

## HAMPSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

### Report

<b>Committee:</b>	Children and Young People Select Committee
<b>Date:</b>	13 January 2021
<b>Title:</b>	Update on Autism Services Commissioning for Children and Young People in Hampshire – December 2020 Update
<b>Report From:</b>	Maternity and Children’s Commissioning Collaborative HIOW Partnership of CCGs

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#### **Purpose of this Report**

- 1 As requested by the Committee in September 2020, this report provides a regular update regarding progress made towards improving Autism services for children and young people in Hampshire in order to provide assurance to the committee and the communities it represents.

#### **Recommendations**

- 2 For the Children and Young People Select Committee to note the following update.

#### **Background**

- In 2018 a decision was made by the then 5 Hampshire CCGs to transfer a cohort of 824 children waiting for an ASC (Autism Spectrum Condition) assessment from Hampshire CAMHS to an interim service in order to clear the backlog.
- The decision was taken as part of a wider CAMHS improvement plan, however it was acknowledged that the removal of these children would not generate capacity within Hampshire CAMHS. Instead it would guarantee that this cohort of children (who were not deemed as a priority in terms of risk) would at least be seen after waiting a number of years at the bottom of the CAMHS waiting list
- Due to a number of challenges as outlined in previous papers, plans for a longer term procurement of ASC assessments have been delayed.
- The Children and Young People Select Committee have requested regular updates from commissioners to provide assurance that ASC assessments and supporting services are improving.

## Progress to Date

- 3 In November 2020, a new budget for ASC assessments for Hampshire was agreed by the Hampshire and Isle of Wight CCG Partnership. The recurrent funding will see the implementation of a new pathway, which not only reduces the waiting list but also offers better early intervention and support as well as reduce referral rates.

### Funding Identified (per financial year)

Part Year Spend 2020/2021	£1.36m
Full Year Spend 2021/2022	£2.1m
Full Year Spend 2022/2023	£2.1m
Full Year Spend 2023/2024	£2.1m
Ongoing (from 2024/25 onwards)	£1.5m

### Action Plan

- 4 Funding for ASC services has now been agreed by Hampshire and Isle of Wight CCGs. Identified investment into clearing down waiting lists as well as improve service provision has enabled commissioners to commence formal procurement in order to establish long-term services across Hampshire and Isle of Wight. Agreed timelines are as follows:

Action	Status
Direct Award incumbent and interim providers (Psion Ltd and Helios Ltd) from 1 <sup>st</sup> November 2020 until 31 <sup>st</sup> March 2021	Complete
Confirm contract extension with interim providers (Psicon Ltd and Healios Ltd) from 1 <sup>st</sup> April 2021 until 30 <sup>th</sup> September 2021	Complete
Commence procurement from December 2020 with a view to confirming a new service provider from 1 <sup>st</sup> October 2021	Started
Establish Autism Transformation Board	Started

### Waiting times

- 5 Currently in Hampshire the average waiting time for an ASC assessment is 14.2 months. Due to the increased investments as above, commissioners predict a waiting time of 9.1 months by September 2021 and 3.1 months by September 2022. NICE Guidance recommends a waiting time of 3 months.

## **Other Areas of Progress**

- 6 To support Placed Based commissioning, Hampshire County Council Libraries have been identified as appropriate spaces for ASC assessments. The clinics will start from early 2021 across the county. This new partnership arrangement will not only provide a local space for families to attend their assessment but also provide a safe, inclusive and supportive community based environment for ongoing visits for that family.
- 7 The Children's Wellbeing Support service is now up and running and receiving referrals every day from health professionals. The service has been commissioned to deliver services through the winter months and if deemed successful the service will continue to be commissioned long term.
- 8 The Children's Wellbeing Support Service provides much needed early intervention and support for parents of children with Social, Emotional and Mental Health (SEMH) needs as well as Autism, Attention Deficit Disorder, Attachment Disorder, anxiety and poor emotional wellbeing.
- 9 Families identified as having difficulties such as the above can be referred to the Wellbeing Support Service who will work with parents to identify needs and recommend onward support where appropriate. Although the service is still in its infancy very positive feedback has been received by families already.
- 10 Commissioners are working with Autism Hampshire to deliver parent support programmes and schools staff workshops from early 2022 to educate others as to how best support children and their families dealing with Autism.
- 11 Commissioners are working with Hampshire Parent Carer Network to understand the view of families regarding the current services. A survey has been sent out to parents and parent representation has been invited to attend the Autism transformation group which will include agencies from across the system to agree an improved pathway from 1<sup>st</sup> October 2021.

## **Consultation and Equalities**

- 12 No consultation or equalities impact assessments have been undertaken as this is an information update.

## **Conclusions**

- 13 Commissioners will continue to provide regular updates at each Select Committee meeting to reassure members that significant progress and improvement is being made in this area.

**REQUIRED CORPORATE AND LEGAL INFORMATION:  
Links to the Strategic Plan**

Hampshire maintains strong and sustainable economic growth and prosperity:	no
People in Hampshire live safe, healthy and independent lives:	Yes
People in Hampshire enjoy a rich and diverse environment:	no
People in Hampshire enjoy being part of strong, inclusive communities:	yes

**Other Significant Links**

<b>Links to previous Member decisions:</b>	
<u>Title</u>	<u>Date</u>
<b>Direct links to specific legislation or Government Directives</b>	
<u>Title</u> Children and Families Act [Part 3 SEND] 2014 <a href="http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2014/6/contents/enacted">http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2014/6/contents/enacted</a> Statutory Guidance: SEND Code of Practice 0-25 <a href="https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/398815/SEND_Code_of_Practice_January_2015.pdf">https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/398815/SEND_Code_of_Practice_January_2015.pdf</a>	<u>Date</u> September 2014  January 2015
Local area SEND inspection framework (Ofsted and CQC) <a href="https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/local-area-sendinspection-framework">https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/local-area-sendinspection-framework</a>	April 2016
<b>Section 100 D - Local Government Act 1972 - background documents</b> The following documents discuss facts or matters on which this report, or an important part of it, is based and have been relied upon to a material extent in the preparation of this report. (NB: the list excludes published works and any documents which disclose exempt or confidential information as defined in the Act.)	
<u>Document</u>	<u>Location</u>
None	

## **EQUALITIES IMPACT ASSESSMENT:**

### **1. Equality Duty**

The County Council has a duty under Section 149 of the Equality Act 2010 ('the Act') to have due regard in the exercise of its functions to the need to:

- Eliminate discrimination, harassment and victimisation and any other conduct prohibited by or under the Act with regard to the protected characteristics as set out in section 4 of the Act (age, disability, gender reassignment, marriage and civil partnership, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex and sexual orientation);
- Advance equality of opportunity between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic within section 149(7) of the Act (age, disability, gender reassignment, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex and sexual orientation) and those who do not share it;
- Foster good relations between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic within section 149(7) of the Act (see above) and persons who do not share it.

Due regard in this context involves having due regard in particular to:

- The need to remove or minimise disadvantages suffered by persons sharing a relevant protected characteristic that are connected to that characteristic;
- Take steps to meet the needs of persons sharing a relevant protected characteristic that are different from the needs of persons who do not share it;
- Encourage persons sharing a relevant protected characteristic to participate in public life or in any other activity in which participation by such persons is disproportionately low.

### **2. Equalities Impact Assessment:**

This report is an information update for the Children and Young People Select Committee and therefore no impact has been identified.

