

EDUCATION & YOUTH OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Date of Meeting	Friday, 28 July 2017
Report Subject	TRAC/Wellbeing
Cabinet Member	Cabinet Member for Education
Report Author	Chief Officer (Education & Youth)
Type of Report	Operational

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The report provides an update for Members regarding the local authority's recent developments to support wellbeing, with particular reference to the use of European Social Funding.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1	That Members acknowledge the importance of developing and embedding partnership working around the area of wellbeing and endorse the development of the Emotional Wellbeing Strategic Group.
2	That Members endorse the proposed extension of the TRAC project to 2022.

REPORT DETAILS

1.00	EXPLAINING THE CONTEXT AND PROVISION
1.01	The incidence of mental health problems is reportedly on the increase in Wales. The Mental Health Foundation publication <i>Mental Health in Wales:</i>

	<p><i>Fundamental Facts 2016</i> highlights that referrals to Children and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS) which lead to treatment doubled from 1,204, to 2,342 between 2010 and 2014. The document also states that in 2015, the Welsh Health Survey demonstrated an increasing trend for adults accessing treatment for mental health, with 13% of adults (aged 16+) reportedly receiving treatment for their condition.</p>
1.02	<p>The Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 places a duty on public bodies listed in the Act to think more about the long-term, to work better with people and communities and each other, to look to prevent problems and take a more joined-up approach. The Act outlines a number of goals including the wellbeing goal 'A Healthier Wales', which is defined as a society in which people's physical and mental well-being is maximised and in which choices and behaviours that benefit future health are understood.</p>
1.03	<p>In response to the presenting needs within our schools and communities, a number of initiatives/projects are underway. To support partnership working, the Emotional Wellbeing Steering Group has been established to oversee and support the development and implementation of the Local Authority's strategic approach to mental health for children and young people. (See Appendix 1 for the Group's Terms of Reference)</p>
1.04	<p>A key piece of work developed through the Steering Group is the Self-Harm Prevention Pathways. This has been developed in partnership with CAMHS and is targeted at secondary schools and Pupil Referral Units within Flintshire with a focus on providing:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A consistent, safe, supportive and supported process for young people who self-harm and those they disclose to; • A systems approach based on managing initial presentations and risk together; • A defined shared pathway including clearly delineated roles and responsibilities for both school-based and CAMHS employees; and • Standardised training and documentation, built around a safety plan. <p>Targeted groups of employees within each setting (41 individuals to date), have accessed training on the Pathway and a further session planned for the Autumn Term. The Pathway outlines the initial action that should be undertaken by the school which is then followed by a partnership approach between the schools and CAMHS with the aim of supporting the young person to access the most appropriate intervention. This system is enhanced through the allocation of a CAMHS key worker to each secondary school who acts as a regular point of contact and has time allocated to being in school. Consideration is being given to how this can be rolled out to include primary schools in the future.</p>
1.05	<p>Access to European Social Funding (ESF) at a regional level has facilitated the development of the TRAC and ADTRAC projects. TRAC began in April 2016 and is targeted at young people aged between 11 and 19, who are at risk of disengagement from education or training. Flintshire is part of the TRAC East project, working in collaboration with Wrexham Local Authority (LA), Coleg Cambria and Careers Wales, with Denbighshire LA providing a</p>

	<p>coordination role across the North Wales region.</p> <p>The project provides a range of additional interventions to targeted individuals including support for attendance/engagement, access to an alternative curriculum and also individual counselling. Access to TRAC is determined through the use of a Learner Profiling Tool which collates key information directly from schools' information management systems (SIMS), which includes data on attendance, exclusions, attainment, special educational need and other factors such as having English as an additional language or being a looked after child. The eligibility score is built up from scores from each of the identified areas; a score of 36 or more is required for a young person to be deemed eligible for TRAC intervention. To date, a total of 153 young people have engaged with the project.</p> <p>TRAC was due to end in 2018 however, after a delayed start, there has been a proposal to extend the project to 2022. If successful, this would mean a total grant income to Flintshire in the region of £1.7m and engagement with around 1000 young people. Work is also underway to explore with WEFO how this project could be extended in to the primary sector, particularly Year 6, to support with transition into secondary school.</p>
1.06	<p>The Business case for ADTRAC has recently been signed off by the Welsh European Funding Office (WEFO). Similar to TRAC, this is a North Wales regional project split between the east and west. The partners for ADTRAC East are Flintshire LA, Wrexham LA and Betsi Cadwallader University Health Board (BCUHB). The focus for the project is 16-24 year olds who are not in education, employment or training (NEET). Potential participants will be identified by Careers Wales or the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP).</p> <p>The ESF grant allocation for the project is approx. £1.6m. This will be used to employ a number of engagement officers who work with individuals to identify their barriers to engagement and then facilitate the implementation of a supported programme of engagement with either education, employment or training. BCUHB will support a targeted focus on those individuals where mental health is a barrier to engagement. It is anticipated that those targeted will be some of the hardest to engage and consequently the target number of participants across the two counties is just in excess of 300. It is important to remember that ESF has to provide additionality to existing services/provision and as such ADTRAC will enable the Council to allocated dedicated extended resource to a group of extremely vulnerable young people. The project has a targeted end date of 2020.</p>

2.00	RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS
2.01	<p>To access ESF, local authorities are required to identify match funding to the value of the grant allocated. This has been provided in the form of matched Council expenditure on officers who are currently engaged with young people/adults who are NEET.</p>

3.00	CONSULTATIONS REQUIRED / CARRIED OUT
3.01	Consultation took place with schools and partner organisations regarding the mechanisms for identifying eligible individuals for TRAC and also the range of provision and interventions required.
3.02	As with TRAC, consultation on ADTRAC has taken place with key partners to inform the delivery model of the project. Feedback from young people has also been used to further shape and refine the project.

4.00	RISK MANAGEMENT
4.01	The extension to TRAC East is interdependent on all partners agreeing to continue, including Denbighshire LA as the regional coordinator. The impact of non-agreement would result in either the project ending in 2018 or a re-profiling of the existing project. The risk associated with re-profiling is the availability of eligible match and the sustainability of this for the duration of the extension. Exercises undertaken to date within Flintshire have identified match in excess of that required for the extension.

5.00	APPENDICES
5.01	<p>Appendix 1: Terms Of Reference for the Emotional Wellbeing Steering Group</p>  <p>Terms of Reference.doc</p>

6.00	LIST OF ACCESSIBLE BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS
6.01	<p>Mental Health in Wales: Fundamental Facts 2016 https://www.mentalhealth.org.uk/sites/default/files/FF16%20Wales.pdf</p> <p>Well-Being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 http://gov.wales/topics/people-and-communities/people/future-generations-act/?lang=en</p> <p>Contact Officer: Jeanette Rock, Senior Manager – Inclusion & Progression Telephone: 01352 704017 E-mail: jeanette.rock@flintshire.gov.uk</p>

7.00	GLOSSARY OF TERMS
7.01	ADTRAC: the name of the project targeting 16-24 year olds who are not in education, employment or training.

Children and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS): NHS-provided services in the United Kingdom for children, generally until school-leaving age, who are having difficulties with their emotional or behavioural well-being.

European Social Funding (ESF): The particular aim of ESF spending is to support the creation of more and better jobs in the European Union, which it does by co-funding national, regional and local projects that improve the levels of employment, the quality of jobs, and the inclusiveness of the labour market in the Member States and their regions.

TRAC: the name of the project targeting 11-19 year olds at risk of disengagement from education.

Welsh European Funding Office (WEFO): the Welsh government office responsible for distributing the European funds which Wales receives.