



2180 Century Way  
Thorpe Park  
Leeds  
LS15 8ZB

19<sup>th</sup> August 2014

Leeds Local Medical Committee Limited  
2 Farrar Lane  
Leeds  
West Yorkshire  
LS16 7AA

Dear Dr Sathiyaseelan,

**Re: Emotional and Mental Health Services for children in Leeds**

Thank you for your letter dated 23 July 2014 where you summarised the concerns of the Leeds Medical Committee in relation to emotional and mental health service provision in the city.

The Leeds Clinical Commissioning Groups recognise the importance of children and young people's emotional and mental health, as clearly evidenced in our commissioning intentions and children's commissioning work programme.

Dr Mischenko attended your meeting and advised you that emotional and mental health has been agreed as a priority in the children's joint commissioning programme and that this is moving at some pace. During 2014 a number of developments have already been progressed, such as the commissioning of an online digital counselling service for care leavers, improved pathways in place for young people who self-harm and exciting work to co-design a website with young people specifically for emotional and mental health.

Dr Mischenko presented a briefing paper to you that set out the strengths of local provision, as well as some of the risks and priorities to improve upon. The investment we undertook with partners over the last two years to seed fund the establishment of the TAMHS service across the city is a strength we are particularly pleased with. Such a local and responsive early intervention service follows an evidence-based model and is what young people are asking for – that services are delivered where they are. Whilst still in its formative years and hence some variability, the service is evaluating very well; improving emotional and mental health post intervention, as well as improved attendance and learning at school.

An area all partners are keen to progress is how to jointly commission services to ensure the whole system is joined up, so there is one point of referral for professionals and clear pathways across the

**Sent on behalf of:**

**NHS Leeds South and East Clinical Commissioning Group**  
**NHS Leeds North Clinical Commissioning Group**  
**NHS Leeds West Clinical Commissioning Group**

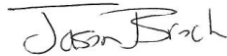
universal, targeted and specialist provision. The programme to achieve this will be discussed at the next Integrated Commissioning Executive in September.

Thank you for your letter, your comments will certainly inform our commissioning discussions. We hope that this response provides assurance that, in a context of squeezed public funding, there is a strong commitment and focus on improving the service offer and emotional and mental health of children and young people in Leeds.

Kind Regards



Dr Andy Harris  
Clinical Chief Officer  
Leeds South and East CCG



Dr Jason Broch  
GP Chair  
Leeds North CCG



Dr Gordon Sinclair  
Clinical Chair  
NHS Leeds West CCG

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