



Dear Jayne Bryant MS, Chair – Children, Young People and Education Committee.

Re: Working with the third sector to provide mental health support services for children and young people

Following a request received on 1st December 2021 for information regarding third sector emotional health and wellbeing provision for children and young people, please find a response to this structured around the following suggested headings:

- how you work alongside the third sector to plan and deliver support services;
- any active projects/initiatives that you are currently undertaking alongside the third sector (i.e., a summary of what the projects/initiatives do, which third sector organisations are involved, who can access the services the projects/initiatives provide and where, etc.);
- where partnership working has worked well, and where you have learnt lessons for how to improve it in the future; and
- any future plans you have for partnership working with the third sector, what you hope to achieve with those plans, and how they will be monitored and evaluated

We hope this information is helpful in supporting the strategic planning meeting in January but please get in touch if any further information is required.

How we work alongside the third sector to plan and deliver support services

In Powys we have an Emotional Health and Wellbeing Work stream and working group. The workstream reports to our Start Well Board which directly reports to the Regional Partnership Board.

The Emotional health and Wellbeing workstream is chaired by Sam Shore (Head of CAMHS) and Vicky Ruff-Cock (Senior Manager in Children’s Services) and is a multi-agency meeting including all services who particularly work with children and young people regarding emotional health and well-being. PAVO represent our third sector and voluntary providers at this meeting, however a number of third sector organisations are also members of the group (e.g. Action for Children, MFCC, Calan DVS, Mind, CAIS, Kooth). Four of our third sector organisations also sit on our Start Well Board. The Emotional Health and Wellbeing Workstream provides an opportunity to share information about the emotional health services available in Powys as well as developments. It is also an opportunity to raise gaps in service, to look at trends, identify themes to improve services and to look at shared funding opportunities.

We have a shared Emotional Health and Wellbeing strategy which is embedded in the NEST/NYTH model, which all partners including our voluntary and third sector are part of. This has been developed through the workstream. We also have just received notification of the ‘Pathfinder’ funding. This project will map the journey of support for 0-7year olds and will be a partnership approach to addressing additional support needs for 0-7 year olds reporting into the Building Resilient Communities and Integrated Access to Services Workstream.

There is also a Building Resilient Communities and Integrated Access to Services workstream and an Integrate Access to Services working group which also works closely with the third sector. Several third sector organisations sit on this workstream and are part of the development of a panel to improve access to services in Powys.

Some of the current projects that we are working alongside third sector organisations include 'Mind of Our future funding' This is a lottery bid, which PAVO are leading on. The project is focused upon consulting with and listening to young people and what they say supports their mental health, to co-design a young people's emotional health and wellbeing service.

Gender awareness training – we are working with PAVO to provide this training to all services as well as third sector organisations to ensure services have a good understanding and awareness of this. This was highlighted as a gap for training through our Emotional Health working group.

Team Around the Cluster – Multi-agency meetings which include services and third sector organisations who share information about the services they can provide to support emotional health and wellbeing for children and young people.

In the Powys Commissioning Team, we have recently employed a grants officer who is working with our emotional health workstream to identify possible funding that we can work in partnership with third sector organisations to deliver.

One of our standing agenda items on Emotional Health and Wellbeing workstream is funding. We encourage partners to share the funding that they are aware of and some of these bids develop into multi agency provision based upon need. This is in early stages of development. One example of this is our 'Missing Middle' project where we have commissioned a range of services through health funding to deliver projects to young people. Kooth, the counselling service provide group work in schools as part of this grant.

When covid-19 began we established a multi-agency Emotional Health working group, to support services and organisations working with young people and their emotional health and well-being. This group includes several third sector organisations and is a way of sharing service information as well as working together to improve good emotional health and well-being outcomes for children and young people. We regularly encourage services and organisations to present the service they provide and share how this can be accessed eg The Guide Project which is being delivered by Action for Children. From this group we have been able to secure additional funding to support services e.g. Dragons Den to increase support for children and young people experiencing domestic abuse, MFCC and Calan DVS (Domestic abuse Services) received funding to increase capacity.

The local authority also commissions a range of third sector organisations to deliver emotional health and wellbeing services.

Examples of active projects/initiatives that we are currently undertaking alongside the third sector

A number of contracts are delivered by third sector organisations to provide services to support children and young people's emotional health and wellbeing (Credu, Kooth, MFCC, Calan DVS, Mind, Ponthafren)

The 'Missing middle' – funding to support Ponthafren and Welsh Rugby Union (WRU) to provide a sports development worker in the North

Powys Together working with Ponthafren and Street Games to provide 'fit and fed' a project to support young people's health and wellbeing, through activities and a healthy meal.

The Play Sufficiency Action Plan – PAVO are leading on the Play sufficiency Action Plan, and this is focused upon collecting information from a range of services including many third sector organisations to look at Play and Play opportunities and to ensure there is an action plan that is implemented and reviewed across Powys.

Junior Start Well Board working with PAVO, Credu and Young farmers.

Relationship & Sex Education (RSE) in schools – A group that includes Schools, School nurses and Hafan Cymru to identify and improve provision.

VAWDSV young people's steering group – MFCC, Calan DVS, Hafan Cymru, to ensure that we are providing the appropriate services to children and young people as well as meeting demand. This has included increasing funding to provide projects.

Brecon Mind are providing emotional health and wellbeing sessions in Brecon High School as well as family support to the Pupil Referral Unit (PRU) in Brecon.

LGBTQ+ Co-ordinator: Working with existing support through Mind, Hafan Cymru, Kooth and Stonewall Wales to develop this post and to work with existing services to support LGBTQ+ young people.

Where partnership working has worked well, and where we have learnt lessons for how to improve it in the future

The Powys Together Community Project is a good example of working with voluntary and third sector organisations to enhance emotional health and wellbeing for communities. For example, in the Llanidloes Community, the Co-ordinator works closely with the PAVO community connector, The Hanging Garden and Credu to provide a range of opportunities and projects for the children and young people living there. In the Newtown Project the co-ordinator is involved in the Network meeting which is made up of a range of third sector organisations, the project has secured funding on behalf of other organisations to run projects in the town.

The 'Missing Middle' project is another example of working with the third sector to provide group work to support emotional health and wellbeing in secondary schools.

Integrated Access to Services – we know that we need a range of approaches and services to support good emotional health and wellbeing. The Integrated Access to Services is a way of working that includes a panel with a wide range of representation from all sectors to ensure children, young people and families receive the support that they need, when they need it.

We have learnt that offering support through a range of organisations enhances the support available. Through the meetings that are now established we are more aware of what each service can offer, and we are working more closely to provide services in partnership. There is more work to do but provision is more joined up. PAVO represent our third sector in Powys and are involved in all the key meetings, this has also been extended to include individual organisations who can attend and represent themselves. We think much more about joined up services and enhancing those services to deliver what people and communities need.

Our future plans for partnership working with the third sector, what we hope to achieve with those plans, and how they will be monitored and evaluated

Our future plans include continuing to strengthen our partnership working with the third sector. The third sector representatives on our Start Well Board and workstreams, will ensure we continue to listen to organisations and work together to provide good emotional health and wellbeing support.

We have established a Domestic Abuse steering group for Children and young people and this group are identifying funding to extend service, sharing best practice as well as training to ensure the provision is joined up.

The Powys Together project continues to work with voluntary and third sector organisations and will extend this remit after April to ensure Emotional health and wellbeing and social prescribing is available across the age ranges.

We will monitor and evaluate progress through the Emotional health and Wellbeing Workstream and The Start Well Board. The Junior Start Well Board will help to measure the impact of services and the children and young people's views will help shape future developments.

The NEST/NYTH model will be a priority focus over the next 12 months and will support further joint working and delivery of services to support good emotional health and wellbeing for children, young people, and families. The NEST/NYTH model will be evaluated through the Junior Start Well, Start Well and the Regional Partnership Boards.