

Minute of the Children and Young Persons Advisory Group

Thursday 21st January 2021

Video Conference Meeting

Present: Colin McKay, Karen Martin, Jackie McRae, Aileen Blower, Kathleen Taylor
Secretariat: Sophie Ryder, Adele Farwell

1. Welcome and apologies

May Dunsmuir had sent her apologies for the meeting

2. Note of last meeting

The minute of the last meeting was agreed.

3. The Second Interim Report

- There has been little formal response to the interim report but anecdotally it was well received and people were looking to provide a considered response.
- It was suggested that this be promoted further on social media to reach as many as possible.

4. Future work of the Group

Documented on page 39 of the report

- The next interim report is due to be published in June which will include evidence gathering and proposals
- Plans for further engagement are currently being developed. This will include testing the thinking and proposals emerging from the workstream with a practitioners' reference group and a lived experience reference group.
- The lived experience group will also include carers.
- The stakeholder list documenting who might be involved in the respective groups will be circulated to the group for comment
- The comms and engagement group will have the final say on who will be involved
- Is it possible that the lived experience reference group could include young people?
- It was suggested that we might seek the response of Government to the interim report. At this stage, it may not differ substantially from their evidence.

The planned involvement of the Government in a session to explore the wider landscape would be an opportunity to engage with them

- We will work with the Royal College of Psychiatrists to identify young people with experience of detention who are willing to be interviewed about the experience, and how it could be improved

- Karen and Aileen agreed to lead on this piece of work.
- To undertake the work as it was initially intended, it would need approval from the NHS ethics committee as a full research proposal. This research would most likely take around 18 months.
- The group discussed how this could be carried out in an alternative way to obtain the information in a more timely manner for the purpose of the review.
- It is possible that young people could be identified through carers who have participated in previous consultation with the review.
- It was agreed that we would ask people about their experiences retrospectively to gain the evidence required. It was acknowledged that carers are extremely busy at the moment and this should be taken into consideration. It would also need to be taken into consideration that services may have changed since the young person had been in contact with them.
- The group will make contact with the Centre for Young People and Justice who have a mental health focus alongside justice. They may have young people who would opt in. See Me and Advocacy may also be useful contacts for this.
- It would also be appropriate for the group to investigate why there has been an increase in detention and how this has impacted different groups

- We will work with the Royal College of Psychiatrists and other stakeholders to identify current problems and dilemmas in operating the 2003 Act, and possible solutions

- A series of vignettes have been provided by the college as examples of more complex cases to test some of the early proposals by the groups and see how they might work in practice. Similar case studies have been provided from the MHO and Advocacy network.
- The work involved in discussing these may include seminar events.

- Following evidence from a representative of the Royal College of GPs, we plan to issue a questionnaire to a small group of GPs on ways in which the current system could be improved

- Considering the pressure on the profession at the moment, it was suggested that the questionnaire include 3-4 questions. We may need to check with them that even this was practical just now
- The framework for the questions will be the same as those used in the evidence sessions.
- It is important that the opinions are sought of those in practice and not just the leadership of the College
- It was agreed that a set of questions would be drafted

- We will speak to teachers about the role of schools in supporting children's mental health, and how this could be made more effective

- As teachers are at the front line of identifying early problems It would be helpful if teachers were equipped for early intervention and first aid.
- This is also the message that has come from 'The Promise'
- Often referrals are not accepted to CAMHS until the issues become very serious
- It was highlighted that lots of the work that had been done to make schools more aware of the role of CAMHS had only increased referrals. This usually consists of in house counsellors referring to CAMHS and this is often based on risk.
- Schools have shown that they can do a great job with rehabilitation for young people who have experienced severe mental illness and it has been remarkable what has been achieved. This would be another useful theme to explore

- Mapping judicial system

- A call is to be set up with the mental health directorate at Scottish Government initially

– with the Comms and Engagement group, reviewing information and support for families

- Karen and Kathleen to lead on this

Commission detailed academic analysis of the 2003 Act and the implications of the UNCRC

- There is a separate commitment for the ESC workstream to map out ESC rights and mental health. These may need to be joined up, and important not to duplicate work of bodies such as the Human Rights Taskforce

Consider the recommendations of the Rome Review for children and younger people

- The Executive members and secretariat will prepare a short briefing paper discussing what the Rome Review says about Young People for a future meeting.

Next Meeting

The next meeting will be in late February and a Doodle poll will be sent out for availability.