

Meeting of Subject Overview and Scrutiny Committee 2

18 September 2023

Responses to Recommendations/Actions

Adult Community Mental Health Services

Following detailed consideration and discussions with Officers and Cabinet Members, the Committee made the following Recommendations:

1. That the Committee write to the Members of the Senedd for Bridgend and Ogmore to request an invitation to the round table meetings run by them, involving third sector and voluntary organisations and relating to mental health and the Bridgend Mental Health Pathway.

This letter was sent on 21 September 2023 and circulated to Members as Appendix A for information on 13 October 2023

Copy Letter Sent – Attached as Appendix A.



Appendix A - Sarah
Murphy MS and Huw

Response

Email from the Office of the Member of the Senedd for Bridgend attached as Appendix B.



Appendix B - email
from the Office of the

Additional Information

Following detailed consideration and discussions with Officers and Cabinet Members, the Committee requested:

2. Data relating to the notable increase in the number of young people on the autism spectrum being referred to the Community Mental Health Teams and a copy of the existing Code of Practice on the Delivery of Autism Services in Wales.

Officer's Response

We do not currently keep a record of this on WCCIS. We will be discussing this in future performance meetings with a view to being able to count people known to the Directorate with Autistic Spectrum Disorder.

Meeting of Subject Overview and Scrutiny Committee 2

18 September 2023

Responses to Recommendations/Actions

Please see attachment C for the Code of Practice on the Delivery of Autism Services.



Appendix C - Code of Practice on the D

3. That information relating to the pathway to independent advocacy for adults be circulated to all Members to enable them to signpost constituents requiring advocacy.

Officer's Response

Attached is an information poster (Appendix D) and leaflet (Appendix E).



Appendix D - Poster (bilingual).pdf



Appendix E - BVC Trifold Leaflet.pdf

Our advocacy service for adults, which is called Bridgend Voice & Choice (BVC), comprises of:

Service Providers:

- Advocacy Contact Hub: *PromoCymru*
- Specialist Learning Disability Provider (statutory and non-statutory): *People First Bridgend*
- Specialist Communications/Accessible Support Provider: *Mental Health Matters Wales*

Referral Pathway:

The Advocacy Hub, as a central contact point, is able to receive contacts by phone (free to call) or by email via the website, where people's initial concerns or issues will be triaged by the Hub Advocacy Advisors. People are then referred to the most appropriate advocacy support service, which may be a statutory Independent Professional Advocacy service (under the Social Services & Wellbeing Act), or may be another type of advocacy service, depending on the nature of the issue. This approach ensures that only those eligible for statutory Independent Professional Advocacy are then referred through to that service, but ensures people have as many options as possible to access non-statutory or other advocacy services which may be more appropriate for them. The BVC Hub is also able to refer young people to the Children's advocacy service, which is run by Tros Gynnal Plant.

Meeting of Subject Overview and Scrutiny Committee 2

18 September 2023

Responses to Recommendations/Actions

Assisting Recovery in the Community Service (ARC)

4.

- a) Information regarding the types of courses available from ARC;
- b) Information on how the service has evolved and adapted in recent years;
- c) Data showing the age range of individuals accessing the service, the reasons why and the interventions of the service with them; and
- d) Case examples of work that has been done on an individual and group level in the last 12 months.

Officer's Response

Please see attachment F for the ARC Quarterly Report Q1 2023-24.



Appendix F - ARC
Quarterly Report Q1

At the ARC building we have the Local Primary Mental Health Support Service (LPMHSS) and they deliver high intensity psychological therapy groups. If I was asked to say what is available at ARC in terms of groups, rather than courses, then it would be:-

- Emotional Regulation Skills group, Trauma Stabilisation Group, OCD Group, Rumination Group, Mental Health Management Group – LPMHSS Psychological Therapy
- Recovery Through Activity Group – ARC Occupational Therapy

All the groups above are for moderate to severe end of need and referrals are only accepted following a mental health assessment – referrals from psychiatrists, Crisis and Home Treatment teams, LPMHSS Assessment Team and CMHTs. All of the above are closed sessions and follow a set programme.

Additionally, there are lower level psychoeducational groups available periodically. Currently an Anger Management Group is due to be delivered in partnership with New Horizons and previous groups have been delivered In ADHD Awareness and Living with ADHD, as well as groups for Emotional Resilience and Anxiety Management. Groups are delivered at ARC on a variety of topics, using on-line resources from Valleys Steps, with people brought together to share learning and to connect with others experiencing similar issues. Workshop sessions include Stress Management, Panic and Anxiety and sleep.

Meeting of Subject Overview and Scrutiny Committee 2

18 September 2023

Responses to Recommendations/Actions

Director of Social Services Annual Report 2022/23

Following detailed consideration and discussions with Officers and Cabinet Members, the Committee made the following Recommendations:

5. That the financial modelling that is available to the Cabinet during the budget setting process, also be made available to the Budget Research and

Evaluation Panel to assist with their budget discussions regarding financial sufficiency for the Social Services and Wellbeing Directorate.

Officer's Response

That information would be made available as requested.

6. That the Committee write a letter, in support of the Deputy Leader and the Council's response to the Welsh Government Consultation, *Rebalancing Care and Support Programme*, to the Welsh Minister for Social Services regarding standardised Welsh National pay, terms and conditions to prevent the "poaching" of staff by other local authorities and therefore ensuring that Bridgend retains a skilled workforce.

Complete

Copy Letter Sent – Attached as Appendix G.



Appendix G - Letter
to Deputy Minister f

Copy Letter Received – Attached as Appendix H.



Appendix H - Letter
from Deputy Ministe

Additional Information

Following detailed consideration and discussions with Officers and Cabinet Members, the Committee requested:

7. An update on the progress and cost of the priority for Children's Social Care to enhance in-house foster care capacity and implement therapeutic support service for foster carers.

Meeting of Subject Overview and Scrutiny Committee 2

18 September 2023

Responses to Recommendations/Actions

Officer's Response

A bid was submitted in October 2022, and funding secured via the eliminating profit programme up until March 2025. The vision is to create a service with a clinical psychology leadership to strengthen and improve services for care experienced children and young people, by working intensively with residential staff and foster carers to keep children closer to home and form local support networks in their community.

A procurement exercise was carried out to appoint a provider to deliver the service, but the process was abandoned due to current challenges within the market and the need to look at alternative options internally. A scoping exercise has been carried out and a phased approach to implementing a therapeutic placement support service in house is underway.

Phase one is being implemented - rolling out the behaviour analytical support model across all Childrens Residential homes, this includes upskilling staff in the behaviour analytical model (TRIBE) and enhancing our contract arrangements by having dedicated behaviour analysts on-site within each home.

Phase two – we have begun a piece of work to review and reconfigure existing support services within our fostering teams upskilling staff and enhancing our out of hours offer.

Phase Three – we will establish a dedicated team to work intensively with children who have complex needs and at risk of placement breakdown, job descriptions for these specific roles are under development – alongside discussions with health to appoint a clinical psychologist on our behalf.

Coupled with the above measures to promote placement stability, Foster Wales Grant funding has been made available for 2 additional posts until 2025 with the aim of improving placement sufficiency. One post will focus solely on foster carer recruitment and will be based in BCBC and overseen by the Regional Front Door. A second post will involve a worker supporting the local authority fostering duty function, having a consistent worker supporting Social Workers to improve the quality of All Wales Referral Forms, ensuring matching is undertaken and appropriately recorded and approaching providers will improve placement search outcomes for care experienced children. In addition, the role will serve as a liaison between placements and Foster Wales, collating information to aid recruitment strategies and giving recommendations on how the service can be developed further.