

DERBYSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL**MEETING WITH CABINET MEMBER, HEALTH AND COMMUNITIES****30 September 2014****Report of the Director of Public Health****EMOTIONAL HEALTH AND WELLBEING SURVEY OF YOUNG PEOPLE****1. Purpose of the report:**

To inform the Cabinet Member, Health and Communities of the work Public Health are undertaking regarding children and young people's mental health.

To seek approval for the proposal to conduct a wellbeing survey with all year 8 pupils (age 13-14 years) across Derbyshire.

2. Information and Analysis:

Public Health are planning to commission a survey of all young people in year 8 (age 13-14 years) across Derbyshire, focussing on their emotional health and wellbeing and any resulting behaviour.

Currently information about this in Derbyshire is fragmented, anecdotal and focuses on hospital admissions or those that have received support from specialist agencies. Studies have shown that hospital figures are only capturing the 'tip of the iceberg.' In order to provide cost effective, successful interventions that ensure prevention and early intervention is possible, we need to be confident that we know what the concerns of young people actually are.

The survey intends to find out:-

1. What are young people concerned about?
2. Who do they speak to when they are worried?
3. What behaviours are young people engaged in to help them cope with concerns?

The survey will give baseline information to cover the whole of the County, giving a clear picture of what a large number of young people are concerned about and what behaviours they are engaged in. This is particularly important for those that are not known to any services currently, rather than information about a small number of young people engaging in the most serious behaviour. The last survey for all young people in a year group was Ofsted's Tell Us 4 survey which was undertaken in 2010.

Schools will be given their own data and comparable data from across the County to see where they have particular issues. This will allow them to prioritise their pupil premium, focus on a specific area of concern with their young people and to allow early intervention.

The survey will allow us to pick up trends and themes at a County level including higher incidents of behaviour causing concern in specific geographical areas or key issues that young people are most concerned about.

Targeting preventative and early intervention work allows more effective use of limited resources. It also will allow young people to access the help and information they need to allay their specific concerns rather than being provided with information that is not relevant to them. This will help prevent young people's behaviour from escalating to needing specialist support services, such as CAMHS and tier 3 substance misuse support. We intend to utilise the expertise of school nurses, primary mental health workers and school pastoral staff to ensure that young people are supported with any sensitive issues and concerns that the survey may raise. Safeguarding procedures will be in place and the provider of the service will be expected to work to Derbyshire County Council's safeguarding policies.

Public Health are planning to commission an external provider to deliver the survey, and we will be looking for one who has specialised research knowledge and experience. Due to the sensitive nature of some of the questions a company specialising in writing questions specifically for young people is required, to ensure that the information we are looking for is gathered both accurately and in a manner that would not cause undue upset to young people. They would also ensure confidentiality of survey results and that the relevant consents to survey young people were in place. An external provider will also have the ability to market test any questions that have not previously been used in their existing surveys. This ensures that the data collected is robust and has validity and reliability. They will also be able to provide complex analysis of data alongside comparison of relevant data from other geographical areas. All data will be collected and held in accordance with Derbyshire County Council's Information Governance policy.

3. Financial Considerations:

Funding for the survey will be £10,000 from an identified non recurrent budget.

4. Other considerations:

In preparing this report the relevance of the following factors has been considered: legal, prevention of crime and disorder, equality of opportunity, human resources, environmental, health, and property and transport considerations.

5. Background papers:

None

6. Key Decision:

No

7. Call-in:

Is it required that call-in be waived for any decision on this report?

No

8. Officer's Recommendations:

That the Cabinet Member, Health and Communities approves the expenditure of £10,000 to support the young people's emotional health and wellbeing survey.

Elaine Michel
Director of Public Health