



City of Westminster

Committee Agenda

Title: **Business and Children's Policy and Scrutiny Committee**

Meeting Date: **Monday 22nd March, 2021**

Time: **6.30 pm**

Venue: **This will be a virtual meeting**

Members:

Councillors: Karen Scarborough (Chair) Geoff Barraclough Richard Elcho Christabel Flight Lindsey Hall Aicha Less Eoghain Murphy Tim Roca	Elected Voting Representatives: Ryan Nichol, Parent Governor Co-opted Voting Representatives: Alix Ascough, CE Diocesan Rep Marina Coleman, RC Diocesan Rep No-Voting Co-opted Representatives: Mark Hewitt. Headteacher, St John CE Primary School Wasim Butt, Principal, Beachcroft AP Academy
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Members of the public are welcome to attend the meeting and listen to the discussion Part 1 of the Agenda.

This meeting will be live streamed and recorded. To access the recording after the meeting, please revisit the link.

An Induction loop operates to enhance sound for anyone wearing a hearing aid or using a transmitter. If you require any further information, please contact the Committee Officer, Lizzie Barrett. ebarrett@westminster.gov.uk

Corporate Website: www.westminster.gov.uk

Note for Members: Members are reminded that Officer contacts are shown at the end of each report and Members are welcome to raise questions in advance of the meeting. With regard to item 2, guidance on declarations of interests is included in the Code of Governance; if Members and Officers have any particular questions they should contact the Head of Committee and Governance Services in advance of the meeting please.

AGENDA

PART 1 (IN PUBLIC)

1. MEMBERSHIP

To note any changes to the membership.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

To receive declarations by Members and Officers of the existence and nature of any pecuniary interests or any other significant interest in matters on this agenda.

3. MINUTES

To agree the minutes of the meeting of the Community Services, Business and Planning Policy and Scrutiny Committee held on Monday 1 February 2021.

(Pages 5 - 10)

4. UPDATE FROM THE CABINET MEMBER FOR BUSINESS AND PLANNING

Councillor Matthew Green, the Cabinet Member for Business and Planning, to provide a verbal update and outline of his portfolio to the Committee on current and forthcoming issues in his portfolio and to answer questions from Members.

(Pages 11 - 12)

5. UPDATE FROM THE CABINET MEMBER FOR YOUNG PEOPLE AND LEARNING

Councillor Tim Barnes, the Cabinet Member for Young People and Learning, to provide a verbal update and outline of his portfolio to the Committee on current and forthcoming issues in his portfolio and to answer questions from Members.

(Pages 13 - 16)

6. CHILDREN, YOUNG PEOPLE AND YOUNG ADULT EMOTIONAL WELLBEING AND MENTAL HEALTH IN WESTMINSTER

To receive a report on children, young people and young adult emotional wellbeing and mental health in Westminster.

(Pages 17 - 30)

7. ENVIRONMENT SUPPLEMENTARY PLANNING DOCUMENT

(Pages 31 - 38)

To receive a report on the policy direction of Westminster's Environment Supplementary Planning Document.

8. WORK PROGRAMME

To discuss the Committee's work programme for 2021.

Charlie Parker
Chief Executive
Date Not Specified

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CITY OF WESTMINSTER

MINUTES

BUSINESS AND CHILDREN'S POLICY & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE 1 FEBRUARY 2021 MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

Minutes of a meeting of the **Business and Children's Policy & Scrutiny Committee** held virtually on 1 February 2021 at 6.30pm **on TEAMS**.

Members Present: Councillors Karen Scarborough (Chairman), Geoff Barraclough (Deputy Chairman), Richard Elcho, Christabel Flight, Lindsey Hall, Alesha Less, Eoghain Murphy and Tim Roca.

Co-opted Members: Maria Coleman.

Also present: Councillor Tim Barnes (Cabinet Member for Young People and Learning), Councillor Lorraine Dean (Deputy Cabinet Member for Young People and Learning), Councillor Mathew Green (Cabinet Member for Business, Licensing and Planning) and Councillor Robert Rigby (Deputy Cabinet Member for Business, Licensing and Planning).

Apologies: Ryan Nicol, Alix Ascough, Mark Hewitt and Wasim Butt

1. ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN

- 1.1 Nominations for the post of Chair were invited. One nomination was received and seconded for Councillor Karen Scarborough. One nomination was received and seconded for Councillor Geoff Barraclough. There were no further nominations.
- 1.2 The committee officer put both nomination to the vote. Councillor Karen Scarborough received five votes and Councillor Geoff Barraclough received three votes.
- 1.3 **RESOLVED:** That Councillor Karen Scarborough be appointed Chairman of the Business and Children's Policy and Scrutiny Committee and Councillor Geoff Barraclough be appointed Deputy Chairman of the Business and Children's Policy and Scrutiny Committee.

2. MEMBERSHIP

- 2.1 The Chairman welcomed Councillor Timothy Barnes (Cabinet Member for Young People and Learning and Councillor Matthew Green (Cabinet Member for Business, Licensing and Planning) to the meeting.
- 2.2 The Chairman also welcomed Gill Fizhugh, Queen's Park Community Council, Jace Tyrrell, NWEK/Soho Forum Steering Group and Nicholas Bailey, Fitzwest Forum who took part on the discussion on Neighbourhood Plans and Neighbourhood Forums.

3. DECLARATION OF INTEREST

- 3.1 There were no declarations of interest.

4. MINUTES

- 4.1 **RESOLVED:** That the minutes of the meeting held on 9 November 2020 be approved for signature by the Chairman as a true and correct record of the proceedings.

5. QUESTION AND ANSWER SESSION: CABINET MEMBER BUSINESS, LICENSING AND PLANNING

- 5.1 The Committee received a written update from the Cabinet Member who responded to questions on the following topics:
 - the employment opportunities for young people through the Kickstart programme and the possibility of recruiting and training young people in bicycle repair, gardening and plumbing.
 - the important role that the Westminster Adult Education Service (WAES) was playing in engaging communities hardest hit by COVID with their refreshed community learning programme.
 - the eligibility of businesses for business grants and the lobbying of government for the continuation of the business rates holiday until 2022.
 - the enforcement of the Busking and Street Entertainment Policy.
 - the change of use from commercial to residential use of premises.
 - the rapidly changing look of high streets with much of retail now online.
 - the recovery of the West End as part of the City for All ambition to revitalise and restore economic opportunity and prosperity in the West End.
- 5.2 **ACTIONS**
 1. That a briefing note be sent to members containing data on the number of:
 - i) new planning applications received in the last nine to twelve months compared to the number of applications received in the previous year

- ii) the number of planning applications that have not been determined
 - iii) the number of ongoing planning enforcement cases.
- The Committee requested that these figures be included in all future Cabinet Member Updates.

2. That details regarding the eligibility of businesses for business grants be sent to the Committee.
3. That details of the Westminster Investment Service be sent to the Committee.
4. That the Council's policy regarding gardening in tree pits be sent to the Committee.

6. QUESTION AND ANSWER SESSION: CABINET MEMBER FOR YOUNG PEOPLE AND LEARNING

6.1 The Committee received a written update from the Cabinet Member who responded to questions on the following topics:

- the successful delivery of laptops to children and young people who attended Westminster schools, which included those that are not Westminster residents, and the Council's partnership with the Young Westminster Foundation to support disadvantaged children to have better access to digital devices and stronger broadband connectivity.
- the continuation of free school meals being provided by weekly food parcels or through voucher schemes and that families eligible for free school meals would again receive free school meal vouchers during the February half term.
- the importance of teaching young people about nutrition and healthy eating.
- the continuation of falling school rolls in primary schools and the detailed analysis being carried out of school capacity and budgets in collaboration with all schools and the Catholic and Church of England Dioceses.

6.2 **ACTION:** That the Cabinet Member Update details the continuation of the falling roles in Westminster primary schools for the next meeting.

7. REPORT ON THE COUNCIL'S ROLE IN SUPPORTING NEIGHBOURHOOD FORUMS IN DEVELOPING NEIGHBOURHOOD PLANS:

7.1 The Committee received a report providing an overview of how the Council proactively encourages designated forums to carry out planning activities. The Committee noted that it was the Council's 'duty to support' forums as set out in statutory requirements and this included two specific roles: taking decisions at key stages in the neighbourhood planning process; and providing advice and assistance to the neighbourhood forums preparing neighbourhood plans.

- 7.2 The Committee received a presentation 'A Guide to Neighbourhood Planning in Westminster' [LINK](#) and welcomed Gill Fitzhugh, Queen's Park Community Council, Jace Tyrrell, NWECS/SoHo Forum Steering Group and Nicholas Bailey, FitzWest Forum who explained their journey in forming their neighbourhood forums. Nicholas, Gill and Jace further gave their views and responded to questions on the opportunities, benefits and difficulties of setting up a neighbourhood forum.
- 7.3 The key themes that emerged from the Committee discussion were:
- the need for a review meeting at the start of the process to signpost communities to key people and information such as climate/air quality, transport and affordable housing.
 - the importance of collaboration, good governance processes and consistent officer support within the Council.
 - the need for detailed information on the Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL), funding opportunities, member training on CIL, and key meeting dates.
 - the importance of sending out the 'Guide to Neighbourhood Planning in Westminster' to all Neighbourhood Forums and making it accessible to all.
 - the need to improve communication between the businesses and forums and to engage and consult with businesses throughout the drafting of the neighbourhood plan and not just during the ballot process.
- 7.4 The Committee acknowledged all the dedicated work of the Neighbourhood Forum members and congratulated them on their commitment to their communities and local issues.
- 7.5 **RESOLVED:** The Committee concluded with the following comments, which would be forwarded to the Cabinet Member for Business, Licensing and Planning:
1. The Committee commended the work that officers had undertaken to support neighbourhood forums and the proactive actions being taken by the Council in its neighbourhood planning responsibilities.
 2. The Committee emphasised the importance of having a collaborative and close working relationship between the Neighbourhood Forums and Council Services.
 3. The Committee encouraged the Council to continue evaluating the effectiveness of the Council's community engagement to enable further meaningful community involvement.
 4. The Committee requested that the Council provide detailed information on the Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) to the neighbourhood forums as well as the information being accessible and promoted to all throughout Westminster.

8. COMMITTEE WORK PROGRAMME

8.1 **RESOLVED:** That the Committee review safeguarding and the education recovery of schools at their next meeting.

9. TERMINATION OF MEETING

9.1 The meeting ended at 8.44pm.

CHAIRMAN _____

DATE _____

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City of Westminster

Business and Children's Policy Scrutiny Committee

Date: Monday 22 March 2021
Portfolio: Business, Licensing and Planning

The Report Of: Councillor Matthew Green, Cabinet Member for Business, Licensing and Planning

Report Author and Contact Details: Chloe Baker, Cabinet Officer
cbaker@westminster.gov.uk

1 Summary

- 1.1 As per the new agreed Cabinet Member report structure, this update provides highlights on my City for All priorities, areas of current focus in the Business, Licensing and Planning Portfolio and pertinent performance information.

2 City for All – Business, Licensing and Planning Priorities

- 2.1 The council launched its refreshed City for All vision early in March, to ensure our strategy for improving the city now for future generations is responsive to the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Thriving Economy

West End Recovery- West End Pop-up Project

- 2.2 A delivery strategy and temporary occupiers' selection criteria is being developed for the Pop-up activation programme. A strategy for the second iteration of voids dressings is being developed in collaboration with Business Improvement Districts (BIDs) and the Oxford Street District team.

West End Recovery- Westminster Investment Service

- 2.3 We are currently developing an Investment Service Action Plan to encourage outward investment to Westminster, in collaboration with BIDs and Westminster Property Association. A West End specific offer to business is in consultation which will set the scene for future occupiers' campaign activity.

West End Recovery- Westminster Animation Strategy

- 2.4 Work is progressing well on an animation strategy to support the recovery of the West End, working alongside BIDs, Landowners and other external stakeholders, including London and Partners to curate a programme of temporary, cultural and artistic interventions to animate the local area.

Al fresco hospitality

- 2.5 On 23 February, we announced that al fresco schemes will be returning when restaurants, pubs and bars re-open in late Spring. These temporary measures will run until September 2021 as per the licensing conditions set out in the Business and Planning Act.

Kickstart

- 2.6 The council has generated an initial 30 internal Kickstart placements across a variety of departments. The opportunities will be live imminently with recruits anticipated to commence their placements at the end of March/early April. WCC has also successfully submitted its first gateway application to the Department of Work and Pensions, equating to 34 opportunities across 20 employers.

Westminster Wheels

- 2.7** Work is nearing completion at the Westminster Wheels workshop and community shop on Church Street and is scheduled to open for business in March. The team are continuing to work with local business partners to encourage bike donations, with the aim to have refurbished and donated 120 bikes by the end of March.

Vibrant Communities

Licensing Policy

- 2.8** The Licensing Policy came into effect on January. Over the next 6 months a Supplementary Licensing Document will be scoped to further support the City for All priorities and sit alongside the Statement of Licensing Policy.

Street Entertainment

- 2.9** Following approval at Full Council on 9 December 2020, a third, statutory consultation was launched, inviting representations to be made against the designation of any streets contained within the policy. At Full Council on 3 March, the final policy was approved and will come into effect on 5 April 2021.

City Plan

- 2.10** Due to delays in the adoption of the London Plan, the Planning Inspectorate have been delayed in issuing the final City Plan examination report. Adoption of the City Plan, originally scheduled for Full Council in March, will be postponed for a future meeting, later this Spring.

Westminster Adult Education Service (WAES)

- 2.11** WAES is currently supporting 19-24 year-old unemployed residents through delivering Kickstart employability support for the WCC Kickstart programmes and have created 100 traineeship opportunities across a variety of sectors. Over Easter, the service will be running workshops for over 1,000 learners focusing on enterprise, employability and wellbeing.

Cleaner and Greener

Environmental Supplementary Planning Document (E-SPD)

- 2.12** The E-SPD is progressing well. In parallel to the E-SPD and in advance of its publication, we have produced an Environmental Technical Guidance note which provides a broader statement of Westminster's expectations of the built environment, to assist planning applicants to align their proposals with the Council's environmental and carbon reduction expectations.

3 Performance Update

Planning

- 3.1** The majority of planning applications are being determined without the need for site visits. Where applications have been delayed due to the need for a site visit, these cases will be prioritised once the current lockdown has ended.
- 3.2** The department currently has 2,590 planning applications that are valid and under consideration. 6,002 applications were received up to the end of January 2021, this compares to 7,816 and 8,360 in the two preceding years. Application numbers were falling on an annual basis for a number of years prior to the COVID-19 pandemic as a result of a variety of factors including the increases in the scope of development that can be carried out under permitted development rights and developer uncertainty caused by the period preceding Brexit at the end of 2021.
- 3.3** The Planning Enforcement Team currently have 2,718 live enforcement investigations.



City of Westminster

Business and Children's Policy and Scrutiny Committee

Date: Monday 22 March 2021

Report Of: Councillor Timothy Barnes

Portfolio: Cabinet Member for Young People and Learning

**Report Author and
Contact Details:** Alexandra Deolinda Severino
adseverino@westminster.gov.uk

1 Summary

As per the new agreed Cabinet Member report structure, this update provides highlights on my City for All priorities, areas of current focus in the Young People and Learning portfolio and pertinent performance information. I have made no key decisions to update the committee on since my last report.

2 City for All – Young People and Learning Priorities

The council launched its refreshed City for All vision early in March, to ensure our strategy for improving the city now and for future generations is responsive to the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Vibrant Communities

2.1 Pre-birth to Five Pathway

Work continues to progress on redesigning our Pre-birth to Five offer. We are looking at proposing a new integrated pathway and delivery structure and are aiming to launch in April 2022. This February we began drafting the specification for our new community health service, including the evaluation criteria, and contract which will take us to our next phase in the project in May 2021.

Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) Strategy Refresh

2.2 We are at the early stages of updating this strategy to take us to 2024. Over the course of the next few months we will be engaging with a wide group of stakeholders to shape ambitious priorities for the 2021-2024 strategy. We aim to build on the success of the SEND area inspection to ensure we are making progress with the areas identified for improvement. We are currently in the middle of our first consultation phase which is set to end at the end of March. Our launch date for this strategy is aimed to be September 2021.

2.3 Emotional Wellbeing and Mental Health Offer

A recent West London Health Watch report highlighted that 83% children are highlighting that Covid-19 has impacted on their mental health; interestingly most outlined that they would ordinarily turn to their parents or peers for support and in the absence of this would talk to their school. We have continued to promote services that are available locally and sent out a wellbeing brochure to residents supporting their children learning from home. We continue to work with our emotional wellbeing and mental health providers and wider stakeholders to communicate and promote the local offer to young people. We expect to see a significant uptake in this offer in the upcoming months as children return to school.

2.4 Tackling Youth Unemployment

A new priority in our City for All strategy is tackling youth unemployment. Twice as many young people have dropped out of college this year and youth unemployment is up by approximately 250%.

2.5 18 to 25 Mental Health Service Pilot Wellbeing Pilot

The pilot of an integrated service that will provide young adults with a holistic support in the community from mental health practitioners and other workers is progressing as expected. Due to the impacts of Covid-19 on young people we have also been focusing on employability strategies. We have commenced discussions with potential providers to test the market and have begun the drafting of a business case and commissioning strategy.

Smart City

2.6 Children’s Learning: Digital Futures Project

We continue to promote children being able to learn from home by ensuring they have a digital device and access to the internet. As of 8th March, **4939** laptops have been distributed to children in Westminster schools – through a combined effort from the DfE and through our local Digital Futures Programme, working with a local voluntary service and connecting with local businesses.

3 **Areas of focus**

3.1 COVID Winter Grant Key Updated Figures

- Over **6,800** Free School Meal vouchers were distributed over Christmas and February half term holidays.
- We ensured that over **1,650** of our families in greatest finance need received grant support ahead of Christmas.
- Our housing department has extended this to an additional **1,100** low income families in Feb/March.

3.2 Outbreak Control Process

The figures below represent positive Covid-19 cases among pupils and staff in schools, nurseries and Early Years/ Children’s Centres from 4th January 2021 – 5th March 2021.

Setting type	No. of cases in pupils	No. of cases in staff	Sum of Total
Independent	0	1	1

Secondary	1	0	1
Primary	23	21	44
Special	2	6	8
Nursery / Early Years & Children's Centres	23	39	63
Total	49	67	117

3.3 Library Updates

Following the announcement of national lockdown 3.0, government guidelines have allowed some libraries to remain open to provide limited essential services. We also have received £10,000 from the National Archives to support business archiving. Since February we have been piloting a 6-week trial of virtual afterschool activities aligning with DfE advice and guidelines including book club and various creative sessions.

3.4 Working with Children, Young People and Families

Social Care staff continue to support families during lockdown 3.0. Our front-line workers have continued to visit those most at risk and multi-agency child protection conferences continue to be facilitated virtually. **Family Hubs** are remaining open for walk-in support. **Youth Clubs** in Westminster are providing a virtual offer and onsite contact for our most vulnerable groups.

4 **Performance Updates**

4.1 Social Care

Social care continues to perform well against key indicators. Our numbers of looked after children have not risen during the pandemic and the virtual school programme continues to provide additional educational support. Placements for children in our care have remained stable and our care leavers continue to be accommodated appropriately with education, employment and training pathways continued to be tracked.

The Tri Borough adoption agency arrangements with Hammersmith ceased in January 2020, when the Bi Borough joined the 'Coram Ambitious for Adoption', Regional Adoption Agency (RAA). 4 children were placed for adoption from the Bi Borough in Q1 – Q3 and a further 5 are currently subject of permanency planning.

4.1 Appointments to Register Births Available Within 5 Days of Enquiry

There has been increased demand for birth registrations due to clearing backlog of birth registrations from lockdown 1.0 (where births were restricted to those in urgent need only).

4.3 Increasing demand for services to support children with SEND

We have seen increased referrals for our SEND Short Break services which puts pressure on our team's capacity and on funding. Short Break referrals have continued to remain high during the pandemic at 6 per week. Recent referrals for assessment of pre-school aged children mirror the national spike in referrals due to Covid-19. Although we are able to meet the statutory timescales in 100% of cases, an increase could mean that this is unsustainable.

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Business and Children's Policy and Scrutiny Committee

Date:	22 March 2021
Classification:	General Release
Title:	Children, young people and young adult emotional wellbeing and mental health in Westminster
Report of:	Annabel Saunders
Cabinet Member Portfolio	Councillor Timothy Barnes
Wards Involved:	All
Policy Context:	City for All
Report Author and Contact Details:	Jonathan Daly Jonathan.Daly@rbkc.gov.uk

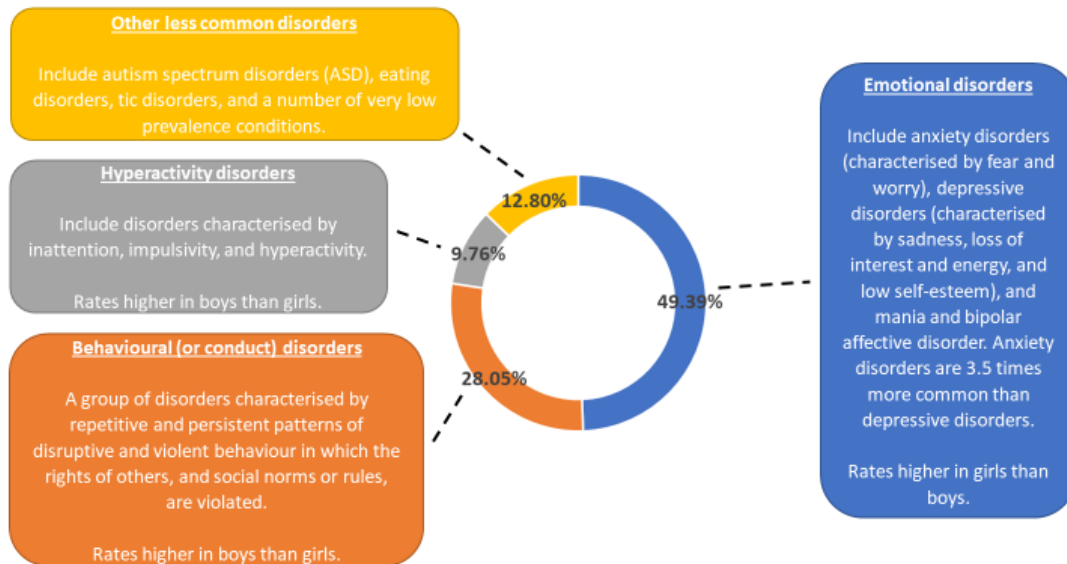
1. Summary

- 1.1. This report sets out what we mean by emotional wellbeing and mental health, what children, young people and young adult mental health looks like nationally and locally, and the impact of Covid-19. We detail what local residents and stakeholders have told us they need and how our services (both local authority and Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) funded) have and, continue to develop and adapt to meet this changing need. We then look forward to the steps we would like to take to most effectively respond to the changing and increased need we are starting to see, linked to the impact of Covid-19. This will include better promoting the offer we have available locally and taking steps to meet additional needs that exist in this area.

2. What do we mean by emotional wellbeing and mental health and what do mental health disorders look like in practice?

- 2.1. We use the term emotional wellbeing and mental health (EWMH) in its broadest sense to cover needs and support that focuses on keeping people mentally well and resilient. Mental health disorders are diagnosable conditions and defined

as problems with mental health that impact on an individual's daily lives including difficulties with emotions, behaviour, relationships, hyperactivity, or concentration. These can be grouped into 4 main types for children and young people. Their prevalence varies by gender with an average figure across all children and young people (CYP) below¹:



3. What children, young people and young adult emotional wellbeing and mental health looks like nationally and locally

3.1. Nationally, one in six CYP aged 5 to 16 years old have a probable mental disorder². For young people and young adults (YA) aged 17-22 this increases to one in five.³

3.2. Many factors impact on how likely a CYP is to be suffering from poor mental health. For example, we know that:

- A CYP living in a household that is struggling financially is twice as likely to have a probable mental health disorder than their peers⁴
- This increases to three times as likely for CYP living in households where parents are mentally unwell or where the family is struggling to function effectively⁵

¹ <https://files.digital.nhs.uk/A6/EA7D58/MHCYP%202017%20Summary.pdf>

² <https://digital.nhs.uk/data-and-information/publications/statistical/mental-health-of-children-and-young-people-in-england/2020-wave-1-follow-up>

³ Ibid

⁴ Ibid

⁵ Ibid

- For those aged 16-25 that are not in employment, education or training (NEET) mental ill health prevalence jumps to 24%⁶
- The likelihood of a probable mental disorder increases with age with a noticeable difference in gender for the older age group (17 to 22 years) where one in four young women and one in eight young men have a probable mental disorder⁷
- Childhood through to early adulthood is the crucial time to be supporting CYP&YA to be resilient and stay well – as we know that 50% of mental health issues are established by age 14 and 75% by age 24⁸
- The impact of failing to provide effective intervention can be devastating – with suicide being the most common cause of death for young people aged 16-24⁹, with 7% of CYP having attempted suicide by the age of 17 and almost one in four CYP having self-harmed in the past year¹⁰
- Perhaps the most sobering statistic of all is that it takes an average of 10 years for a young person to get help from them first showing symptoms of mental ill health¹¹ and by that point so much damage is already done. Two key interrelated reasons for this are the continued stigma around mental health and a lack of understanding in the population about mental health conditions that prevents effective identification and therefore treatment. Thereafter the historic gap in early intervention capacity stymies those that seek support.

3.3. It is clear the Covid-19 pandemic is currently having a detrimental impact on the EWMH of CYP, with estimates of an increase in need of up to 50%.¹² In a recent survey carried out locally by Young Healthwatch Westminster 88% of CYP said that Covid-19 has had an impact on their mental health.¹³ This impact will be felt longer term over the coming years, with the level of underlying mental health problems expected to remain significantly higher as a result of the pandemic. However, this increased need hasn't yet translated into significant increases in CYP accessing our local EWMH services. The restriction of lockdown has played a key role in this.

3.4. Rates of probable mental disorders have increased significantly since 2017. In 2020, one in six (16.0%) children aged 5 to 16 years were identified as having a

⁶ Disorders in the National Comorbidity Survey, Lifetime Prevalence and Age-of-Onset Distributions of DSM-IV

⁷ <https://digital.nhs.uk/data-and-information/publications/statistical/mental-health-of-children-and-young-people-in-england/2020-wave-1-follow-up>

⁸ https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/414024/Childrens_Mental_Health.pdf

⁹ https://media.samaritans.org/documents/SamaritansSuicideStatsReport_2019_Full_report.pdf

¹⁰ <https://cls.ucl.ac.uk/wp-content/uploads/2020/11/Mental-ill-health-at-age-17---CLS-briefing-paper---website.pdf>

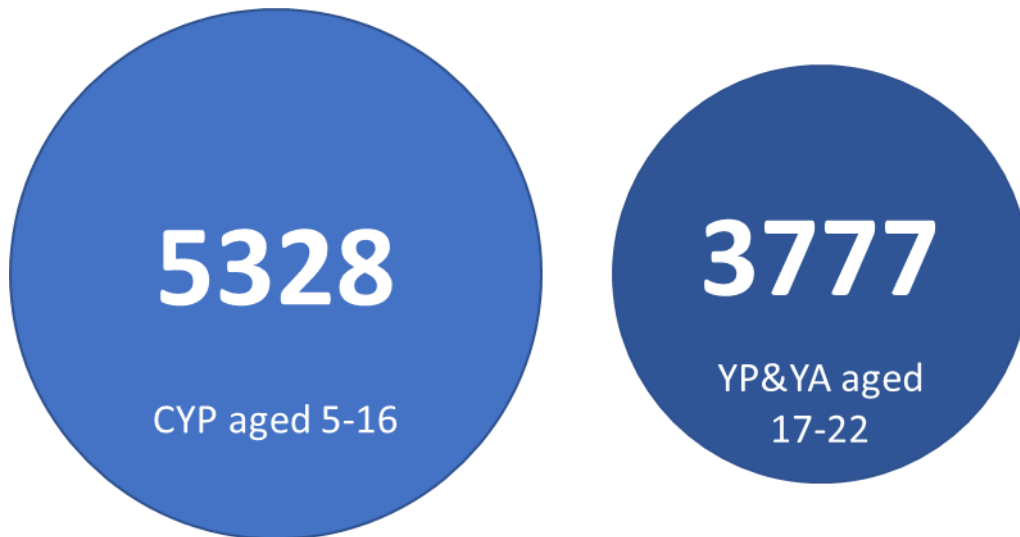
¹¹ https://www.centreformentalhealth.org.uk/sites/default/files/2018-09/CentreforMentalHealth_MissedOpportunities.pdf

¹² <https://digital.nhs.uk/data-and-information/publications/statistical/mental-health-of-children-and-young-people-in-england/2020-wave-1-follow-up>

¹³ <https://healthwatchcwl.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2020/07/Bridging-the-gap-young-peoples-experiences-of-mental-health.pdf>

probable mental disorder, an increase from one in nine (10.8%) in 2017.¹⁴ The increase was evident in both boys and girls.

- 3.5. Locally in Westminster this translates to this many CYP aged 5-16 and YP&YA aged 17-22 having a probable mental disorder:



- 3.6. Historically CYP&YA EWMH support has been under prioritised and underfunded nationally. Despite some genuine progress made in the last 5 years, this is still the case today where a significant gap remains between the levels of childrens against adults funding and in the gap (parity of esteem) between physical and mental health. As such, the national targets for the number of CYP with diagnosable mental health conditions that should be able to receive support is only 35% of the total CYP that are estimated to need it. Locally that currently translates to a target of 907 CYP accessing support through NHS funded mental health support services (including CAMHS and the Mental Health Support Teams (MHST)) in the Central London CCG area. This target is currently being met. Regarding young adults (18-25) the situation is even more stark. Our best estimate based on prevalence surveys, local IAPT take up by age and CCG BI data,¹⁵ is that approximately 85% of those with a diagnosable mental ill-health are not accessing support locally.

4. Our local approach and arrangements

- 4.1. Our stated ambition locally in our Joint CCG and Bi-Borough Children and Young People's Emotional Wellbeing and Mental Health Plan is to deliver a whole system approach to CYP&YA EWMH.¹⁶ Practically this involves delivering an offer that focuses on wellbeing in its broadest sense and in doing

¹⁴ <https://digital.nhs.uk/data-and-information/publications/statistical/mental-health-of-children-and-young-people-in-england/2020-wave-1-follow-up>

¹⁵ Combined Mid-Year 2018 estimates, NHS England and IAPT usage data

¹⁶ https://search3.openobjects.com/mediamanager/biborough/directory/files/2019-11-28_-_joint_cyp_emotional_wellbeing_and_mental_health_plan_-_final_1.pdf

so seeks to stop people getting ill (through effective prevention and early intervention) and gives them a choice of appropriate support when they need it (in terms of from whom, where and how they access it). We believe that EWMH needs to be everyone's business and that our offer needs to span across a wide range of local agencies, not just be confined to our specialist NHS Child and Adolescence Mental Health Services (CAMHS) and NHS Adult Mental Health services (AMHS). This is because EWMH is influenced by so many factors and impacts in so many areas, it doesn't abide by or align with service or organisational boundaries. In designing and delivering our local offer of EWMH support we work very closely with our key stakeholders locally, within the local authority, with wider public sector partners such as health and schools/colleges and with local community and voluntary sector organisations including youth providers.

4.2. CYP&YA EWMH is a priority for the Council, our Health colleagues at the CCG and wider local partners. As such, the offer of support available is made up of a mixture of commissioned support (LA and CCG) and directly delivered support (LA and partners). The CCG commissions the large majority (87%) of the £4.88m of local¹⁷ EWMH services (including the majority of local CAMHS services and the MHSTs in schools) with the LA commissioning the remaining 13% (£0.63m).¹⁸ In terms of the NHS Trust clinical CAMHS offer locally the local authority solely commissions the Looked After Children CAMHS Team, a Learning Disability CAMHS Nurse, a substance misuse CAMHS worker and jointly funds the CAMHS Early Intervention Team with the CCG. Beyond the CAMHS offer the Local Authority solely funds an enhanced offer of support from the charity Mind in non-MHST schools and threptic support for CYP who have been impacted by domestic abuse and jointly funds Kooth online counselling with the CCG.

5. What our local CYP&YA and key stakeholders tell us is needed for improved EWMH

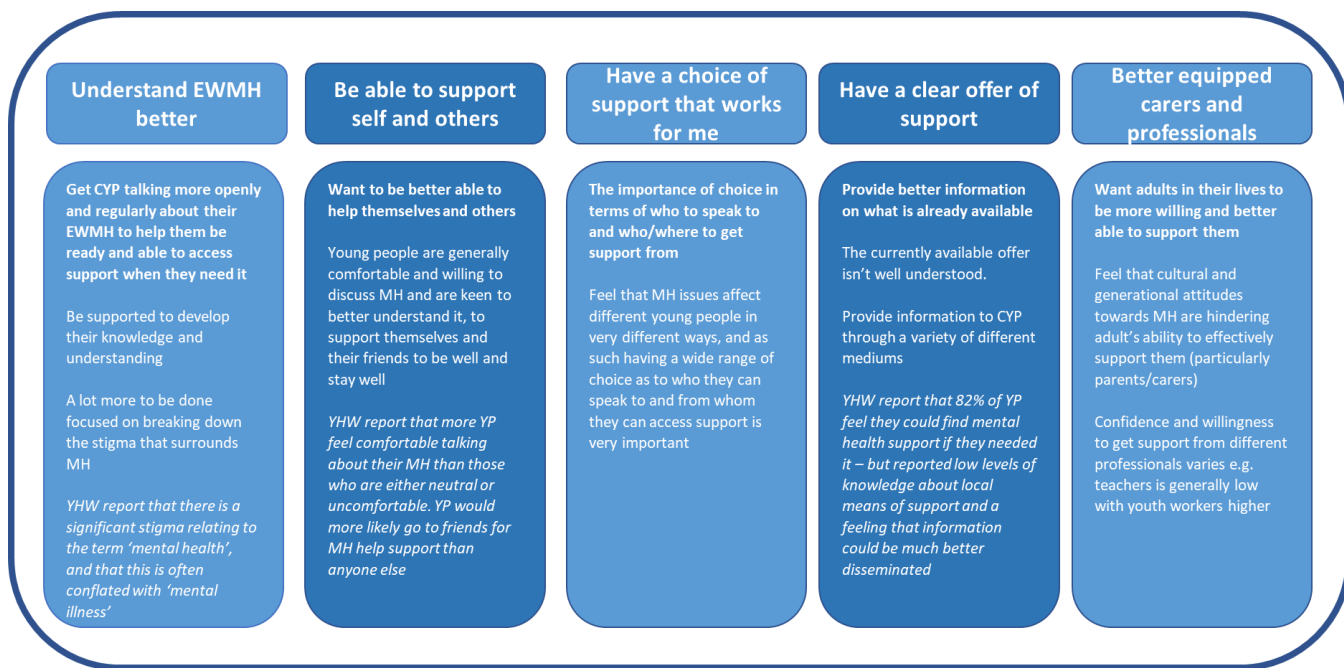
5.1. Young people have told us what they need:^{19,20}

¹⁷ Please note that the CCG commission services on a CCG boundary basis as opposed to borough boundary basis and as such this paper includes CCG information covering all areas of Westminster with the exception of Queens Park and Paddington which fall into the CCG area that also includes the whole of RBKC

¹⁸ https://search3.openobjects.com/mediamanager/biborough/directory/files/2019-11-28_-_joint_cyp_emotional_wellbeing_and_mental_health_plan_-_final_1.pdf

¹⁹ <https://healthwatchcwl.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2020/07/Bridging-the-gap-young-peoples-experiences-of-mental-health.pdf>

²⁰ https://search3.openobjects.com/mediamanager/biborough/directory/files/2019-11-28_-_joint_cyp_emotional_wellbeing_and_mental_health_plan_-_final_1.pdf



5.2. Schools in Westminster have recently told us what they are worried about:²¹

- Students are **feeling isolated and experiencing a lack of socialisation and routine**. They are being impacted by a **lack of sleep** and/or sleep disturbance
- Welfare calls have highlighted the **wider pressures of lockdown on CYP which are impacting on their wellbeing**, including: overcrowded accommodation, relationship difficulties, inability to access device for effective digital learning, difficulty learning at home, unreasonable expectations around what can be achieved academically in these conditions
- **Issues affecting friendships** amongst CYP and difficulty around **transition** especially for children/young people who had two academic years spent in lockdown, i.e. some never visited the schools they have now transition into
- **Pressures on school staff**, including low morale and a lack of 1:1 support being available for these staff being a clear need and a gap in local provision
- **Parental stigma about mental health is a barrier to their children accessing appropriate support in schools**
- Are seeing an **increase in parents' anxiety**

5.3. In addition, partner organisations including Early Help, CAMHS, IAPT, Early Intervention Psychosis, MHSTs and youth providers have highlighted:

²¹ Feedback themes from MHST consultation with 27 Westminster schools in February 2021

- That the most significant need and gap locally is for a **better offer of support for young adults aged 18-25**. We know that the prevalence of poor mental health is highest in this age range²² and yet there is very little appropriate support available – and the large majority of young adults impacted don't receive the support they need
- There are concerns about likely higher numbers of **school refusers** as we come out of lockdown and the greater challenges in providing them with effective EWMH support
- It feels as though **transitions** (both primary to secondary and secondary to post 16) will be a key focus as we head towards the summer
- A **lack of dedicated bereavement support** has been identified as a gap in provision locally
- We don't currently have consistent **support imbedded in youth provision**. Various programmes operate, and there have been several training programmes run for youth workers, but there is no consistent therapeutic support imbedded in this provision (similar to that of the MHST model within schools)

6. Our local EWMH support offer

6.1. The Covid pandemic has required us to accelerate our work in a number of different areas, including; adapting our existing offer to meet new needs/pressure directly linked to the pandemic, putting additional support in place, further upskilling a wide range of services to support EWMH, and finding ways of more effectively virtually promoting our offer to CYP. More detail against each of these is set out below.

6.2. Our core adapted local support offer

- CAMHS services are offering a mixture of face-to-face, phone and online support– linked to the needs of the individual patients (CCG commissioned with additional funding from the LA)
- Our school based MHSTs are working in 43 of our schools and colleges. This offer includes 1:1 therapeutic support, psychoeducation groups for CYP, and various sessions for parents – all currently delivered via zoom (CCG commissioned)
- The MHSTs have been delivering psychoeducation sessions to teaching staff focused on their own EWMH and headteacher coaching circles have been facilitated to provide peer support (CCG commissioned)
- The Kooth online counselling and information service for CYP aged 11-25 continues to provide free and confidential online information and support (Joint LA and CCG commissioned)

²² Young people aged 18-25 have the highest prevalence rate at 18.4 % (NHSE, NHS digital) not taking into account the increased incidence caused by COVID and accompanying economic slowdown.

- Our Social Care Teams continue to offer 1:1 support to young people impacted by poor EWMH and their families. This work is often done jointly with Family Therapist clinicians (LA funded)
- West London Zone link workers continue to provide support to their caseload of targeted children – and this support includes a focus on EWMH (Joint LA and schools commissioned)

6.3. Additional Support we have put in place to deal with the impact of the Pandemic

- We have extended our school-based offer of support to the settings in Westminster who hadn't initially signed up to access our MHST services. This choice-based approach allows settings to tailor the support that they access to their individual needs (LA commissioned)
- We have commissioned 12 months of therapeutic support for CYP who have been impacted by domestic abuse (LA commissioned)
- Our Early Help Service is coordinating virtual Kids Time workshops to support families who are impacted by poor parental mental health (externally funded)
- We are aware that the Pandemic has increased parental conflict which can impact on the EWMH of CYP and we are part of the DWP Programme to reduce parental conflict, with virtual groups for parents forming part of this offer (externally funded)

6.4. Upskilling a wide range of professionals to support CYP EWMH

- A wide range of virtual training has been provided during lockdown – this has included our Early Help led trauma informed practice training (linked to our inclusion agenda) which has been offered and delivered to a wide range of professionals locally – including community and voluntary sector providers, wellbeing for education return for school staff and sessions covering a wide range of topics delivered by our Education Psychology Service and by the Health Education Partnership
- In the last year an additional 62 professionals across Westminster City Council and the Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea have qualified as Youth Mental Health First Aiders (YMHFA) bringing the overall total locally to 316. Our ambition locally is for as many professionals as possible working with young people to have this training – and as such it has been offered fully funded and delivered to a wide range of public sector and community/voluntary sector partners
- The Education Psychology Service has developed and distributed a range of EWMH education focused resources, including a recovery curriculum that contains resources for nursery, primary and secondary schools
- Information on bereavement and its impact on CYP EWMH was developed and shared widely, in response to concerns locally about this

- Our Youth Offending Service staff have received training in emotional coaching – a trauma informed intervention to support CYP

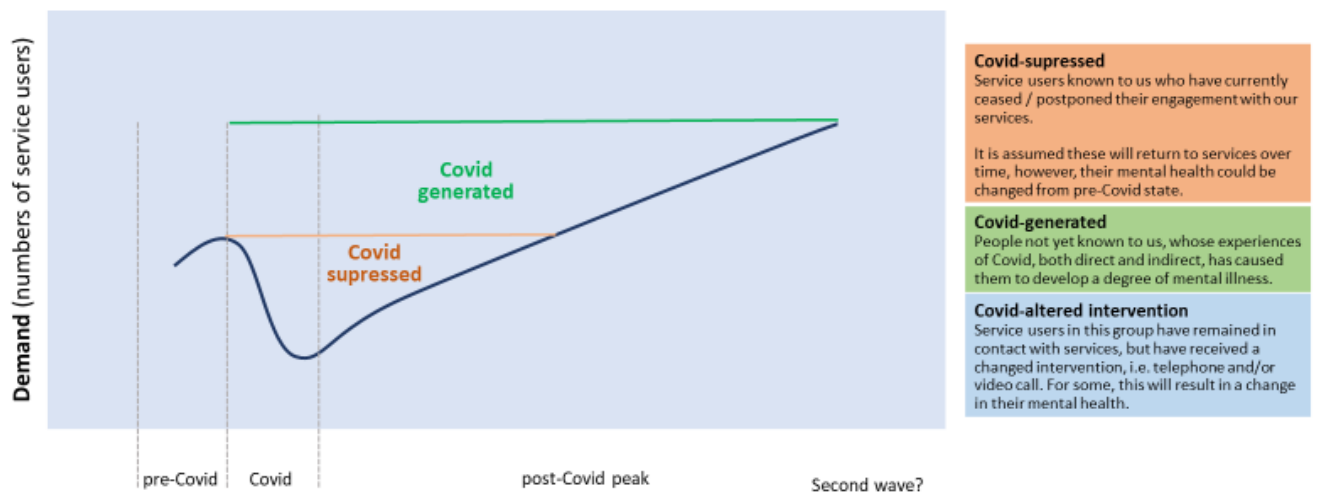
6.5. Take up of our local support offer

6.6. The number of referrals into our local EWMH services have fluctuated over the past year – largely aligned with the periods of lockdown. We know that the lockdowns have provided a barrier to some CYP accessing services (despite the effective shift to online delivery in our local services) which could have resulted in young people accessing support less/later, or not at all (we have seen an increase of 7% in crisis presentations locally).

6.7. The expected impact of Covid on demand locally

6.8. We expect the pandemic will have both increased the prevalence of poor mental health in our local CYP&YA population as well as hindered access to support. As such, we are expecting an increase in need and demand locally over the next few years. We are seeing the early signs of this in the system – however the full-scale won't be realised until we are out of lockdown and into Covid short-medium term recovery. Future demand is expected to be impacted by various factors. These will include:²³

Forecasting future demand



6.9. Our plans going forward to help meet the additional need resulting from the Pandemic

- We are looking to expand our EWMH offer for our Care Leavers

²³ <https://www.centreformentalhealth.org.uk/covid-19-forecast-modelling-toolkit>

- An additional tuition offer for our Looked After Children is being developed to ensure that these children are well supported and don't fall behind
- We are going to deliver more YMHFA (a further 32 professionals trained by the summer), trauma informed training and will deliver Suicide Prevention training to 90 professionals over the next few months (and will commission more of this to be delivered soon)
- In recognition of the links between unemployment and poorer mental health and the lack of mental health support for 18-25 year olds, we are going to be implementing an enhanced, integrated 18-25 offer, Bridging the Gap. This will provide wrap-around flexible person-centred support inside our youth provision and a new young adults mental health team. We have drawn heavily on an existing well-evidenced model in Camden and extended it to meet local need in employment. We are collaborating with the North West London CCG and our local health trust (CNWL) in its further development
- We are putting in therapeutic support to help parent/carers around the point of SEND diagnosis
- We are going to fund the training and provide staffing cover costs for an additional 15 Emotional Literacy Support Assistants (ELSAs) in Westminster schools – building on the successful programme already in place across WCC and RBKC
- The Suicide Prevention Partnership are delivering a learning event for professionals focused on understanding and responding to self-harm
- We are working with our youth sector to explore options for therapeutic support to be imbedded in youth services locally

6.10. Promoting our offer to CYP and parents/carers most effectively

6.11. The Young Healthwatch survey showed that almost 2/3 of CYP would go to family for help and support with their mental health and the same number would turn to friends.²⁴ This was significantly higher than any other potential sources of support e.g. a member of school staff or a GP.

6.12. However, the survey also showed that less than 5% of CYP had heard about sources of available support from friends or family. There is a significant disparity here. One of our priorities is improving the way that we communicate our available offer to CYP&YA and parents/carers. Developments include:

- We are working with the Westminster Communication Team to develop a promotion and campaign approach – working closely with our local key EWMH stakeholders

²⁴ <https://healthwatchcwl.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2020/07/Bridging-the-gap-young-peoples-experiences-of-mental-health.pdf>

- Our local Mind charity has developed and promoted an online EWMH video platform populated with interactive and accessible video content on a range of EWMH topics
- Kooth has promoted their offer through various popular social media platforms
- MHSTs have produced a large number of pre-recorded sessions for staff, CYP and parents and have shared these through their schools
- The Education Psychology Service has developed and distributed a guide for parents on supporting CYP Emotional Wellbeing during school closure
- We are running an EWMH event for parents/carers in March

7. Moving forward and next steps

7.1. Despite best efforts there are some clear local gaps that aren't being met. These include:

- Services for young adults aged 18-25. This includes support for those who meet CAMHS thresholds but not those of adult mental health services and in particular young adults that are likely to have multiple additional vulnerabilities such as unemployment and work insecurity, substance abuse, poor sexual health, being part of the justice system or effected by crime, and suffering from poor housing or homelessness
- Strengthening our whole school approach. This also includes 1-1 therapeutic support for schools staff focused on teachers' wellbeing. This is an area being consistently asked for locally, with common themes emerging from school staff drop-in's around, isolation, lack of sense of belonging (especially newly qualified teachers), loneliness, low mood and anxiety for school staff
- The absence of adequate bereavement support for children and adults (which has been flagged as a local and national need). With Covid having killed nearly 1 in every 500 people, and lockdowns having impacted on people's ability to care for their loved ones and say goodbye, bereavement has and will continue to have a real impact
- Adequate support for challenging behaviour and or Autism Spectrum Disorder/Learning Disability and the interface with EWMH
- Best practice communication of our service offer which for many interconnected reasons is not well understood and remains inaccessible for young people and parents/carers

7.2. Officers note the ask from the Business and Children's Policy and Scrutiny Committee to establish a Working Group focused on understanding the heightened EWMH needs for CYP due to Covid-19 and ensuring that support is available to address this as part of a whole system offer with schools and the wider community. It is proposed that this group will make recommendations to the Cabinet Member for Young People and Learning.

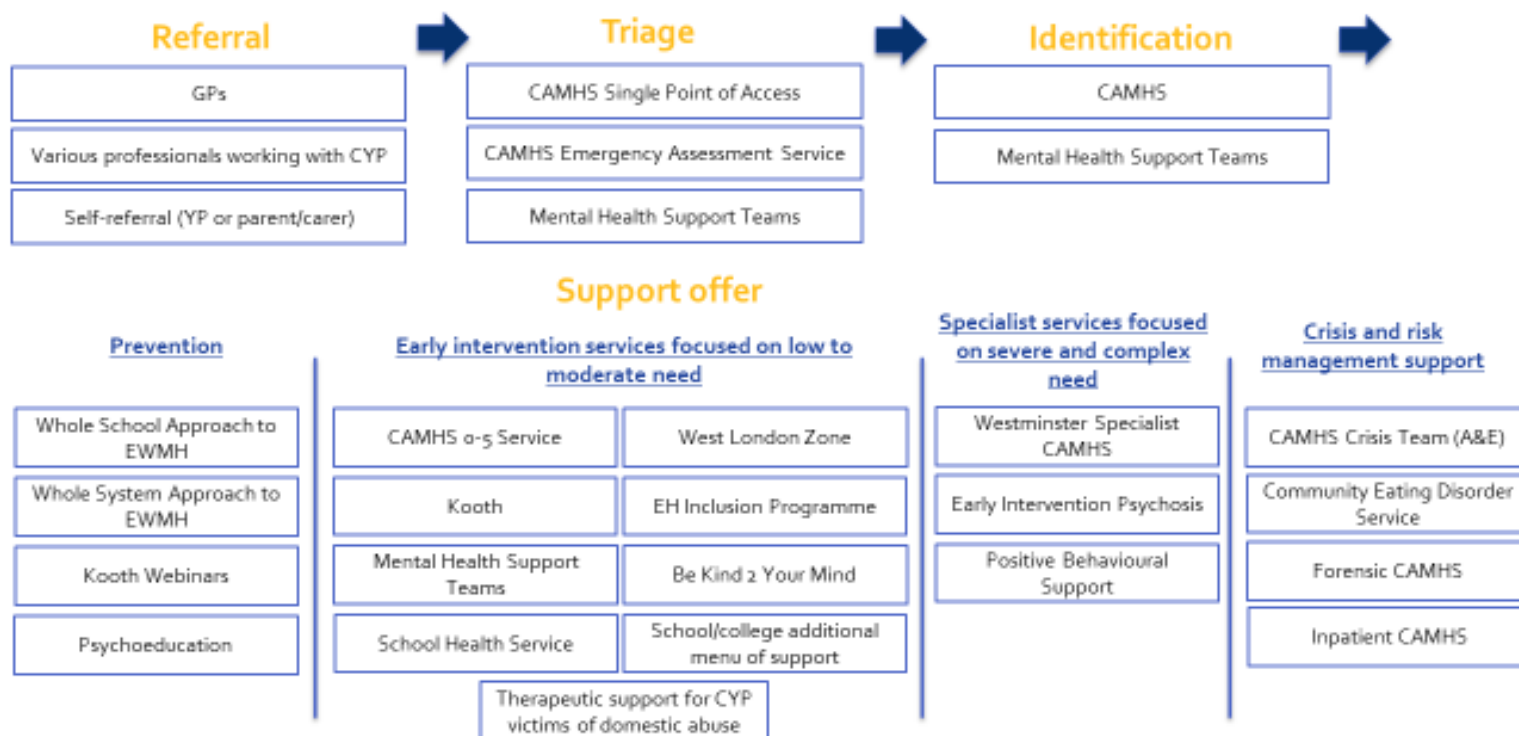
- 7.3. Recognising that EWMH is cross-cutting, we feel that there would be real benefit in EWMH being a formal strand of the Westminster Covid recovery work. This will help to ensure that EWMH is sitting at the heart of the short-medium term recovery in the Borough.

Appendix 1 – Additional information on our local offer of support

Partnership approach to better EWMH

- Children's Services works in partnership with the CCG, other Council departments and various organisations across the borough to develop and deliver provision for children and young people who may require support with their emotional wellbeing and mental health (EWMH). Key partners include the NHS Trust (Central and North West London), Mental Health Support Teams, Schools and Colleges, the Early Help Partnership and Commissioned Services.

Overview of pathway to EWMH provision



Support offer explained

Prevention

Whole School Approach to EWMH – Incl. Recovery Curriculum, EP Service, Healthy Schools Awards, PHSE

Whole System Approach to EWMH – Incl. Trauma Informed Practice, Youth Mental Health First Aid Training, Suicide Prevention Training

Kooth Webinars – Training giving an overview of the Kooth service offer and how to support YP to sign up to the service

Psychoeducation – Delivered to CYP (through Be Kind 2 Your Mind and Mental Health Support Teams) and to Parents (through Mental Health Support Teams)

Early intervention services focused on low to moderate need

CAMHS 0-5 Service – Offers specialist treatment and consultation to both parents and professionals aimed at improving the wellbeing of children under five years old

Kooth – Online counselling and emotional wellbeing support service for young people and young adults aged 11-25 years

Mental Health Support Teams – Provide support for mild to moderate mental health needs in schools and colleges. The support takes the form of one-on-one and group work

School Health Service – A named school nurse in each school who supports the physical and mental health of children and young people aged 5-19 years

Be Kind 2 Your Mind – Offering support including 1:1 practical wellbeing advice and Art Therapy

West London Zone – Offering a range of tailored support to children, including focused EWMH support

EH Inclusion Programme – Offering an intensive trauma informed team around the family approach to young people at high risk of exclusion

School/college additional menu of support – Offering additional support for non-MHST schools – focused on pupils, staff and parents

Therapeutic support for CYP victims of domestic abuse – Offering specialist support to CYP who have been impacted by domestic abuse

Specialist services focused on severe and complex need

Westminster Specialist CAMHS – Provides community mental health services to CYP with complex mental health difficulties (including through art therapy, psychotherapy, CBT, Family Therapy). Teams covering core CAMHS offer as well as more targeted CAMHS support to more vulnerable groups of CYP e.g. involved in the YOT, impacted by gangs/serious youth violence/child sexual exploitation, in Alternative Provision, who have Autism, LD, and Behavioural Support needs

Early Intervention Psychosis – Specialist support for young people experiencing their first episode of psychosis

Positive Behavioural Support Consultancy – Provides intense behaviour support to children on the Dynamic Support Register who are at risk of placement breakdown, admission to hospital, or are in need of specialist support

Crisis and risk management support

CAMHS Crisis Team (A&E) – Supporting complex or serious mental health problems and/or CYP experiencing a mental health crisis

Community Eating Disorder Service – Specialist services for people suffering from anorexia nervosa, bulimia nervosa and other eating disorders

Forensic CAMHS – Provides support to young people who have mental health problems who may be in contact with the criminal justice system

Inpatient CAMHS – Residential service providing intensive assessment and treatment for children with complex emotional, behavioural and psychological difficulties





Business and Children's Policy and Scrutiny Committee

Date:	22 nd March 2021
Classification:	General Release
Title:	Environment Supplementary Planning Document
Report of:	Pedro Wrobel, Executive Director, Innovation and Change
Cabinet Member Portfolio	Cabinet Member for Business, Licensing and Planning
Wards Involved:	All
Policy Context:	The Environment Supplementary Planning Document provides guidance on the application of the new City Plan 2019 – 2040 policies
Report Author and Contact Details:	Kimberley West, Head of City Planning Policy kwest@westminster.gov.uk

1. Executive Summary

- 1.1. The Council announced a Climate Emergency in September 2019 and set the ambition for it to be carbon neutral by 2030, with the whole city to follow suit by 2040, 10 years ahead of the Government target of 2050. Having an up to date, ambitious and robust planning policy context that will support these aims will be crucial in achieving them by enabling the negotiation of enhanced planning decisions for new development.
- 1.2. As part of the up to date framework, the council has committed to producing an Environment SPD (ESPD) to follow the adoption of the City Plan. It will provide additional detail to the new City Plan environment policies, specifically air quality, energy, noise and light pollution, waste, sustainable retrofitting, green infrastructure and flooding. It will therefore supplement the council's strengthened planning position relating to climate resilience and will help to ensure that the highest possible proportion of development requiring planning permission achieves net zero carbon emissions. It will also tell the story of our ambitions on environment and climate with positive and ambitious statements on key issues such as design and heritage (including double glazing).

1.3. The ESPD will:

- i. act as an ambitious statement on the council's response to the Climate Emergency;
- ii. set out the council's expectation of what net zero carbon means and looks like in the Westminster context; and,
- iii. assist and guide developers and landowners so that they can play their part in addressing the climate emergency.

2. Key Matters for the Committee's Consideration

Content

2.1 Each chapter of the ESPD will be thematic and set the context for the subject it is explaining in terms of national and regional policy before diving into the detail to expand on the local policy. A summary of each chapter's intended contents is provided below.

Question 1: The committee are asked if the ESPD should cover any other policy issues / areas of environmental policy?

Air Quality

2.2 This chapter sets out the council's ambitions set out in its [Air Quality Manifesto](#) and [Air Quality Action Plan](#) as local context to the new City Plan policy. It explains what the council considers 'air quality neutral' and 'air quality positive' to be and how developments can achieve either status to adhere to the policy, including examples of common mitigation methods used. It then also explains in detail what information is required to be submitted as part of a planning application to enable the council to assess compliance.

Local Environmental Impacts

2.3 This chapter covers light pollution, noise, vibration, odour, land contamination and construction impacts. It will set out the standards expected to be achieved by development for each of these issues in order to manage and mitigate impacts of development and contribute to amenity of neighbours and occupiers of new development. It will help to provide a complete picture of how the City Plan's environmental policies are to be effectively implemented.

Green Infrastructure

2.4 This chapter will guide developers on how they can incorporate greening elements into their schemes to contribute to the network of green infrastructure in the city, address deficiencies and improve biodiversity. It will explain the council's approach to the Urban Greening Factor and how we plan

to utilise the 'Wild West End' value matrix – giving this approach to increasing greening across the city material weight.

Flood Risk

- 2.5 This chapter will add more detail to the City Plan policy on flooding to guide developers in the design of their schemes so that flood risk is considered at the early stages of design and can be effectively mitigated. This chapter will link into the council's Strategic Flood Risk Assessment which provides detailed information on the risk of flooding to the borough.

Energy

- 2.6 This chapter is one of the most relevant to the Climate Change Emergency as it is concerned with the energy policy and carbon reduction. It will set out the council's support for the *Be Lean, Be Clean, Be Green* energy hierarchy and will explain what each level of the hierarchy means for development in Westminster. It will set out the minimum requirements for a 'Whole Life Carbon' approach which is encouraged by the City Plan policy.
- 2.7 Guidance will be given on how low embodied carbon materials can be incorporated into building projects to assist with lowering carbon-impacts of new development, such as cross laminated timber and natural fibre insulation. The chapter will also explain the technical aspects of the policy's application such as how to estimate 'Carbon Emission Factors' which will assist applicants and the council to understand the potential impacts of new development and influence decision making.
- 2.8 The chapter will advocate design solutions that can reduce energy such as passive solar design which can aid with cooling. Finally, this chapter will provide useful guidance on how applicants can adopt Building Management Systems and Environmental Assessment Methodologies to monitor and regulate energy use and for the council to fully understand the impact a building will potentially have at application stage. Guidance on information that is required to be provided alongside a planning application to enable the council to assess its adherence to the energy policy will be given in this chapter.

Waste Management

- 2.9 The next chapter will provide guidance on the Waste Management policy, advocating the waste hierarchy and circular economy to reduce waste and encourage more recycling of building materials as well as household waste. It explains what these concepts are and what information needs to be included in a Circular Economy Statement.

- 2.10 This chapter will give applicants guidance on how to adhere to the City Plan policy by explaining what information is required to be submitting alongside their planning applications with regards to waste storage and, for major residential or commercial developments, waste management plans. The chapter will therefore contribute to better management of waste in new developments across the city.

Design Principles

- 2.11 The final chapter will be concerned with retrofitting and sustainable design and therefore expand upon elements of the Design Principles policy in the City Plan. It will provide guidance and advocate different retrofit measures such as insulation, draughtproofing and secondary glazing as well as advising on heating and energy solutions for historic buildings including where the use of photovoltaics and other similar technologies may be appropriate.
- 2.12 This chapter will essentially subsume, and where possible update, the existing informal guidance published by the council in 2013 [Retrofitting Historic Buildings](#), giving its content material weight in the determination of planning applications.

Consultation

- 2.13 The City Plan is due to be adopted in late April/early May and public consultation on the ESPD will therefore follow later in May. The Town and Country Planning Regulations 2012 require consultation to be run for a minimum of four weeks.
- 2.14 Given the importance of the ESPD to the council's climate emergency response and the need for collaboration on environmental issues that affect the built environment in order to achieve carbon reduction targets etc. it is suggested that consultation runs for longer than the statutory minimum and meaningful, targeted engagement activities with key stakeholders (such as the development industry, neighbourhood forums and landowners) are undertaken throughout the consultation period. This will ensure that a wide variety of views and expertise is gathered to inform the document, the council will have ample opportunity to explain the content of the document to stakeholders; and wide buy-in is gained on what the council are trying to achieve.

Question 2: The committee are asked for their views on an engagement strategy as part of the public consultation.

Strengths and limitations of the document

- 2.15 The ESPD, alongside the new City Plan policies, represents a significant shift in the council's narrative on the environment and uplift in the standards the council expects developers to adhere to. It gives much more prominence and weight to environment issues than the current planning framework does and represents a game changer on issues such as sustainable retrofitting of historic properties or protection of tranquil spaces from noise pollution for which the council has only had informal guidance on previously.
- 2.16 However, a supplementary planning document cannot create new policy, it can only add further detail or explanation to adopted policy (i.e. the new City Plan policies). And for some areas, behaviour change can only be encouraged rather than mandated owing to the constraints on what planning policy can and can't control. The recent reforms to further de-regulate the planning system mean that change of use between commercial premises no longer requires planning permission and therefore conditions cannot be placed on new commercial uses, such as restaurants to require high level ducting to manage odour, for example.
- 2.17 However, by acting as a showcase of the council's ambitions for the future of the built environment and shining a spotlight on the issues that all businesses must collectively work together to resolve to address the climate emergency, the ESPD will act as a catalyst for wider adoption of measures and technologies, (such as carbon reduction) encouraging the adoption of them even where planning permission is not required (e.g. because of planning reform, or in building refurbishments, office fit outs etc.).

Question 3: The committee are asked for their views on how the ESPD can be best promoted in the context of the wider work the council is undertaking on the Climate Emergency response.

If you have any queries about this Report or wish to inspect any of the Background Papers, please contact Kimberley West, Head of City Planning Policy kwest@westminster.gov.uk

APPENDICES:

1. Glossary of terms in environment policies

BACKGROUND PAPERS

[City Plan 2019 - 2040](#) (Submission version)

Appendix 1: Glossary of terms in environment policies

Air quality neutral

An Air Quality Neutral development is one that meets, or improves upon, the air quality neutral benchmarks published in guidance from the GLA. The benchmarks set out the maximum allowable emissions of NOx and Particulate Matter based on the size and use class of the proposed development. Separate benchmarks are set out for emissions arising from the development and from transport associated with the development. Air Quality Neutral applies only to the completed development and does not include impacts arising from construction, which should be separately assessed in the Air Quality Assessment

Air quality positive

Air quality positive is when developments are considered to have a positive impact on air quality in a specific area or neighbourhood.

Building Management Systems

Building Management Systems (BMS) can be an important tool in monitoring and regulating energy use in developments. BMS are available for developments of various scales and as the operation of the building accounts for the vast majority of emissions, they are now an important component of climate resilient buildings.

Carbon Emission Factors

The carbon emissions produced by new buildings is estimated using Carbon Emission Factors, which are periodically updated to reflect the changing carbon intensities of fuel supply.

Circular economy

An economic model in which resources are kept in use at the highest level possible for as long as possible in order to maximise value and reduce waste, moving away from the traditional linear economic model of 'make, use, dispose'.

Energy hierarchy

A tiered approach to reducing carbon dioxide emissions in the built environment. The first step is to reduce energy demand (be lean), the second step is to supply energy efficiently (be clean) and the third step is using renewable energy (be green).

Environmental Assessment Methodologies

In these assessments, information about the environmental effects of a project is collected, assessed and taken into account in reaching a decision on whether the project should go ahead or not.

Urban Greening Factor

A land-use planning tool to help determine the amount of greening required in new developments.

Waste hierarchy

Ranks waste management options according to what is best for the environment. It gives top priority to preventing waste in the first place. When waste is created, it

gives priority to preparing it for re-use, then recycling, then recovery, and last of all disposal (e.g. landfill).

Whole Life Carbon

Whole life-cycle carbon emissions are the total greenhouse gas emissions arising from a development over its lifetime, from the emissions associated with raw material extraction, the manufacture and transport of building materials, to installation/ construction, operation, maintenance and eventual material disposal.

Wild West End Matrix

A tool to assign values to green space. Values are assigned based on the below factors and the greater number of functions that a site fulfils, the greater value it has.

- Biodiversity
- Climate
- Microclimate
- Wellbeing and
- Social