

TITLE OF REPORT:	Expanding Minds, Improving Lives: an update on the work of the collaborative commissioning of children and young people's mental health services
REPORT OF:	David Bunce, Strategic Director, Care Wellbeing and Learning

Summary

This report summarises the work underway to redesign children and young people's mental health services across Gateshead and Newcastle. It outlines the status of the project, emerging themes and timescales, as well as links to the Transformation Plans required by NHS England.

1. Introduction and background

- 1.1 In January 2015 NHS Newcastle Gateshead Clinical Commissioning Group, Newcastle City Council and Gateshead Council agreed to work together with their communities to plan what needs to happen locally to transform the emotional wellbeing and mental health provision for children and young people and their families across Newcastle and Gateshead.
- 1.2 Nationally, regionally and locally there is a recognition that the emotional wellbeing and mental health needs of children and young people and their families are not being met and this project aims to address this through a fit for purpose local response.
- 1.3 "Expanding Minds, Improving Lives" is a time-limited project which has been established to drive the transformational change in Newcastle and Gateshead. "Expanding Minds, Improving Lives" is led by a Principal Public Health Consultant and benefits from a dedicated Project Manager. A small project team, made up from representatives from each of the three collaborative partners drives the day to day work of the project.
- 1.4 The project's vision is that:
'Our communities are enabled to improve the emotional health and wellbeing of children, young people and families, who will thrive through access to the right support at the right time.'

2. Progress to date

2.1 The Advisory Group

The project has established an Advisory Group as a means for “Expanding Minds, Improving Lives” to share early thinking with key stakeholders, who have knowledge and experience of working with children and young people and mental health services, so that they may guide and influence the development of the project.

Membership of the group is broad and includes parent/carer representatives, school leaders, community and voluntary sector representatives, Healthwatch and universal, targeted, and specialist providers. The group has met three times, and will continue to meet on a monthly basis, and is very well attended.

2.2 Young Commissioners

The project has commissioned Youth Focus, a voluntary organisation based in Gateshead, to recruit, develop and support a group of young people aged 13 to 19 (or up to 25 if the young person has learning difficulties or disabilities) to become co-commissioners who will help to shape future mental health services for children and young people and their families across Newcastle and Gateshead.

Once the Young Commissioners are trained (Autumn 2015) they will act in a challenge and scrutiny role, encourage wider involvement of young people, and will have a role in decision making throughout this process.

2.3 Action!: Story

Targeted engagement with children engaged with mental health services has begun. Action: Story! delivered by Helix Arts, aims to empower young people aged 9 to 14 who access CAMHS to have a voice in the commissioning process for this service. By taking part in a film project, the young people will be given an opportunity to express how they feel about their journey within the service and how they would like to see it change. They are working with professional filmmakers and designers in workshop settings to explore and voice their experiences. The filmmakers and designers will also work separately with commissioners to explore the issues raised and feedback to the young people as an iterative process throughout the project.

A younger age range was selected for this targeted piece of work, to ensure representation from younger children outside of the scope of the Young Commissioners role.

2.4 Moving from the “Collaborative Commissioning Project” to “Expanding Minds, Improving Lives”

To make the transformation project more meaningful to children and young people and their families, a workshop with young people was held to name the project. Through this workshop the name “Expanding Minds, Improving Lives”

was developed, with the strapline “Motivating and working together to transform children and young people’s mental health”.

2.5 Baseline Positions Statement – The Case for Change

The project team has prepared a detailed baseline position statement which sets out:

- The impact of mental health on children, young people and families
- Prevalence of mental ill health
- Current service provision including performance
- Resources
- Summary of the wider services supporting children and young people (e.g. universal and targeted)
- Feedback from previous engagement

The baseline position statement will form the ‘Case for Change’ and will continue to develop as communities share their experiences of the current system.

The baseline position statement was shared with the Project Board on 17th September, and will shortly be available on the “Expanding Minds, Improving Lives” webpage on the CCG’s website.

2.6 Launch of the Listening / Pre-consultation Stage

The project has commenced the “Listening / Pre-consultation” phase of the project where stakeholders will be provided with the opportunity to share their experience of the current mental health system, and get to start to think about how any new system should be provided. The project has designed a multi-faceted engagement plan which will include stakeholder events, focus groups, surveys, and social media.

The first stakeholder events have taken place, with targeted events for school staff, including professionals working into schools e.g. school nurses. Announcements of upcoming stakeholder events will be made shortly.

The “Listening / Pre-consultation” phase will run until the middle of November when the focus of the project will shift to working with our communities to develop how services should be provided in the future.

During this phase, early engagement with the respective Health and Wellbeing Boards, Scrutiny Committees and Children’s Trusts Boards will take place to ensure members have the opportunity to influence the emerging proposals.

A timeline for the redesign process is included in Appendix 1.

3. Interface with the Local Transformation Plan

- 3.1 The Department of Health requires all clinical commissioning groups to submit a Local Transformation Plan to outline how mental health services for children and young people will be transformed over the next 5 years.
- 3.2 NHS Newcastle and Gateshead CCG are working with Newcastle and Gateshead councils to produce its Local Transformation Plan in light of the collaborative approach adopted locally.
- 3.3 The Local Transformation Plan is centred on “Expanding Minds, Improving Lives”, as it is the time-limited project which will drive the transformation of local services. Within the Local Transformation Plan are a number of key priorities which will be included as key lines of enquiry within “Expanding Minds, Improving Lives”.

4. Recommendations

- 4.1 Members are asked to note the progress of the project to date.

Contact:	Martin Gray / Emma Gibson	ext:	3919 / 2845
----------	---------------------------	------	-------------

Appendix 1

Collaborative Commissioning – High Level Project Timescales

Stage	Description	Dates
Establishing the baseline	Getting the detail about our story - marking out what we want to change and what we don't, and why the system should transform. Developing the case for change	13 April 2015 - 31 July (16 weeks)
Pre-consultation and listening	Taking 'our story' to the community - service users, children and young people, parents and carers, families, providers and commissioners- and listening to what we hear	3 Aug 2015 - 13 November 2015 (15 weeks)
Co-producing a new model of emotional wellbeing care and support	Working together to design a new system that enables people to thrive through prevention and early intervention, and when necessary specialist support	16 November 2015- 29 January 2016 (11 weeks)
Formal Consultation	Formally consulting on the proposed new system	1 February 2016- 28 April 2016 (12 weeks)
Implementing	Putting our new system in place	May 2016 - 28 April 2017