



**Meeting with Voluntary and Community Groups (VCS) and
James Williams, Strategic Commissioning Manager Programmes,
Manchester City Council**

Redesign of Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS) in Manchester

8 September 2014

Present: James Williams, Jane Dewar Homestart Manchester South, Georgina Jones Caritas Diocese of Salford, Kay Welsh Homestart Manchester South, Helen Walker SVHA, Adele Travis SVHA The Manchester Foyer, Joanne Muccio St Mary's Sexual Assault Referral Centre, Shirley He Chinese Health Information Centre, Erica Splawnyk Care for the Family, Osyp Splawnyk Care for the Family, Simon Kensdale Manchester City Council, Dawn Warriner Manchester City Council, Heather Markin Save the Children, Beth Plant Macc, Pauline Clark Macc.

Apologies: Shelley Byrne Homestart Manchester North, Mandy Pollitt YPSF, Lucy Rolfe LGF, Sinead O'Connor YASP.

Summary of Meeting

James Williams (JW) explained about the history of the redesign and the CAMHS review. The background paper is available [here](#).

After presenting the paper at the Children's Board James received feedback that he needed to consult more widely with the voluntary and community sector and with service users.

They were particularly keen to look at how services can be designed so that people access support at an early stage, rather than being seen for the first time at a later stage when conditions have escalated. The VCS will have a key role to play in this.

James wanted to hear from the groups about their views on CAMHS and how they felt the consultation could here from service users.

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Points raised by the attendees:

- There is currently a lack of support for parents.
- There are issues around lack of support for parents and children in accepting the diagnosis.
- Issues around the transition from Child to adult mental health, gaps in services and young adults left with very little support.
- Parents and VCS are unsure about the changes around statements for Special Educational Needs and want to know where to go to for help and advice is something that needs addressing.
- Professionals and VCS workers find it hard to access support from CAMHS, and it is even harder for parents
- The question was raised as to how Commissioners understood current VCS provision around CAMHS, particularly those services that don't receive local authority or NHS funding.

The group went on to discuss two questions posed by James.

Question 1. Within your work/service what kinds of Mental Health issues/distress are you seeing in children and young people?

- Transition support for young people moving on to Adult Mental Health Services.
- Transition support for young people leaving care (18 year olds).
- Self Harm appears to be a gap.
- High risk – Suicide and Self Harm.
- Under sixteen's appear well supported and cared for.
- Access to specialist consultation and supervision – needs to be joined up working.

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Question 2. How are you responding to this?

- Need for family approach where other family members have Mental Health issues. Other things may be happening in their lives where they need support.
- Chasing up missed appointments – we are seeing children be abandoned when they miss appointments when this is often the time when they need the most support.
- Early diagnosis and support for young people with SEN who have Mental Health distress support for them and their families.

At the end of the meeting Beth Plant from Macc and James Williams agreed to meet to discuss further how the VCS could work with their service users to involve them in CAMHS consultation and to work with the Commissioners to articulate the role of the VCS in CAMHS provision.