

COMMUNITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT



Directorate / Service Area		Officer undertaking the assessment
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Service / Document / Function being assessed		
Counselling contracts for children and young people		
Business Plan Proposal Number (if relevant)		
Aims and Objectives of Service / Document / Function		
<p>Around 50% of lifetime mental illness starts before the age of 14 and continues to have a detrimental effect on an individual and their family for many years. Some children are more vulnerable to mental health problems than others with a number of particular risk factors increasing vulnerability. It is estimated that there are approximately 12,827 children and young people aged 5-17 years with a diagnosable mental health condition in Cambridgeshire.</p> <p>The County Council commission tier 2 youth counselling services for 12-25 year olds and a bereavement support service for 0-19 year olds across Cambridgeshire. These services are provided by Centre 33, YMCA and Stars (bereavement support service). Overall these contracts see at least 1,300 young people a year, with at least 800 of these receiving counselling. However, it has become increasingly clear through feedback from children and young people that they want to have a more flexible service offer, and standard counselling is not suitable for all. Local services offered by Centre 33 are beginning to reflect this need with a wider service offer, including drop in sessions, an initial assessment and goal setting session, further support for those with complex needs beyond 6-8 sessions, and improved access to advice. This broader and more flexible service offer is not available across the whole county.</p>		
What is changing?		

Going forward it is proposed that these services will be jointly commissioned by Cambridgeshire County Council, Peterborough City Council and Cambridgeshire and Peterborough CCG. The service will be delivered across Cambridgeshire and Peterborough. Existing funding from each local authority would remain focused on that local authority population, and any additional CCG funding will be split according to weighted need. In-year investment has been confirmed by the CCG and they are looking to secure ongoing funding. Peterborough City Council would lead the tender process on behalf of the Joint Commissioning Unit.

Re-commissioning these services offers the opportunity to re-design services in line with the thrive model, which is being utilised to re-design Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services system-wide, in which support is based on a young person's needs. A broader support offer, ranging from advice and signposting to counselling and more intensive support for those with more complex needs will be delivered across the county; this is currently not the case. The service will build on existing models and any additional investment will enable more young people to access services. The following will be key features of the new service:

- Support will be delivered through structured sessions, but also drop-ins to cater for the variable needs of individuals and communities. The service will also make greater use of technology to cater for young people.
- Currently counselling provision is for 12-25 year olds in Cambridgeshire, in the new contract this will be extended to 11-25 year olds in recognition of the level of need within the younger age groups. We are also considering potentially expanding the service to children of primary school age, depending on funding and feasibility.
- Bereavement support services are provided across the county at present and this will continue to be the case in the new service, recognising the specialist support that these young people require.
- Currently there are gaps in service provision, particularly for some at risk children and young people, and in treatment provision for children of primary school age. A larger contract would mean that it may be possible to address some of these gaps. It also provides an opportunity to potentially bring together small contracts, such as work providing training and PHSE support to schools, to a scale where they can potentially have greater impact.

Re-commissioning services in this way will help ensure consistency of counselling services across Cambridgeshire. Currently we have two counselling providers in Fenland and Huntingdonshire (YMCA & Centre 33), and although we are assured that this does not effect on the ground provision to young people it is not an ideal situation. Historically there have also been issues with recruiting counsellors in some parts of the county and providers working across a wider geography are more likely to generate solutions to this.

The new service specification is also being shaped by the needs and views expressed by local young people and families through research conducted by both Healthwatch and the Collaboration for Leadership in Applied Health Research & Care (CLAHRC) Delphi Study.

Who is involved in this impact assessment?

e.g. Council officers, partners, service users and community representatives.

This CIA was compiled by CCC council officers.

What will the impact be?

Tick to indicate if the impact on each of the following protected characteristics is positive, neutral or negative.

Impact	Positive	Neutral	Negative
Age	√		
Disability		√	
Gender reassignment		√	
Marriage and civil partnership		√	

Pregnancy and maternity		√	
Race		√	

Impact	Positive	Neutral	Negative
Religion or belief		√	
Sex		√	

Sexual orientation		√	
The following additional characteristics can be significant in areas of Cambridgeshire.			
Rural isolation		√	

Deprivation		√	
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For each of the above characteristics where there is a positive, negative and / or neutral impact, please provide details, including evidence for this view. Describe the actions that will be taken to mitigate any negative impacts and how the actions are to be recorded and monitored. Describe any issues that may need to be addressed or opportunities that may arise.

Positive Impact
Age – Currently counselling services cater for 12-25 year olds, in the new service this will be extended to include 11 year olds, recognising the needs of younger age groups. In addition there is likely to be some provision for primary school aged children; this is currently a gap locally.
Negative Impact
There are no identified negative impacts of the new service that will be commissioned. If the re-commissioning process does not take place then the current gaps, for example in terms of age groups and the inconsistency in offer across the county, will persist.
Neutral Impact
The new service will not have a negative impact on those with protected characteristics. The current service recognises the additional needs of some of the most vulnerable groups, many of whom will be at greater risk of poor mental health (e.g. those who identify as LGBT), and going forward ensuring services meet the needs of these individuals will continue. Current services also aim to reach those who are living in isolated areas, by offering multiple routes of communication, it would be hoped that this situation would only be improved with greater use of technology in the new service and with work within the broader re-design of child and adolescent mental health services (for example the introduction of online counselling services).
Issues or Opportunities that may need to be addressed
There are potential implications for the voluntary sector organisations that are currently commissioned to provide youth counselling services. In particular CCC funding accounts for the majority of Centre 33's and STAR's existing funding. Removal of this funding could potentially have a significant effect on these organisations. However, this would remain a risk in any recommissioning of these services and the current contracts expired in March 2016 and have been temporarily extended.

Community Cohesion

If it is relevant to your area you should also consider the impact on community cohesion.

The services that will be commissioned are community based and have the potential to have a positive impact on community cohesion.
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