

**CABINET RESPONSE TO THE REPORT OF THE ADULTS AND HEALTH SELECT COMMITTEE and CHILDREN, FAMILIES, LIFELONG LEARNING AND CULTURE SELECT COMMITTEES**

Item under consideration: Mindworks and the Neurodevelopmental Pathway

**Recommendations:**

The Adults and Health Select Committee, with representation from the Children, Families and Lifelong Learning Select Committee, agreed the following recommendations.

Item	Recommendation	Response
1	<p>Mindworks must demonstrate how it proposes to regain the confidence of parents and schools, and that it is accepting responsibility for the services that it is commissioned to provide, by:</p> <p>1.1 Publishing the Transformation Plan, with dates, times, and levels of performance with appropriate Key Performance Indicators (KPIs)</p>	<p>1.1 The key areas of the ND Transformational Plan have been agreed in draft, as part of the All-Age Mental Health, Learning Disability and Autism One System Plan. This will be signed off by the All Age Mental Health and LDA Committee by Autumn 2024. This includes actions to be undertaken by Mindworks as well as wider partners in health, the county council and education. The Mindworks part, work will be shared with members of the Select Committees by end September 2024. This will also include information on the broader Mindworks Transformation plans which include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• improvements to the access pathways into Mindworks</li> <li>• the emotional wellbeing and mental health support provided within schools</li> <li>• updates to the Mindworks clinical model</li> </ul>

	<p>1.2 Providing research to identify the size of the problem</p> <p>1.3 Improving information on those organisations, such as the National Autistic Society, who can provide early help – prior to diagnosis;</p>	<p>Work is already underway to develop these transformation workstreams with engagement with our system stakeholders, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• working with primary care to build closer working relationships including the implementation of a locally commissioned service which will support primary care to take on the prescribing of ADHD medication, freeing up capacity in the specialist service to better meet the level of demand</li> <li>• engagement with schools to ensure proposals align with what schools are asking for</li> <li>• working to align with the Partnership for Inclusion of Neurodiversity in Schools (PINS) programme</li> </ul> <p>1.2 As part of the Health and Social Care Transformation work, project resource has been secured to complete a mapping and benchmarking exercise. It is currently anticipated that this will be concluded by October 2024. The work will include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Population estimate levels of need for CYP with ASC and ADHD based on national data</li> <li>• Summary of national good practice</li> <li>• An understanding of the totality of referrals, demand, workforce and models of delivery across Surrey for children and young people.</li> <li>• Any further insight on demand drivers.</li> <li>• Recommendations for change, where possible.</li> </ul> <p>1.3 A combined response to this recommendation is provided below in section 3.</p>
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	<p>1.4 Monitoring the effectiveness of partners who provide Mindworks services and drive improved performance where appropriate.</p>	<p>1.4 The Mindworks contract is an Alliance agreement, with SABP as the prime provider, with sub-contract arrangements with Surrey Wellbeing Partnership, National Autistic Society, Barnardo's, Tavistock and Portman and Kooth.</p> <p>A series of monthly assurance processes for performance, quality, outcomes and experience, and data quality where key risks, recommendations / actions and progress against contract are raised.</p> <p>Should an issue require escalation, this is done within the Alliance via the Board of the VCSE partners (Surrey Wellbeing Partnership) for this provision, through to either the Alliance Board or SABP's Executive Board. Issues of a contractual nature are escalated to the Contract Review Meeting and discussed with commissioning and contracting organisations. This is the ICB / SCC joint commissioning and contracts first line of external assurance and decision making.</p>
<p>2</p>	<p>By scaling up supply to meet the level of demand, and securing sufficient support from the NHS England, showing how this is linked to the Transformation Project.</p>	<p>2. Local NHS (ICBs) and Surrey County Council, jointly commission Mindworks services. The organisations have supported conversations to ensure the contract value is used to greatest effect and the transformation work that Mindworks are now progressing will focus on this further, ensuring focus on clinical delivery. The ICB has worked to preserve other available financial resources that become available for improvement programmes into the providers.</p> <p>Collectively the ambition to focus on prevention and earlier intervention is retained and other opportunities include the Mental Health Investment Fund and Health and Care Transformation</p>

2.1 The response to the Joint Targeted Area Inspection Report (JTAI) is extended to accommodate a joined-up Mindworks / Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP) process;

2.2 The Surrey and Borders Partnership Trust Recovery College needs to:

- be more accessible to young people and their families and encourage more local access, with better publicity and provision of outreach services;
- ensure that the College has the capacity to take on this extra workload;
- establish skills and work coaches to help coach and support people to enable the transition to adulthood by helping people to maintain employment and get into employment.

plan, including, use of multi-disciplinary teams, sign posting to wider resources and embedding emotional wellbeing support through Thrive.

2.1 Mindworks are jointly, alongside education and social care colleagues, members of the CYP Additional Needs and Disability (AND) Partnership Board and support Surrey's AND improvement plan. This includes work to improve EHCP quality and timeliness of assessments as part of this process. They were involved in the development of processes ensuring EHCNA advice is received for children and young people on waiting lists. Mindworks have also delivered training to SEND Case Managers regarding suicidal ideation.

Mindworks are also key partners in the Inclusion and Early Support workstreams which are in the final stages of agreeing joint KPIs that include the response to support neurodivergent CYP.

2.2 The Recovery College is commissioned to be an adult-only offer and so is not currently available to young people. However, the access flexibility has been provided to those aged 17 years, 6 months to allow support to be provided to young people transitioning to adult services. This includes the recent development of a course run in partnership with the Mindworks Reaching Out service to support young people with this transition.

Services are run across Surrey with locations both within SABP buildings and in the community. The service will continue to work with their students to identify any demand for new locations.

The Recovery College has established a strong reputation throughout the county and students enrol following signposting from GPs, primary care mental health teams such as GP Integrated Mental Health services (GPimhs), secondary care teams such as our Community Mental Health Recovery Services, local VSCE and community services, job centres and often through word of mouth. They work closely with a range of community provision and have built links with Surrey University. Courses are promoted on SABP social media and via a range of forums, are open to invitation to present and were part of the Recovery Fest last year. The Recovery College would be open to any suggestions as to how they can further publicise their courses at a local level.

The College has around 4,000 current students and courses are well subscribed, operating with no significant waiting lists (courses are run on a termly basis so there may be waits between terms). Reserve lists are operated to ensure courses run at capacity wherever possible. At present the rate of referral is broadly in line with the capacity of the service, meaning that any additional demand would require additional system investment to avoid the creation of waiting lists.

The College does already have a strong focus on supporting people to stay or get into work, including the Managing Mental Health at Work course – full details of can be found [here](#).

Skills and work coaches fall outside the scope of the Recovery College course-based education model. Transition support is available to young people through our [Reaching Out](#) service which can include 1-2-1 support to help young people into work.

		<p>Employment support is available via the Richmond Fellowship Independent Placement Support (IPS) service. While commissioned for those 18+ this service does show flexibility to support young people aged 17 to support transition to adulthood. The IPS service is commissioned by Surrey Heartlands ICB and Frimley ICB to provide employment support for people with mental health issues. This Individual Placement Support service is part of a national programme which aims to support people into work, and to support those already in work to maintain employment where this may be at risk because of mental health needs. Richmond Fellowship are able to receive referrals from professionals supporting people with mental health needs in both primary and secondary care, and also provide support to people engaged with our talking therapy services across Surrey.</p> <p>Changing the breadth of the Recovery College and any other support to young adults with ND needs will be part of ongoing transformation conversations.</p>
3.	<p>Mindworks must provide a clear and simple information guide for parents on how to access services, so that pathways of access are coherent, accessible, and easily understood, and to consider how it could be further reaching so that parents and schools are supported while children are on the waiting list.</p> <hr/>	<p>3. Whilst the Mindworks website is already a rich source of advice and information, we recognise that there is more to do to ensure that parents, families and carers are navigated easily to early help, much of which is available via self-referral. We are working with partners and Experts by Experience to ensure that this is one of the first things people looking for advice and support come across. This work will also look to improve the information available about the range of provision available across our <a href="#">Mindworks partners</a>, including what is available locally and up to date information on upcoming events, courses and local resources. These improvements will also work to provide information on support that is available elsewhere in the system</p>

		<p>outside of the Mindworks contract. We anticipate improvements will start to be seen by September 2024.</p> <p>We would link this to the recommendation (1.3) that Mindworks ‘provide a clear and simple information guide for parents on how to access services’. We believe there is a richness of well-structured information that can support people whilst they are waiting but agree that having a greater reach would be beneficial.</p> <p>As part of this work a new digital profiling tool will enable ease of access to a bank of resources and strategies in a targeted way. This will include an improved description of the process and steps across the pathway.</p> <p>The digital profiling tool supports schools to work with children and parents to identify strategies to meet presenting needs early. This can include practical changes to environment, resources or communication as well as onward signposting to a range of resources available, including offers from our VSCE partners such as the National Autistic Society, Learning Space and Barnardo’s. The tool will be piloted by October 2024, with the intention to rollout to all schools across Surrey during the 24/25 academic year.</p>
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