



Sutton

*Clinical Commissioning Group*

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By email:

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Pete Flavell

Healthwatch Sutton Manager

23 April 2019

Dear Pete

**Re: Mental wellbeing of secondary school students report**

Thank you for the letter dated 8 February and please accept apologies for the delay in sending you our response. We are very impressed with the high response rate of the survey, giving CCG and partners an invaluable source of intelligence that can be used to improve the prospects for the mental health of young people in Sutton. Children and young people's Mental Health is a key priority for Sutton CCG and Sutton Council and we already foster a very close working relationship with local authority colleagues. This is demonstrated through a jointly funded CAMHS service that is monitored through joint contract and monitoring meetings.

Your report highlights and challenges assumptions that statutory bodies can sometimes make about children and young people and how they want to access support. This evidence will be key as we further develop and improve CAMHS services. The introduction of the Mental Health in Schools trailblazer and the extension of funding agreed for the Child Well Being practitioners demonstrates the CCG's commitment to further support children and young people with their mental health needs.

Here are specific responses to what was raised in your letter:

**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?**

We are committed for these findings to form a part of shaping our mental health in schools trailblazer work. James Holden, Commissioning Manager Children and Young People will invite you to a meeting by the end of March to discuss findings with himself and our lead school Greenshaw High School.

**2) Use these report findings and undertake further analysis of the data to inform the CAMHS recommissioning specification and process.**

These initial findings and further analysis will help inform any future commissioning activity for children and young people. Public Health have already completed further analysis. This analysis has allowed us to look in more detail at resident children and young people and particular cohorts e.g. carers, children and young people with disabilities and/or learning difficulties. It is encouraging that this analysis also correlates to anecdotal evidence that we are hearing from providers in terms of the reasons that children and young people are presenting with. Co-ordinating this evidence will be vital for the future direction of our CAMHS Transformation Plan and CAMHS services.

**3) 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).**

There are no current plans to create a joint young people's mental health commissioning director post, however the CCG and local authority are committed to build on the positive joint commissioning work already in place. We know our local providers value the joint working that is already in place with health and council commissioning colleagues and we therefore feel we already have many of the benefits that a joint post would ordinarily bring. We hope your recent experience presenting at the CAMHS Partnership Board gives you the assurance that in Sutton all partners are fully engaged with this programme of work. Sutton Local authority are in the process of adding additional capacity to their commission function.

**4) Use these findings to influence the commissioning intentions of Sutton Council and Sutton CCG**

Much the same as point 2 these findings will be very useful when setting our commissioning intentions in the future.

**5) Develop a Children and Young People's Plan for Sutton.**

Children and young people are a key priority for the Sutton Health and Care Plan which is already in development. These findings will support us in our development of this plan and Healthwatch are a key partner in this.

**6) 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 recognise the vital role a child or young person's family and friend network play in supporting mental health and emotional needs. As part of work in schools we hope to offer evidence based programmes to parents so they feel supported in their role when they have a child with mental health needs. We also hope to deliver education and presentations to a wider cohort of children in school so all young people feel empowered to support each other when appropriate.

Once again, thank you for completing such a detailed and useful report. We are glad to hear you have had the opportunity already to present these findings at the CAMHS Partnership Board and the NHS London Quality Surveillance Group. We will ensure that these findings form a key part in driving our commissioning intentions in the future for children and young people.

Yours sincerely



Michelle Rahman  
Managing Director



Dr Jeff Croucher  
Chair