



## **RHONDDA CYNON TAF COUNCIL CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**

Minutes of the meeting of the Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee meeting held on  
Wednesday, 3 March 2021 at 5.00 pm .

### **County Borough Councillors - Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee Members in attendance:-**

Councillor S. Rees-Owen (Chair)

Councillor J Edwards	Councillor S Evans
Councillor J Brencher	Councillor H Fychan
Councillor A Calvert	Councillor S Powell
Councillor M Powell	Councillor M Griffiths
Councillor D Owen-Jones	Councillor S Morgans
Councillor G Stacey	Councillor L Walker

### **Co-Opted Members in attendance:-**

Mr J Fish, Voting Elected Parent / Governor Representative  
Mrs R. Nicholls, Voting Elected Parent / Governor Representative  
Mr L Patterson, Voting Elected Parent / Governor Representative

### **Officers in attendance:-**

Ms A Lloyd, Service Director, Children's Services  
Ms C Jones, Head of Access & Inclusion  
Mr A Wilkins, Director of Legal Services

### **County Borough Councillors in attendance:-**

Councillor W Lewis – Vice- Chair Overview and Scrutiny

#### **67 Welcome & Apologies**

The Chair Welcome Members and Officers to the meeting of the Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee

Apologies were received from the following County Borough Councillor L De-Vet, it was also acknowledged that County Borough Councillor H Fychan would join the meeting late due to work commitments.

#### **68 Declaration of Interest**

In accordance with the Council's Code of Conduct, there were no declarations made pertaining to the agenda.

## **Cwm Taf Morgannwg Child and Adolescent Mental Health Service(CAMHS) Update**

The Chair welcomed Ms K Burton CAMHS Manager and Dr A Munoz-solomando to the Committee and explained that Officers from both Children's Services and Education Services are also present if there are any questions relating to these areas.

Members were presented with a Power Point presentation from the Cwm Taf Morgannwg Child and Adolescent Mental Health Service (CAMHS).

The newly appointed Service Manager explained that the presentation would provide Members of the Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee with an overview of the work carried out by the Service over the last 12 Months, along with New Investment, Key Improvements and the future vision and plans for the Cwm Taf Morgannwg CAMHS.

Members were reminded that CAMHS is not one entity but made of many services working together to provide a service for the mental health and wellbeing of all that need it. Below are some of the areas that exist within the service:

- Single Point of Access;(SPOA)
- Primary CAHMS(PCAMHS)
- Specialist CAHMS (SCAMHS)
- Crisis Team;
- Community Intensive Therapy Team (CITT)
- First Episode Psychosis (FEP)
- Young People's Drug and Alcohol Service (YPDS)

The Service Manager explained that there is a vast range of clinical staff, Consultants, Speciality Doctors, Trainee Doctors, Psychologists, Therapists, Family Therapists, Nurses , Social Workers, Specialist Pharmacists, Dieticians, Administration staff who all work together to provide a service for our young people who need support.

Members were presented with an update of new investment that the service has received from Welsh Government. It was explained that Welsh Government had invested a great deal in the service. The Eating Disorder service has recently received investment which is pleasing to see and the Clinical Lead explained that there is a priority on a National level with regards to eating disorders and explained the new funding will help develop the eating disorder team which aims to ensure we have the right pathway for our children and young people.

It was explained Welsh Government has allocated new money for across Wales from April 2021. The sum of £ 5.4 million has been allocated specifically to CAMHS for the whole of Wales, however we don't know how this is going to be distributed at present but hopefully we will be able to update you in the near future.

Members were also informed of the development of the wellbeing service and the work that has been put in place from the funding received by ICF.

In respect of key improvements Ms Burton explained that a new management

team has been set up to help turn the service around and there are exciting times ahead. There is a renewed focus on joint working opportunities, working with local authorities and building relationships with partner agencies is a main focus.

Members were pleased to see the progress of the development of the wellbeing and emotional wellbeing service and were keen to learn about the KOOTH online therapy service. Open access with a go live date for the 12<sup>th</sup> April 2021 with loads of information on line where children will have another area for young people to go to.

Members were also informed of the key improvements with regards to waiting times. It was explained that the demand reduced at the start of Covid and has rapidly increased since September, with a further increase expected.

Members were provided with the following figure show waiting times:

- **PCAMHS** - April 2019 362 children and young people were waiting, with the longest wait of 29 weeks, February 2021 51 children and young people were waiting (reducing) average wait of 3 weeks.
- **SCAHMS** - November 2020, 326 children and young people waiting, February 2021, 120 children and young people waiting (reducing) average wait of 3 weeks; this is continuing to reduce which is some fantastic news.

The Officers also explained how the service has managed and developed during Covid, It was explained that CAMHS has maintained a service throughout Covid and we have continued to provide an ongoing face to face service 7 days a week for those that need to access the crisis service. An online service has been developed called “attend anywhere” to ensure there is a face to face support in a safe environment with committed and caring staff available for support.

The officers continued and highlighted to the Committee the key improvements for the service. It was explained that the Service redesign is to improve patient experience, right place right time. To ensure there is a single point of access so that all referrals consultations and advice with CAMHS professionals is at hand. Staff moved into multi - disciplinary locality teams merging primary and secondary CAMHS so there is continuity across the service and reducing waiting times.

Finally the Service Manager CAMHS provided Members with the future vision and plans for the Service. With a remarkable amount of change and the expected increase of demand due to Covid there are lots of things rapidly changing and we will work to try and respond to these demands. Meaningfully working with children and young people to ensure we are working with them going forward.

The Chair thanked the Officers for their very informative and enlightening presentation and asked the Director of Children Services and Officers from Education and Inclusion Services for their overview on the service and collaborative working.

The Chair continued and opened up the meeting for Members questions and observations.

A Member thanked the Officer for their presentation and asked for clarity on two points firstly how do we make a referral and what the process for a parent to refer and secondly the Member wanted clarity on the lack of inpatient beds for eating disorders within Wales as he was under the understanding there wasn't any. In response the Service Manager clarified that there are 2 regional inpatient facilities in Wales, one based at the Princess of Wales hospital and another in North Wales. She continued to explain there several other routes the service use for some of our young people which include paediatric wards within hospitals, adult age appropriate beds for older teenagers 16+ along with commissioning private beds at other facilities depending on the situation. We receive referrals from professionals, who may be working with the young person.

Another Member thanked the Officers for the update and put forward a number of questions. With regards to waiting times the Member asked if the Committee could receive data in relation to the waiting times for follow up appointments and not just the initial appointment as this would give Members a better picture of the continued support of the Service. Also the Member was interested in what emergency support was available for parents and carers to access at a time of need and how easy is for parents to call on support when a child is going through some form of crisis.

The Service Manager thanked the Member for her question and explained the process in place with regards to waiting times, it was explained that there is 2 types of data that is published for the public viewing, one is the initial 28 days data and secondly further data is published in respect of the follow up appointment. The Service Manager explained that internal data within SCAMHS is not required to be published as there are many internal services that may work with the families which have different waiting times. Going forward Members would receive extra data as requested.

Another concern for Members was the issue lack of continuity of staff, Members felt young people need to have security and strong relationships with staff. Officers explained that staffing has been a challenge around the South Wales Region and work is being done to develop a fluid approach across CAMHS.

Members asked for any compliments and complaints received by the service be added to the report when it is next presented to Committee.

Another Member asked if the Committee could receive data in respect of breakdown of the ages and demographics etc. so that the Committee look to see if there were any other ways the Local Authority could help and support going forward to address the issues.

In response the Service Manager explained that going forward age and demographic is going to be a priority when looking at service planning, the Service Manager continued and explained that mental health just like Covid can affect any one from any social economic background and the Service is continually working to improve the health and wellbeing of all along with the Health Board.

In relation to the 3<sup>rd</sup> Sector provision Dr Munoz-solomando explained that resources are different in all areas of Cwm Taf Morgannwg and some areas have vast numbers of organisation where other have very little and to keep track

of these organisation can become very difficult. It was suggested that a mapping task group would help to guide people and the service to the right areas and in turn encourage involvement where necessary.

Members continued to ask questions relating to future plans, and the increasing challenges that the service may face due to the effects of the pandemic. A Member asked what relationship you have with the Consortium we have a basic tool kit to share with schools and also that young people could access themselves. The Service Manager explained that there is an online platform which launches on the 12<sup>th</sup> April called KOOTH which gives advice and counselling for young people.

Other Members put forward questions and observation with regards to school based counselling service and wellbeing support within schools along with recruitment of staff within the service, and discussed the work being carried out to address the ALNET changes.

Members thanked the Officers from the CAHMS Service for a very informative discussion and found it pleasing to see that there is new Management structure and procedures in place to turn the Service around.

The Chair thanked both officers and Member for their input in to the meeting and RESOLVED to:

- Acknowledge the content of the presentation;
- Receive an updating report in respect of the progress made by the Service in the Autumn;
- Receive data in respect of age and demographics of young people accessing the service;
- Receive a report in respect of Complaints and Compliments for the service.

## **70 Chair's Review and Close**

The Chair thanked Members for the input and explained the next meeting will be held on the 24<sup>th</sup> March 2020.

**This meeting closed at 7.20 pm**

**CLLR S REES-OWEN  
CHAIR.**