

Date 11 October 2016

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Your Ref:



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Rosemarie Whittle  
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Dear Rose

On behalf of the Children & Young People Scrutiny Committee I would like to thank you and Tracy Gardiner – Clinical Director CAMHS Network, for attending the meeting on 8<sup>th</sup> November 2016 to present a briefing on the **Child & Adolescent Mental Health Service**. During the way forward section of the meeting the Members considered the information in the report, together with answers to their questions, and agreed to provide you with the following comments and suggestions.

The Committee were pleased with the excellent work that you and your team have been undertaking to improve the overall service and the Commissioning of the Emotional Wellbeing & Support Service. The Members were particularly impressed with the progress being made by the waiting list initiative, which has already significantly reduced waiting times.

The Committee also wished to highlight a few issues, which were discussed with you, that they felt would benefit from further investigation and development, namely:

- A potential gap in the referrals process, assessment and support for early years, children under the age of 6.
- The level of capacity to meet the expected increasing demand for services and support (596 referrals since 1<sup>st</sup> June).
- Of a more specific phone number for “out of hours referrals” than the UHW switchboard.

I hope that these comments, and advice will be of use and support in improving outcomes for children. The Committee looks forward to receiving response to this letter within the next month, and would appreciate a further briefing on progress, in a year’s time.

Yours sincerely

**COUNTY COUNCILLOR RICHARD COOK**  
**Chairperson – Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee**  
CC: Tracy Gardiner – Clinical Director CAMHS Network  
Tony Young, Director of Children’s Services