

	Health and Wellbeing Board April 2021
	Report from the Chair of Brent Children's Trust
Brent Children's Trust update and priority areas of focus for April 2021 – March 2022	

Wards Affected:	
Key or Non-Key Decision:	N/A
Open or Part/Fully Exempt: <small>(If exempt, please highlight relevant paragraph of Part 1, Schedule 12A of 1972 Local Government Act)</small>	Open
No. of Appendices:	0
Background Papers:	0
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1.0 Purpose of the Report

- 1.1. The Brent Children's Trust (BCT) is a strategic partnership body made up of commissioners and key partners. The primary functions of the BCT include commissioning, joint planning and collaborative working to ensure that resources are allocated and utilised to deliver maximum benefits for children and young people in Brent.
- 1.2. To strengthen the Health and Wellbeing Board oversight and remit, the BCT provides the HWB with an annual priorities report at the start of each municipal year plus one additional update report per year.
- 1.3. The most recent report was presented to the HWB in October 2020. Due to the impact of the COVID-19 Pandemic, the BCT was not required to provide a priorities report in April 2020, therefore this paper provides an update of the BCT work programme covering the period between October 2020 and March 2021.
- 1.4. This paper also outlines the priority areas of focus for the BCT from April 2021 to March 2022.

2.0 Recommendations

- 2.1. The Health and Wellbeing Board (HWB) is asked to note the priority areas of focus for the Brent Children's Trust from April 2021 to March 2022.

3.0 Detail

- 3.1. The BCT meets every two months to review progress against the priority areas of focus and address any emerging local and national issues. Since October 2020, the BCT met three times on 24 November 2020, 19 January 2020 and 23 March 2021.
- 3.2. The BCT, through its Joint Commissioning Group (JCG), oversees five groups tasked with implementing specific priorities across the partnership.
- 3.3. The BCT, JCG and transformation groups have consistent attendance with representation from Brent Council and Brent Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG). Other key stakeholders also attend the JCG which includes three school head teachers who have been active members since September 2017.
- 3.4. Since October 2020 the BCT has examined three main strategic themes:
 - a) Family Wellbeing Centres implementation
 - b) Health and Wellbeing Board strategy update and project plan
 - c) Children and Young People's Mental Health and Wellbeing

Family Wellbeing Centres implementation

- 3.5. The BCT is assured that significant progress has been made in the establishment of Family Wellbeing Centres (FWC) from existing Children's Centres.
- 3.6. The BCT acknowledged the risks that have been identified and noted that the main risk is potential budget reductions which may impact on the scope and range of services that were originally intended to be delivered.
- 3.7. The BCT is also assured that FWCs will be working closely with health providers including the 0-19 service, speech and language service and midwifery services. The BCT also endorsed the agreement for paediatricians to be part of the team working in one of the FWCs.

Health and Wellbeing Board Strategy update and project plan

- 3.8. Following the Health and Wellbeing Board (HWB) agreement in October 2020 to redevelop the Joint Health and Wellbeing Board Strategy, the BCT was updated on the high-level project methodology and timeline agreed to undertake this piece of work.
- 3.9. The BCT provided strategic input and direction to the development process and related project plan with a focus on the following:
- How the HWB can meaningfully capture the experiences of children and young people, through existing forums such as Brent Youth Parliament and the Brent Parent Carer Forum
 - The effective engagement from partners including through engagement with the Brent Safeguarding Children Forum.
 - Accessing rich sources of data and intelligence such as Education, Health and Care Plans, commissioning data, service data, the Bright Spots survey and the Safeguarding Forum Section 11 audit response data.

Children and Young People's Mental Health and Wellbeing

- 3.10. During the March 2021 meeting, the BCT explored, in detail, the progress made on the delivery against the Brent vision for Children and Young People's Mental Health and Wellbeing Transformation Plan.
- 3.11. The BCT are satisfied with the progress made on a number of services including:
- **Perinatal mental health** - all women with mental health needs during pregnancy and the post-natal period can now receive psychological support when needed.
 - **Eating Disorders (ED) Service** - work is ongoing to improve access for children and young people who require urgent and routine assessments across the NWL Integrated Care System. Brent has also seen an increase in demand for eating disorders support during the pandemic.
 - **Learning Disability (LD) & Autistic Spectrum Disorder (ASD)** - a review of specifications and associated ASD/LD pathway is underway. Also in progress is work to review and address the long wait for assessments as well as joint working between paediatric services and CAMHS.
 - **CAMHS Gateway** - work to review pathways of the screening process for diagnosable mental illness and improve links with the LA and voluntary sector services is underway.
 - **KOOTH – on-line counselling services for young people** – work on aligning this service across the NWL Integrated Care System under one contract is underway, the BCT were assured that this process is aimed to

enhance the existing KOOTH service in Brent which has been extremely well received.

- **Community engagement & anti-stigma work** - Brent Young People Thrive (BYPT) continues to engage with schools, GPs, children and families around children's mental health and wellbeing.

3.12. The BCT acknowledged a review in being undertaken on the clinical capacity and capability of CAMHS looking at access, waiting times and reasons for non-attendance. The BCT noted that there have been several reviews of this service in the past few years and agreed to explore the purpose and outcome of this review in more detail during the next meeting (May 2021).

3.13. The BCT also highlighted the multiagency learning that has been identified through the serious safeguarding incident review work (known as Rapid Reviews) undertaken by the Safeguarding Children Partnership. Some of the Rapid Reviews that have been undertaken have identified specific learning points in relation to the areas of work outlined in paragraph 3.12.

3.14. The BCT agreed that the relevant learning from these Rapid Reviews will:

- Link into the Children and Young People's Mental Health and Wellbeing Transformation Plan delivery programme.
- Be shared with Brent GP practices and other health service providers.
- Link into work being undertaken in the borough to support vulnerable children who self-harm or have suicidal ideation.

3.15. The BCT also has oversight of two projects supporting children and young people's wellbeing in schools. Consideration is being given to how these programmes can be linked to complement each other. These two projects are:

- Mental Health Support in Schools (2 year trailblazing project) - led by the CCG the local CAMHS provider CNWL, supported by Brent Council to help meet the mental health needs of children and young people in education settings.
- Wellbeing for Education Return Programme – delivery of a national programme led by the Brent Educational Psychology Team within the Inclusion Team. The programme offers a package of training and resources intended to support education staff to promote the mental wellbeing of children and young people, their colleagues, themselves and parents and carers during the pandemic and as part of the recovery phase.

Covid-19 Recovery

3.16. Since 12 May 2020, the BCT moved to meeting virtually and a standing item remains on the BCT meeting agenda has been a specific focus on Covid-19 related partnership planning activity. This has enabled the BCT to remain in a strong position to address partnership challenges whilst moving into the recovery process.

- 3.17. The Trust was assured that the local authority and CCG continue to build upon the partnership work in responding to lockdown restrictions and recovery work.
- 3.18. The BCT has recognised one concern emerging from the pandemic has been a decline in parents and carers accessing medical services for children and young people. The BCT has agreed this as a priority area of focus for 2021-2022.

Priority Areas of Focus for 2021/2022

- 3.19. The BCT has identified a number of priority areas of focus for April 2021 to March 2022 as a result of emerging issues supported by local and national data:
- a) Working with parents and carers to positively impact on children's health and wellbeing with specific focus on:**
 - Healthy weight in childhood
 - Oral health
 - Childhood immunisation
 - b) Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) – with a focus on early intervention and prevention in light of the major national review into support for children and young people with SEND to be launched in 2021.**
 - c) Children and Young People's Mental Health and Wellbeing – with a continued focus on the delivery of the transformation plan.**
 - d) Integrated Disabled Children and Young People Service 0-25 - with a focus on Stage 2, the integration of health and local authority provision, which was paused in 2020 due to Covid-19 Pandemic.**
 - e) Transitional safeguarding between CYP and Adult Services - with a focus on adolescent safeguarding.**
 - f) Young Carers - with a renewed focus on raising awareness of young carers across the partnership.**
- 3.20. The BCT have agreed to consider other areas of focus which may arise over the course of the year including;
- any legislative changes relating to the functions under the BCT
 - the redevelopment of existing local services
 - any appropriate newly identified commissioning arrangements

4.0 Financial Implications

4.1 There are no financial implications as a result of this report.

5.0 Legal Implications

5.1 There are no legal implications as a result of this report.

6.0 Equality Implications

6.1 There are no equality implications as a result of this report.

7.0 Consultation with Ward Members and Stakeholders

7.1 Brent Council and NWL CCG (Brent CCG) are members of the BCT and its sub groups and have contributed to this report.

Report sign off:

Gail Tolley

Strategic Director Children and Young People