

## **Committee: Children and Young People Overview and Scrutiny Panel**

**Date: 13<sup>th</sup> January 2015**

Agenda item: 10

Wards: All

**Subject: Draft Scoping Report: Emotional well being and mental health support provided to children attending Merton schools and their families Task Group**

Lead officer: Rebecca Redman, Scrutiny Officer

Lead member: Cllr Jeff Hanna, Chair of the Children and Young People Overview and Scrutiny Panel

Contact officers: Rebecca Redman, Scrutiny Officer,  
[Rebecca.redman@merton.gov.uk](mailto:Rebecca.redman@merton.gov.uk), 020 8545 4035

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### **Recommendations:**

That Members consider and approve the proposed Terms of Reference, timescales, sources of evidence, and witnesses for the task group review.

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### **1. PURPOSE OF REPORT**

- 1.1 To make proposals to Members for their task group review of emotional well being and mental health support provided to children attending Merton schools and their families.
- 1.2 To seek agreement on the proposed Terms of Reference, timescales, sources of evidence and witnesses for the review.

### **2. DETAILS**

- 2.1 At the meeting of the Children and Young People Overview and Scrutiny Panel held on 3 July 2014, Members considered and agreed their Work Programme for the 2014/2015 municipal year. Members proposed that emotional wellbeing and mental health support to children and their families be the focus of a short Task Group review.

### **3. AIM OF REVIEW**

- 3.1 The aim of the task group review is: To explore the role of schools in identifying, commissioning and providing emotional wellbeing and mental health services to children in Merton schools and to their families.

### **4. TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR THE REVIEW:**

- 4.1 The proposed terms of reference of the task group review are as follows:

- To consider how schools identify and meet the emotional and mental health needs of pupils and their families;
- To explore the commissioning role of schools in providing emotional wellbeing and mental health support services to their pupils and their families;
- To identify how the council might support and influence schools in the commissioning and delivery of emotional wellbeing and mental health services

## **5. POTENTIAL SOURCES OF EVIDENCE AND WITNESSES FOR THE REVIEW**

5.1 Members can request a range of evidence and comparative information throughout the course of the review. Members can also invite a variety of people to attend to assist in the forming of evidence-based recommendations to the Executive, and where appropriate, to partner organisations.

5.2 Members may wish to consider the following in this review: -

- Detailed officer reports supplemented by verbal evidence;
- Best practice from neighbouring Local Authorities;
- Government legislation and guidance (national, regional and local policy);
- Site visits;
- Evidence from partner organisations and stakeholders;
- Research reports/briefing papers; and
- Consultation activities

5.3 It is proposed that the Task Group consult the following stakeholders in this review:

- Voluntary and community sector organisations
- Officers within the CSF department
- CAMHS
- Schools
- Young People (youth parliament/school councils and other forums)
- Governors
- Parent Groups
- Other local authorities

## **6. OFFICER SUPPORT**

6.1 Members of the Task Group will be supported by:

**Rebecca Redman, Scrutiny Officer**

Rebecca.redman@merton.gov.uk, 020 8545 4035

**CSF Officers to be determined**

## **7. ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS**

7.1 The Panel may choose to agree a different scope and terms of reference to those proposed in this scoping report.

## 8. CONSULTATION UNDERTAKEN OR PROPOSED

- 8.1 Members are asked to give consideration to if, and how, they would like to engage witnesses in this review.

## 9. TIMETABLE

- 9.1 It is envisaged that the Task Group will undertake and complete its review within 3 months. The final report and recommendations from the review will be presented to the Children and Young People O&S Panel for endorsement at its meeting in June 2015. The following dates have been identified for the task group meetings: **11 February, 16 March, 31 March.**
- 9.2 The following reporting timescale should be borne in mind when conducting the review to ensure completion by June 2015: -

Agree scope – Children and Young People Panel 13 January 2015
Evidence gathering and analysis – February 2014 to March 2015
Agree Draft Final Report and Recommendations – March 2015
Draft Final Report to be endorsed by Children and Young People Panel – June 2015
Final Report to be considered by Cabinet – TBD
Executive Response and Action Plan to Children and Young People Panel – TBD

## 10. CO-OPTION

- 10.1 Members are asked to give consideration to co-opting representatives onto the Task Group for part, or the duration, of the review to assist the Task Group. In accordance with the Constitution any representative co-opted onto the Panel or Task Group will be a non-voting member of the Task Group and will be required to adhere to the Council's Code of Conduct for Members.

## 11. PUBLICITY

- 11.1 Members can publicise the review to encourage and facilitate resident and partner engagement and to promote the outcomes of the review upon completion. The following mechanisms for promotion/publication may be utilised throughout the review: -

- Press release in local press;
- My Merton;
- Community Forums;
- Merton council website;
- Ward councillors;
- Posters/materials in libraries and Merton Link;
- Staff bulletin board and plasma screens in civic centre; and
- Residents' panel and Centre for Public Scrutiny (outcomes)

## 12. FINANCIAL, RESOURCE AND PROPERTY IMPLICATIONS

12.1 There are none specific to this report. Any financial, resource and property implications arising from the review will be accounted for in the Task Group's Final Report.

**13. LEGAL AND STATUTORY IMPLICATIONS**

13.1 None for the purposes of this report. Any legal and statutory implications arising from the review will be accounted for in the Task Group's Final Report.

**14. HUMAN RIGHTS, EQUALITIES AND COMMUNITY COHESION IMPLICATIONS**

14.1 None specific to this report. Any human rights, equalities and community cohesion implications arising from the review will be accounted for in the Task Group's Final Report.

**15. CRIME AND DISORDER IMPLICATIONS**

15.1 None specific to this report. Any crime and disorder implications arising from the review will be accounted for in the Task Group's Final Report.

**16. RISK MANAGEMENT AND HEALTH AND SAFETY IMPLICATIONS**

16.1 None for the purposes of this report. Any risk management and health and safety implications arising from the review will be accounted for in the Task Group's Final Report.

**17. APPENDICES – THE FOLLOWING DOCUMENTS ARE TO BE PUBLISHED WITH THIS REPORT AND FORM PART OF THE REPORT**

17.1 None

**18. BACKGROUND PAPERS**

18.1 None