

## Parent Carers Together Feedback Form

Name: Louise Middleton

Meeting description: Mental Health in Schools Project

Where was meeting held: via Teams

Date of meeting: 18<sup>th</sup> May 2021

Start & finish time: 12:30-14:00

Any future meeting dates, if known:

Feedback can be in any format; it should contain important points that came out of the meeting, your opinions, any related work that you think overlaps, action points that you might be involved with, any areas of concern. This will be shared with all PCT reps and committee.

Please email to [bethcallis@parentcarerstogether.org.uk](mailto:bethcallis@parentcarerstogether.org.uk) within 2 weeks of meeting

### FEEDBACK & COMMENTS *(please use further pages if necessary)*

5 newly qualified Educational Mental Health Practitioners (from Wave 2) and have begun to practice.

4 waiting – will qualify in July – impact of Covid meant they couldn't fulfil some of the practical work.

Wave 3 trainees, started in November, have now completed a substantive part of academic input and are now working with their teams to do the practical work. These trainees are having to complete a Whole School Approach (WSA) to Emotional Wellbeing audit. Covid-19 prevented the Wave 2 trainees from completing this on alive school.

The audit is quite intense as schools have to benchmark themselves against the 8 wellbeing domains set out in the Public Health 2015 paper 'Promoting children and young people's emotional health and wellbeing. Once completed school leaders can then identify an area they wish to focus on and then the trainee EMHP can support them with this. This piece of work once written up is submitted as one of the trainee's final assignments.

During March and April, the teams received some additional training in attachment and bereavement. Over the coming year the clinical leads will seek to consider further topics of learning to continue to support the EMHPs professional development

Cases: 158 open      367 referral made      1837 appointments offered.

New Teams: NHSE SW have confirmed funding for 4 new teams across Dorset, 2 of these teams will be based in BCP. However, it is noted that even with these new teams in place they will only cover half the schools in BCP.

Challenges: as the teams expand the current premises they are all working out of their respective areas are not large enough to accommodate them. BCP teams currently operating out of one office in Stokewood Rd Children's Centre. This centre is being re-developed and therefore they are losing the use of this room.

School Engagement: this has continued to be good. Communications have improved in the recent lockdown period, EMHPs now able to go into schools wot work with children, young people and families where child is in primary.

Referrals increased when children returned to school, first in September and again after Easter. The focus will be on balancing the flow of referrals. It has been possible to increase the caseload of those qualified EMHPs.

Several schools have commented on how important the MHSTs have been during the pandemic, so much so that other schools have asked how they sign up.

The Wellbeing for Education Return Project will continue into next academic year locally (not nationally)

The clinical leads have been working with managers from Active Dorset – connecting physical activity with Mental Health.

Teams thinking about a Good news event in September to sharing information about the project.

Asked if the teams were trained/qualified to support those with Challenging behaviours, the teams have offered early support for families, signposted and referred where necessary.

Asked Teams what would happen if parent had their own mental health issues, the MHSTs are not trained in this respect so would signpost to other support. However, they are considering appointing an Adult IAPT (Improving Access to Psychological Therapies).