

Report of Head of Governance Services

Report to Scrutiny Board (Adult Social Services, Public Health, NHS)

Date: 25 October 2016

Subject: Autism Assessment Waiting Times – progress update

Are specific electoral Wards affected? If relevant, name(s) of Ward(s):	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Are there implications for equality and diversity and cohesion and integration?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Is the decision eligible for Call-In?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Does the report contain confidential or exempt information? If relevant, Access to Information Procedure Rule number: Appendix number:	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No

1 Purpose of this report

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to introduce an update from Leeds Community Healthcare NHS Trust in relation to the waiting times for autism assessments in Leeds and progress against the associated recovery plan.

2 Summary of main issues

- 2.1 In January 2016, the Scrutiny Board considered Leeds' Local Transformation Plan (LTP) in relation to children and young people's emotional and mental health support and service provision, key areas of discussion focused on the provision of autism assessments and the associated waiting times, and included:
- Concern about the waiting time for children to be assessed for autism
 - Concern about the lack of capacity to deliver support and undertake assessments.
 - Concern about a longer term reduction in funding for clusters and the impact of this on services.
 - Concern about the lack of preventative work being undertaken.
 - Significant concern about the availability of information regarding the number and location of autism assessments undertaken.
 - Concern about the lack of patient and public involvement, and engagement with the Scrutiny Board around the commissioning of additional capacity outside of Leeds.
- 2.2 In March 2016, the Scrutiny Board considered the recovery plan for autism assessments and service delivery. Key areas of discussion at that time included:

- Clarification sought regarding assistance received from other providers. The Board was advised about a one off occurrence to utilise provision at Huddersfield. It was not anticipated that there was a need to utilise provision elsewhere in the future.
- Confirmation that referrals into the service were mainly from GPs and school clusters.
- The support provided by schools and CAMHS prior to assessment.
- The reasons for delays to autism assessment waiting times, which included; national efficiencies, shortage of trained staff; and a commitment to addressing routine assessments.
- An update on research undertaken to help plan for the future. The Board was advised that publication of the national prevalence survey may help address issues.
- Issues associated with changes to the school cluster funding model.
- A request for information about work being undertaken by academies to address matters associated with children and young people's emotional and mental health.

2.3 In June 2016, the Scrutiny Board received an update on recent service developments leading to improved waiting times for children to be assessed for autism. At that meeting, the Board also discussed the 'single point of access' for Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services in Leeds and requested a breakdown of referrals across Leeds. The Board resolved:

- (a) That the Board receives a breakdown of autism waiting times across Leeds.
- (b) That the Board receives a breakdown of referrals into Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services across Leeds.

2.4 The purpose of this report is to introduce a further update from Leeds Community Healthcare NHS Trust on performance and progress of the service developments.

2.5 Appropriate representatives have been invited to the meeting to assist the Scrutiny Board in its consideration of the further details.

3. Recommendations

3.1 That the Scrutiny Board considers the information presented and determines any future scrutiny actions or activity.

4. Background papers¹

4.1 None used.

¹ The background documents listed in this section are available to download from the Council's website, unless they contain confidential or exempt information. The list of background documents does not include published works.