

## Mental Health Provision for Young Men Scrutiny Review – Update on Recommendations

### Recommendation 1

That the Executive requests that data sharing protocols between key organisations in the town including NHS organisations, the Council and appropriate third sector groups be reviewed and strengthened to improve the ability to analyse data and ensure that young men need only tell their story once.

### Update

In relation to data on suspected suicides, the ICB suspected suicide information sharing agreement is being reviewed. Data on whether individuals are known to mental health services is now being shared as part of the real-time surveillance system. The Risk Support Liaison Practitioner post has led to better liaison between the Council and adult and children’s mental health services. Information sharing between services will also be addressed through an action plan following the recommendations from the under-18 pan-Lancashire suicide review.

### Recommendation 2

That Blackpool Council and Blackpool Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust be requested to consider the joint funding of a pilot to test the provision of a key worker as soon as possible for the cohort aged 18-25 in a similar and appropriate way to the service currently provided for those aged under 18. The outcomes of the pilot would be shared with Lancashire and South Cumbria ICB to consider sustaining these as part of the adult transformation programme.

### Update

The Risk Support Liaison Practitioner post is now in place. The post holder is co-located within Central Family Hub several times per week for case consultations with the Adolescent team practitioners. The following support is provided:

- Joint consultation with young person and adolescent team practitioner, following initial consultation if further mental health risk advice is required, or a direct request for a 1:1 is made by the young person;
- Joint risk support plans developed, including details of crisis responses and supporting young person to participate in this plan to reduce the risk of continued crisis presentation;
- Mentalizing Thinking Together session to enable a safe reflective space for adolescent team practitioners to utilise a trauma informed assessment framework for care planning;
- Attendance at care planning meetings to offer a mental health lens, guidance for practitioners to weave into their intervention plans for young people who are not accessing mental health services;
- AMBIT training offer to front line staff as a priority within the Adolescent service to develop knowledge and confidence in Mentalizing and supporting the network around a young person when a young person lacks trust;
- Small caseload of 1:1 psychosocial interventions, emotional literacy skills, emotional regulation and formulation with young person or parent;
- Transition work with some young people under 18 alongside leaving care Personal Advisor and child looked after Social Worker. Scaffolding relationships within the network around the young person to provide continuity of care;
- Continual and regular liaison between adult and children’s mental health services to develop rapport and understanding of roles and responsibilities and to provide a link for records access across the system;
- Joint work with under 18 Risk Support Practitioner for continuity of care.

Additionally, the SHINE Fylde Coast Mental Health Support Team are in a number of education settings in Blackpool. Each setting has an identified practitioner who spends regular time at those settings offering a range of 1:1 interventions, group work and consultations with staff.

### **Recommendation 3**

That the importance of peer support be recognised as a key part of the Lancashire and South Cumbria Integrated Care Board's plans for transformation and that recurrent funding be built into budgets to enable third sector organisations providing such support to plan and improve sustainability.

### **Update**

Peer support has been recognised as a key part of Lancashire and South Cumbria Integrated Care Board's plans for the Community Mental Health Transformation programme. There are 4 peer support contracts in place with the VCSFE across Lancs and South Cumbria, funded through the programme and additional support has also been secured during 2023/24 via placed based grants. Going forward the transformation programme has committed to commission longer term contracts with the sector and peer support will be one of four service areas commissioned for 3-5 years.

Peer support for young men is also provided through Elliot's Place, a project for young men who may be facing challenges with their mental health. Peer support is offered in creative ways, e.g. through regular activities, providing a safe space for young men to open up. Elliot's Place has received ICB non-recurrent funding and more recently, through a successful bid for the Department of Health and Social Care's National Suicide Prevention Grant Fund. Peer support is also available for those bereaved or affected by suicide through the Local Authority-funded Solace project, provided by Empowerment.

### **Recommendation 4**

That an item be added to the workplans of the Adult Social Care and Health Scrutiny Committee and the Children's and Young People's Scrutiny Committee in the new Municipal Year to consider an update on the progress made on the Mental Health Transformation Plan for 18-25 year olds, progress made in improving the transition between children and adult services and the results from the suicide audit being carried out.

### **Update**

The under-18 pan-Lancashire suicide audit was completed at the end of 2023 – reviewing deaths occurring between 2013 and 2022. The following recommendations have been made:

- Ensure that those who work with children and young people are appropriately trained in suicide awareness and prevention;
- Improve awareness of mental health, self-harm, and suicides in children and young people among the general population of pan-Lancashire and services;
- Promote awareness and assessment of suicide risk for younger children (aged 14 or under) to ensure prevention and early intervention;
- Improve awareness of the impact of household functioning breakdowns by addressing risk factors such as mental health of parents, substance misuse, and conflict at home (including the impacts of domestic abuse) on children and young people's mental health, self-harm, and suicide;
- Ensure support and clear pathways for children and young people with existing mental health issues, including transition from children's to adult services;

- Ensure children and young people at-risk are considered as part of contextual safeguarding;
- Ensure timely information and support is provided to parents, carers, families and education settings following bereavement;
- Ensure there is timely information sharing and support for staff working with pupil mental health issues, and for staff and pupils following bereavement;
- Provide assurance that current national policies and guidance are being implemented locally;
- Ensure the findings and recommendations from this review are included within local self-harm and suicide prevention strategies and action plans;
- Provide assurance that schools have implemented effective anti-bullying and self-harm policies;
- Improve data and evidence to ensure that effective, evidence-informed and timely interventions are developed and adapted;
- Review and develop policies on information sharing and escalation;
- Assess the available data related to mental health conditions, self-harm, suicidal thoughts, deprivation, drug use, sleep issues, and prevalence of other factors identified in this review;
- Carry out a children and young people's health needs assessment for pan-Lancashire.

A pan-Lancashire action plan is being developed in response to the recommendations, with some of the recommendations to be actioned at a more local level through area-specific suicide prevention strategies.

The community mental health transformation plan includes a focus on ensuring support is tailored to meet the needs of young adults aged 18-25. A system level task and finish group has produced a robust procedure for the Transition of Young People from Community Children and Young People Mental Health Services to Adult Community Mental Health Services, which details a number of key standards for all services to work towards and makes specific reference to meeting the needs of young people with SEND and those leaving care.