 

**Salford Thrive Plan Annual Update 2021-22**

**(Summary Version)**

Despite the challenges over the last year, we have continued to deliver on our key transformation programmes in 2021-22 and made progress on many others.

The pandemic has continued to place a significant pressure on services and staff and has certainly impacted on priorities and workplans. This is reflected in increased demand for services and greater acuity and complexity of need amongst young people who are referred to / access our services. The picture is the same across inpatient and community settings, across GM and within Salford, across NHS providers and VCSE providers alike. The pandemic has continued to have a significant and ongoing impact on our residents, and for many children and young people and families in Salford has caused tremendous disruption to everyone’s lives and has heightened distress and anxieties and resulted in increased mental health needs. This has been especially true for young people that have pre-existing mental health illnesses and/or additional needs or disabilities.

In last year’s Thrive Plan Update Report (2021) we highlighted the additional challenges for some children and young people who may already experience greater difficulties or vulnerabilities including those who are BAME, LGBTQ+, or come from disadvantaged backgrounds and may not have access to the resources they need to access online support, engage effectively in home learning, or to participate in hobbies and interests / sports and leisure activities, and to keep in touch with friends and families. Over the last 12 months we have targeted extra support to those with greatest levels of need and to those who have been disproportionately impacted by COVID. We have invested extra to support these groups through Public Health England funding awarded to Salford. which we have channelled through our VCSE services to offer more help to young people aged 16-24, people from our Orthodox Jewish Community, expectant / new parents with children under two and to those who have been impacted by bereavement.

Whilst the overriding impact of the pandemic has been negative and the challenges for services unparalleled, we have continued to be amazed by how our services, staff, schools, communities, and families have managed to continue to support children.

A summary of the key achievements in the Children’s and Young people’s Thrive (mental health) Programme is outlined below:

* Salford Thrive in Education (mental health support team): in our first 12 months delivery between September 2020 – August 2021, 465 individual children and young people were supported by the Salford TIE team. This continues to be a significant programme of work and remains a GM priority. As a trailblazer site we are now taking the lead on shaping future plans and the GM Mental Health in Education strategy.
* Gaddum: scale up and roll out of enhanced bereavement support for young people
* Neuro Development pathway: continued development, capacity and pressures
* COVID impact, recovery & surge planning and review work continued. The CAMHS COVID Surge Plan first implemented in December 2020 remains in place to manage service capacity and demand and to prioritise resources on the front door / duty and assessment and risk support offer. Similar service re-modelling has also started in 42nd street and joint work established between both services to collaboratively manage demand and risk, ensuring that young people are directed to the best service to meet their needs.
* Salford PPIMH programme development, stakeholder engagement and Implementation work
* A Service Review of all 42nd street provision in Salford has been undertaken between service leads and commissioners and with involvement of wider stakeholders and has shaped proposals for a service re-organisation and increased capacity from April 2022.
* The Thrive Partnership has continued to meet virtually with more focused agendas and a review of priorities was undertaken with partners in December 2021 to inform work plans for 2022.
* Ongoing delivery of Thrive and Trauma Training programmes, and feedback through these along with a training needs survey is helping shape training plans for 2022.
* Ongoing: Thrive Network: regular email bulletins continue to be sent out on providing service updates, information and resources alongside the Thrive webpages being kept updated
* The Thrive online directory was expanded and re-launched in 2021, to include even more information of support for young people and professionals.
* Crisis Care Pathway work and improved support for young people who present in distress, including the develop of the Parachute team model to be tested in Salford and rolled out across GM

Summary of key challenges:

* COVID 19 – lockdown restrictions, access and pathways, health and safety, shift to digital access/remote working, re-introduction of face-to-face services, CYP difficulties in engaging in services from home (privacy, other priorities/family issues, technology)
* Surge pressures, service planning and assurance, frequency of communication across the system to keep children’s workforce, parents/carers and young people informed of changes
* Impacts on waiting times and pace/scale of development in online/digital offer
* Staff, service and commissioning capacity to deliver on priorities, develop, implement and monitor new projects services. Staff shortages, vacancies, sickness and self-isolation
* Maintaining service staff wellbeing and motivation

Performance:

Salford has continued to perform well against national / GM key performance indicators (KPIs) and these are monitored both locally via Thrive Programme Oversight Group and at GM level via the LTP Implementation Group (GM Health and Social Care Partnership children’s mental health programme leads and GM Childrens and Young People’s Mental health / CAMHS Commissioners) and via the GM Data Club. Performance against national KPIs is reported in the GM Improving Access CYP Mental Health report which includes the following children’s and young people’s mental health KPIs and compares National, Regional, GM and locality data:

1. Improving Access to Children and Young People’s (CYP) Community Mental Health Support and Treatment (to date measured by CYP receiving two or more contacts) - the target for 2020-21 was 35%.

**At Sept 21 Salford was achieving 51.1%,** compared to an average of 48.3% in GM and 44.7% nationally.

1. Community Eating Disorder Services: The national target is: By 2020/21, evidence-based community eating disorder services for children and young people will be in place in all areas, ensuring that 95% of children in need receive treatment within one week for urgent cases, and four weeks for routine cases.

**At Sept 21 Salford was achieving 100% against both targets**, despite a significant spike in demand for eating disorder services.

Waiting Times in Salford

Improving access is underpinned by the timeliness it takes to receive support and treatment. Under the NHS Constitution, no patient should wait more than 18 weeks for any treatment. There is at present no specific national standards for waiting times for Children and Young People’s accessing Mental Health Services (CAMHS) except for:

* Patients with psychosis (two weeks)
* Those treated in the community for eating disorders (one week if urgent, otherwise four weeks. First contact must be within 24 hours in an emergency).

Nonetheless, waiting times are routinely reported for all CAMHS providers in the GM Access Report. This monitors referral to treatments for first appointment, from referral to second appointment and waits from second to third appointment. Perhaps unsurprisingly there has been a general increase in waiting times across GM linked to service pressures during the COVID pandemic, and this is expected to worsen though in recognition there is increased investment both locally and in GM to help manage this, especially in areas that experience the greatest levels of demand and waiting times such as for eating disorder services and neuro developmental assessments. However, for the second year in a row Salford has managed to maintain relatively good performance against these measures, and we currently have the shortest waits in GM for first and second appointment and are better than average to third appointment. The latest data for April 2021 - February 2022 shows:

* An average of 2.67 weeks from referral to first appointment (assessment) compared to average of 5.79 weeks across GM and the longest waits of 11.53 weeks in one locality
* An average of 7.56 weeks from referral to second appointment compared with an average of 12.03 weeks across GM and a longest wait of 17.76 weeks
* Waited weeks form second to third appointment average 5.25 in Salford compared with a Gm average of 5.71 and a longest wait of 8.12 weeks

In December 2021, the Thrive Partnership met to review the key achievements and challenges over the year and unsurprisingly it was agreed to roll forward existing priorities and continued focus on managing demand and capacity with regular review of service data and staffing. Covid impacts continue to influence service capacity and demand for mental health support, and to shape our funding plans to deliver business continuity, and to ensure children and young people can access the support they need when they need it. Risk support, service prioritisation, acuity and complexity, self-harm and suicidal ideation and crisis care / young people in distress will remain ongoing and cross cutting challenges and priorities in the next year.

Key priorities and programmes of work in 2022-23 include:

* Continued delivery and scale up planning of our Thrive in Education programme and blended mental health support team
* Scoping commissioning and investment plans for a GM-wide KOOTH online service
* Continuation of our 42nd Street online offer and service stability / re-design (subject to funding)
* Continuation of the Bereavement and Palliative Care Counselling provision delivered by Gaddum
* Further transformation of our integrated Neuro Development Pathway and securing additional investment to support this
* Recruitment of a CAMHS Parent Infant Mental Health Team, design and implementation of an integrated Perinatal and Parent Infant Mental health offer in Salford.
* Monitoring the implementation of our Transitions Policy and outcomes for young people
* Recruitment of Salford Trauma Informed Practitioners and embedding these into practice
* Implementation of our integrated children’s and young people’s mental health ‘Single Point of Access’, piloting this with GP referrals, then self-referrals.
* Scoping ways to link children and young people and parent/carers/families in with the Living Well programme and to ensure effective adult mental health advice and consultation within children’s services and multi-agency working
* Development and implementation of our ‘Parachute team’ pilot and using the learning in Salford to inform wider rollout in GM
* Improving access to mental health support for young people aged 16-25
* Restarting our children and young people’s voice and LGBTQ+ working groups and plans
* Continued delivery on National Targets/KPIs: 1) Access to mental health services and 2) routine/urgent access to Children’s Eating Disorder Services