

Therapies Review Implementation: update for 2020/21

Following the detailed therapies review completed in December 2019 and subsequent investment agreement from the Council and NHS CCG, we are now looking to implement the recommendations within the review. This has, unfortunately, been delayed due to the unprecedented situation that we have all found ourselves in during the past few months with Covid-19.

The investment, whilst very welcome, will not easily resolve all of the issues identified within the review immediately, however, we do need to work collectively to ensure that we are prioritising and targeting the investment in the most urgent areas and in the most effective way possible.

Implementing the recommendations from the review will be jointly led by Achieving for Children (AfC) and the NHS CCG. The commitment to coproduction of the model with children and young people, and parent and carer representative forums is a central feature of implementation.

To co-ordinate this change in the best and most transparent way, we will be forming an oversight group that will oversee the co-production and the implementation of a project plan. This group will have senior representation from all our stakeholder groups and the group will be responsible for ensuring that the investment is targeted at local need as identified in the review. The group will ensure absolute co-production is at the heart of the project. This will include delivery of local community development sessions to ensure as much participation as possible and that we maximise the investment opportunity that we have.

The oversight group will be supported a short-term project lead, for six months, to help us to help co-ordinate the ideas that we have as a system to drive the process within our agree timescales. The project lead will also ensure that we have a plan for the further investment in 2021/22 and 2022/23.

There have already been some key agreements across stakeholders which include:

- a need to co-ordinate current and future investment by improving commissioning arrangements to standardise and maximise investment
- an agreement to deliver the 'balanced system' which provides support at universal, targeted and specialist levels
- increasing support, advice, and direct interventions for those at SEN support as well as those with education, health and care plans
- increasing the skill mix and capability within therapy teams
- increasing the skill mix of those supporting therapy interventions in schools through training
- we aim for a model of care for all providers to follow, with a clearer philosophy on how we deliver services and monitor their success. This includes better defined outcomes for our children and families
- co-production of the implementation plan, detailed guidance, and information for stakeholders

- co-production of key performance indicators, outcomes, and effective contract monitoring
- co-production around changes in the way in which therapy is delivered with schools and families as well as lead therapists and their teams

We anticipate that we will be looking to start co-producing the implementation plan early in July.

Alison Stewart, Designated Clinical Officer for Special Educational Needs and Disabilities

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