



REGULATORY AND OTHER COMMITTEE REPORT

NAME OF COMMITTEE:	Lincolnshire Schools' Forum
DATE OF MEETING:	28 June 2017
SUBJECT:	New Emotional Wellbeing Service for Children and Young People
REPORT BY:	Sara Gregory Commissioning Officer
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Is the Report Exempt?	No
IS REPORT CONFIDENTIAL?	No

SUMMARY

The purpose of this report is to:

1. Provide an update to Schools' Forum on the commissioning arrangements for the new emotional wellbeing service; 'Healthy Minds Lincolnshire'.
2. Provide Schools' Forum with an overview of the support that will be available from the new Service and the opportunity for Schools' Forum to comment on the Service model.

DISCUSSION

Background

On 12th January 2017, a report was presented to Schools' Forum that set out the Council's intention to commission a new emotional wellbeing service for children and young people in Lincolnshire and to seek Schools' Forum support for the Local Authority's proposal to provide additional funding to the service from the High Needs budget of the Dedicated Schools Grant.

As outlined in the report on 12th January, there is increasing demand for other services such as online counselling and CAMHS, indicating that increasingly more Lincolnshire pupils need support with managing complex issues in their lives. This new Service is one of four services which are part of the new model of children's public health services, which was agreed by Executive on the 1st November 2016.

The Healthy Minds Lincolnshire Service will offer direct support to children and young people, and their families, experiencing emotional wellbeing concerns, where other services are not designed to meet their needs, thus impacting on their lives and ability to thrive. It will also provide the opportunity for training support to be provided to the school workforce to enable

them to implement early school-based programmes to build resilience, as well as provide greater opportunity for guidance and support to be provided to school staff to enable them to become more confident in meeting the emotional wellbeing needs of pupils.

Despite the financial constraints of the Council resulting from significant reductions in Central Government funding, the Council is committed to an annual £1m investment in this service to support the needs of children and young people experiencing emotional wellbeing concerns. Further investment through the High Needs budget of the Dedicated Schools Grant will increase the level of support available to improve the emotional wellbeing of Lincolnshire pupils and further improve their outcomes, thus allowing them to achieve their full potential.

Schools' Forum supported the Local Authority's proposal to provide additional funding of £1m from the High Needs budget of the Dedicated Schools Grant, but requested that an overview of the support to be provided by the service is presented to the Schools' Forum to provide an opportunity for the forum to comment upon.

The funding commitment for the service is for 3 years initially, plus an option to extend the funding commitment for up to a further 2 years.

Designing the Service

The Council recognises that schools are often on the front line of identifying emotional wellbeing concerns in their pupils, which often impact on a child's ability to engage in learning. Schools frequently have to manage concerns on a day-to-day basis when there is no other service available to support. Following the Schools' Forum decision in January, the original Emotional Wellbeing working group was disbanded and a smaller working group was established, which included representation from schools, the Council, public health, GPs and CAMHS.

This group has been working with the Council to help design the Service in more detail. The working group has been in favour of a mixed model approach, with the Service providing direct support to children and young people experiencing emotional wellbeing concerns, and to their parents/carers, as well as providing training, advice and guidance to Lincolnshire's school workforce. In addition, views of headteachers and other school representatives have been sought via headteacher briefings in March and a teaching school working group in April to help inform the Service design. A summary of the feedback received is provided in Appendix 1.

Updates on the development of the service will be provided at the next headteacher briefings in June and are routinely provided at the Future in Mind Steering Group - views from colleagues from that group have also helped to design the future service delivery. Learning from regional and national events, as well as developments nationally have also been taken into consideration, for example, learning from the *Mental Health and Schools Links pilots*, the Government's announcement regarding every secondary school being offered Mental Health First Aid training.

The Council is currently designing an online Emotional Wellbeing/Behaviour Pathway, which provides a single point of access to services available locally which support emotional wellbeing and/or behaviour concerns and provide advice and guidance. The Pathway will provide better access to the right support and will act as the first step in accessing services, including the Healthy Minds Lincolnshire Service.

Overview of the Service

- The Service will be a countywide service for all Lincolnshire children and young people up to the age of 19 (or up to 25 if they are identified as having special educational needs and/or disabilities (SEND) or are a care leaver).

- The Service will offer support to Lincolnshire schools, including pre-schools and nurseries, to develop the workforce's understanding and ability to support emotional wellbeing concerns faced by children and young people.
- The Service's focus will be on promoting resilience, early intervention and the prevention of emotional wellbeing concerns escalating to mental health issues.
- The Service will work closely with other relevant services, including Children's Services and services the Council commissions and will provide consistent teams of key workers who will, wherever possible, work in locality areas so that service users have known friendly faces that can provide support for emotional wellbeing concerns.

Overview of the Service Delivery

The delivery of the Service will primarily consist of two main elements, although there will also be the opportunity for service users to seek advice and guidance, and there will be other general operational functions that will be undertaken. The main elements are:

- Direct support to children and young people living in or going to school in Lincolnshire, and their parents/carers;
- Training for future teachers and childcare providers, Lincolnshire pre-school and school workforce, and other professionals working with Lincolnshire children and young people.

An overview of each of the Service delivery elements is provided in the table below.

Direct emotional wellbeing support
<p>Direct support for Lincolnshire children and young people and their parents/carers will be determined by the needs of the child, identifying the root cause of the concerns, and will offer targeted prevention and early intervention to support positive mental health and emotional wellbeing and promote resilience. Support will be tailored to meet the needs of the child or young person, including support for concerns which have been highlighted as a priority for Lincolnshire children and young people and/or where it has been highlighted as a gap in current provision, examples of some of these concerns are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Attachment issues, where there is not a diagnosable mental health need; • Grief and loss of a close family member and/or a family breakdown/crisis (where it is appropriate to do so and they do not meet the thresholds for other available services); • Low self-esteem/confidence/body image/emotional resilience, eating concerns and concerns around self-regulation; • Anxiety/depression/stress, including, but not limited to, during exams; • Self-harm, where the concerns do not meet the clinical threshold for CAMHS.
Direct emotional wellbeing support for children up to the age of 6
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support for children up to their sixth birthday will only be provided where this has been determined as a need, primarily through an Early Help Assessment, or where Health Visitor's from the Council's Children's Health Service 0-19 (to be insourced into the Council from 1st October 2017) or through the Council's Children's Social Care Service. • Support will include but not limited to, therapy through play.
Direct emotional wellbeing support for children and young people aged 6 to 19 years (or up to 25 SEND and/or a care leaver)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • For pupils attending Lincolnshire schools support will take place, wherever possible within the school environment, unless this is deemed not appropriate. • There will be flexibility when working with pupils to provide support during the school day and at times outside of the school day, as agreed with the parent/carer and/or the school. • Support will be provided to pupils who require access to other services in order to better support their needs, including Adult Services where appropriate.

Direct emotional wellbeing advice and guidance for parents/carers

- Support for parents/carers will be provided where it has been identified that other services cannot meet their needs.
- Support may include joint delivery with other services, where appropriate.
- Support will include, but not limited to, advice and guidance for parents/carers of Lincolnshire pupils experiencing concerns who are transitioning into primary, secondary or across groups/key stages.

Emotional wellbeing training**Training for future teachers/childcare providers**

- Offering to contribute to the core training delivery of the local FE provider for Initial Teacher Training (ITT) and local Teaching Schools that offer ITT, to enable new teachers to be skilled in supporting positive mental health, recognising the signs of emotional wellbeing concerns and promoting early intervention and prevention.
- Offering to contribute to the core training delivery of local colleges who are offering childcare and childminding qualifications to enable trainees to be skilled in supporting the emotional wellbeing of Lincolnshire children.

Training for Lincolnshire pre-school and school workforce

- Developing a package of training that builds the knowledge and capacity of the workforce in order to support the emotional wellbeing of the pupils they are working with.
- Offering a range of evidence based training sessions to upskill the workforce in identifying, understanding and supporting emotional wellbeing concerns of pupils, promoting positive mental health, resilience, early intervention and prevention.
- Training offered will be a mixture of centrally-held and whole-school training sessions (based on need and capacity of the Service to deliver).
- Close working with schools and the Lincolnshire Learning Partnership to identify the most appropriate and flexible approach to delivering training.
- Support for key school staff in identifying and using appropriate evidence-based consistent approaches to assessing pupils' emotional wellbeing.
- Support for key school staff on evidence-based and bespoke support that they can directly deliver to pupils within their setting.
- The development of an emotional wellbeing toolkit/resource for school staff to use when supporting the emotional wellbeing of Lincolnshire pupils and that of their own wellbeing, in order to create a common and consistent approach to promoting positive emotional health and wellbeing, building confidence, self-esteem and resilience. This will be developed in partnership with schools and Lincolnshire pupils.

Training for other professionals

Training places will also be offered to other professionals working with children and young people, where appropriate and where space allows, after Lincolnshire schools have been given priority. This includes the Council's relevant Children's Services teams working within localities.

The Council is currently working with LPFT to develop a final Service Specification and agree the full-time equivalent (FTE) staffing resource required for the Service. Advice and guidance for school staff to directly support pupils will be delivered by skilled workers, working within localities. The number of skilled workers in each locality will be determined based on needs and other demographic information.

It is important to highlight that as this is a new Service, understanding the demands of the Service will need to be measured and evaluated through the first six months of the Service delivery. This information will be used to baseline the Service delivery and, should demand significantly exceed the capacity of the Service, to prioritise delivery within the available resource.

Access and referral routes for children and young people into the Service, along with the priority groups of children and young people, is still being determined and will be agreed between the Council and LPFT.

For Lincolnshire schools (including academies) who wish to access training, advice and guidance, including specific support for pupils, it is anticipated that there will be an expected minimum standard that schools would need to meet in order to access the Service:

- An identified key member of staff who will be the single point of contact between the school and the Service;
- The school has identified, or there is a confirmed commitment to identify pupils as Healthy Minds Champions;
- A confirmed commitment to releasing the key member of staff to undertake bespoke training provided by the Service and deliver direct support in their setting;
- A confirmed commitment to releasing the key member of staff to attend Mental Health First Aid training when this is rolled out to all secondary schools nationally;
- For children and young people with SEND, the school/setting can demonstrate that access to the Service is part of the school's graduated response to meeting the needs of children and young people with SEND and their families.

Commissioning Arrangement for the Healthy Minds Lincolnshire Service

The new service is due to commence on the 1st October 2017 and the Council is seeking to establish a partnership agreement with Lincolnshire Partnership NHS Foundation Trust (LPFT) via Section 75 of the NHS Act 2006, as a mechanism for securing the provision of the new service. This arrangement will be for 3 years initially, plus an option to extend for up to a further 2 years.

LPFT is the local CAMHS supplier and will be well-placed to provide this Service, ensuing from the synergy between emotional wellbeing concerns and mental health and the greater fluidity between services this arrangement will provide; closing gaps in thresholds between this new service and CAMHS. A partnership agreement with LPFT will also provide the opportunity to further develop the service as it becomes embedded and to promote integration with existing services.

Summary

The Healthy Minds Lincolnshire Service will provide countywide emotional wellbeing support, focusing on the needs of the child, including direct support to children and young people, and their families who are experiencing emotional wellbeing concerns and who do not meet the eligibility of other available services. The additional investment through the High Needs budget of the Dedicated Schools Grant means that additional resource is available to provide high-quality evidence-based early support to Lincolnshire pupils and prevent an escalation of their needs to diagnosable mental health, so that they achieve the best possible outcomes in preparation for adult life. It also provides the opportunity to empower parents/carers to directly support their children when they are experiencing emotional wellbeing concerns.

In addition, the school workforce will be better supported, including key members of the school workforce, who will be able to deliver direct support to pupils, promoting positive mental health, resilience, early intervention and prevention. More importantly, providing Lincolnshire pupils direct access to support through the professionals who are working with them on a day-to-day basis will help to improve their emotional wellbeing, and further improve their outcomes and thus achieve their full potential.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The Schools' Forum is asked to:

1. Note the content of the report.
2. Comment on the proposed service delivery design.

Background Papers			
The following reports were relied upon in writing this report			
Paper Type	Title	Date	Accessibility

Appendices
Appendix 1 – Emotional Wellbeing Service – Summary of Responses from Nursery, Primary, Secondary and Special School Questionnaire Feedback