

Appendix D

Recommendations from the Health and Adult Social Care Scrutiny Committee Task and Finish Group into Children’s Mental Health and Emotional Wellbeing

Chairman of the Task Group: Cllr Martha Vickers

Response from: Buckinghamshire, Oxfordshire and Berkshire West Integrated Care Board (BOB ICB)
West Berkshire Council Executive

Portfolio Holder(s): Cllr Patrick Clark Executive Portfolio Holder Adult Social Care and Public Health
Cllr Heather Codling Executive Portfolio Holder Children and Family services

Deadline for response: Monday 15 September 2025

Recommendation	Executive / ICB Response: Agree / Not Agree / Agree in Part to the recommendation and comments.	Portfolio Holder / Lead Health Partner / Lead Officer and timelines for delivery
1) Provide and promote a Local Youth Offer:		Children’s services – lead for development of the Family Hub.
1a) Mapping of services, facilities and activities available to young people.		
1b) Collaborate with key stakeholders, including town and parish councils, to identify any gaps and opportunities for improvements.		
1c) Provide improved opportunities for young people to use local facilities, including school facilities and other local community spaces to be made available out of hours and the twinning of schools to share opportunities.		

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1d) Provide subsidised access for children and young people eligible for free school meals to use leisure facilities.		
2) Improve the communication about and navigation of local services:		
2a) Provide a clear road map of the early help services available from all local organisations.	<p>The BOB ICB, in collaboration with BHFT and other local partners, is currently undertaking a comprehensive exercise to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gain a clear understanding of the current position and the work already undertaken by BHFT and other stakeholders. • Conduct a thorough gap analysis to fully map the journey required to embed the iTHRIVE model across BW services. <p>As part of this initiative, the following activities are in progress:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Process mapping across all three areas in BW to analyse service flows and pathways. • Service mapping to identify overlaps, opportunities for collaboration, and areas to drive greater efficiency. • Data mapping to assess demand versus capacity and accurately quantify service needs • Review of feedback received from individuals and families using these services 	<p>Children's services / Education</p> <p>BOB ICB / BHFT</p>
2b) Provide a streamlined overview of Children and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS). To incorporate research currently being undertaken regarding signposting and to ensure there is no 'wrong door'.	<p>CAMHS provision falls within the scope of the review outlined in 2a, with the "no wrong door" approach serving as a fundamental component of the iTHRIVE framework.</p> <p>In addition, BHFT are redeveloping the Trust website. The new website will provide clear information on the CAMH services provided by the Trust.</p>	BOB ICB / BHFT

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<p>2c) Review the support offer for parents including creating a central hub of information for support and a calendar of events and activities. Identify gaps and opportunities for improvement particularly for parents of older children, children eligible for free school meals and those living in deprived areas. Ensure support and engagement is targeted to address existing health inequalities.</p>		<p>Children's services – lead for development of the Family Hub.</p>
<p>2d) Provide clear communications to parents and the public about the Children and Young People's Neurodiversity services and the new pathway process. Work closely with schools as the new process is embedded and monitor impacts.</p>	<p>There has been extensive communication to schools, parents and the general public about the Children and Young People's Neurodiversity Services and new referral pathway process. Information about the services and how to make a referral are clearly displayed on the Berkshire Healthcare website: ADHD and Autism (Neurodiversity) Children Young People and Families Online Resource</p> <p>In addition, BHFT are redeveloping the Trust website. The new website will provide clear information on the Children and Young People's Neurodiversity Services and new referral pathway process.</p> <p>There is also work underway across the six LAs to become Needs-Led for neurodiversity and less reliant on diagnostic pathways.</p>	<p>BOB ICB / BHFT</p>
<p>3) Provide and promote opportunities to regularly convene the wide range of professionals working with children and young people and supporting their mental health and emotional wellbeing to:</p>		
<p>3a) Develop an evidence-based system strategy for children and young people's mental health and wellbeing</p>		<p>Children's Services</p>

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<p>with a strong focus on health inequalities.</p>	<p>The anticipated outcomes of the ICB-led review described in section 2a include the identification of system-wide priorities for supporting the mental health and wellbeing of children and young people. Particular emphasis will be placed on addressing inequalities, recognising their significant impact on the mental health and wellbeing of this population.</p>	<p>Public Health – Senior Programme Officer</p> <p>Children’s Services - lead for the development of the Family Hub 0-19 service</p> <p>BOB ICB / BHFT</p>
<p>3b) Collaborate, network and share best practice to drive improvements.</p>	<p>The ICB-led review described in section 2a is a system-wide initiative that actively engages key stakeholders and service providers. Through the process and service mapping exercises, various models will be explored to identify and share best practices across the system</p>	<p>Children’s Services</p> <p>Public Health – Senior Programme Officer</p> <p>Children’s Services - lead for the development of the Family Hub 0-19 service</p> <p>BOB ICB / BHFT</p>
<p>3c) Expand children and young people mental health workers in GP surgeries into West Berkshire, prioritising GP surgeries in deprived areas.</p>	<p>We are continuing with the current pilots of this model and will be reviewing impact and determining next steps within the review described in section 2a.</p>	<p>BOB ICB / BHFT</p>

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3d) All schools to have a Senior Mental Health Lead. Schools in deprived areas to be identified and supported first.		Public Health – Senior Programme Officer
3e) Emotional and mental wellbeing to be given high priority in the recommissioning of the 0-19 health visiting and school nursing service.		Public Health – Senior Programme Officer
3f) Mental Health Support Team (MHST) Funding to cover all schools in West Berkshire.	BOB ICB is currently liaising with NHSE and other regional and national partners to develop plans for 100% MHST cover.	BOB ICB
<p>4) West Berkshire to become a Trauma-informed district that acknowledges the impact of trauma by providing policies, training and resources to create supportive, understanding, and healing-centred environments:</p>		
4a) A commitment to embrace and champion trauma informed practices and to formalise Trauma-informed practices into district-wide policies.		Public Health – Senior Programme Officer
4b) Provide guidance to help schools and other organisations to assess their current practices and implement trauma-sensitive approaches.		Education – Service Director Education and SEND
4c) Professionals working with children to undergo training in trauma informed care and for ongoing workshops to be provided.		
4d) Provide workshops and resources for families to navigate Trauma-informed approaches at home.		

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5) A full review of smart phones, social media use and online safety for young people in West Berkshire be carried out and to include:		
5a) Review best practice and initiatives from other local authorities.		Public Health – Senior Programme Officer
5b) Consideration for school-policies and their implementation.		Education – Service Director Education and SEND
5c) Support and advice for parents on the use of social media by children and young people and online safety.		
6) The West Berkshire Health and Wellbeing Board to include Children and Young People’s Mental Health as one of their priority areas of focus, and to develop their action plan to reflect this.		Health and Wellbeing Board

This template provides a structure which respondents are encouraged to use. However, respondents are welcome to depart from the suggested structure provided the same information is included in a response. The usual way to publish a response is to include it in the agenda of the Health and Adult Social Care Scrutiny Committee.