

Alison Navarro – Chief Executive Officer, Community Action Sutton

08 February 2019

Dear Alison,

We are very pleased to attach our Healthwatch Sutton report that investigated the views and experiences, in relation to mental wellbeing, of secondary school students who are studying in the London Borough of Sutton.

Over 5000 young people completed our survey, giving local providers and commissioners and the voluntary sector an invaluable source of intelligence that can be used to improve the prospects for the mental health of young people in the Borough.

By influencing how resources are used and developed, we are confident that really effective support can be put in place in Sutton.

The report includes a series of recommendations for a variety of organisations. These are:

1	The findings from this report should be used to inform the emerging plans for delivery of the Trailblazer funding allocated to Sutton (Borough) and to support additional emotional support for young people in Sutton
2	All secondary schools, from across the Borough, meet up to discuss the findings and actions that can be taken to support young people.
3	Use these report findings and undertake further analysis of the data to inform the CAMHS recommissioning specification and process.
4	Investigate the potential for a young people's mental health Commissioning Director position, jointly funded by Sutton Council and Sutton CCG (similar to the adult mental health position already in place).
5	Use these findings to influence the commissioning intentions of Sutton Council and Sutton CCG
6	Develop a Children and Young People's Plan for Sutton.
7	Investigate the potential for the Young Commissioners to carry out more in depth analysis into issues concerning access and stigma.

8	Share the report with the LSCB Case Review subgroup to look at reasons behind suicides.
9	As most young people would speak to their friends or family if there was something affecting their emotional wellbeing, investigate ways to inform and support friends and family so that they can offer effective help.

We can see the potential for the voluntary sector to be in a position to either support the delivery of actions being developed by statutory organisations, or to look at delivering solution independently.

We would be very grateful, if Community Action Sutton could work as a facilitator with local voluntary groups to enable this information to be used to maximum effect.

We have sent this report with a request for a formal response to Sutton Council and Sutton CCG to ensure that our recommendations are taken forward. As part of this request we have asked each to provide an action plan. We are planning to merge these to create an overall plan and would welcome any actions that the voluntary sector would like to add.

We look forward hearing from you and offer our support to help make things happen.

If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact Pete Flavell on 020 8641 9540 or pete@communityactionsutton.org.uk

Yours sincerely,

The image shows two handwritten signatures in black ink. The signature on the left is 'Pete Flavell' and the signature on the right is 'David Williams'. Both signatures are written in a cursive, flowing style.

Pete Flavell
Healthwatch Sutton Manager

David Williams
Chair – Healthwatch Sutton