

Report to Children and Young People's Scrutiny Board

Young People's Mental Health

Portfolio Holder:

Councillor Shaid Mushtaq Cabinet Member for Children and Young People

Councillor Mohon Ali, Cabinet Member for Education and Skills

Officer Contact: Heather Moore, Assistant Director of Governance/Statutory Scrutiny Officer

Report Author: Peter Thompson, Constitutional Services

17th June 2025

Reason for Decision

At the Council meeting on 7th April 2025, Members approved a Motion presented by Oldham's Youth Council regarding Young People's Mental Health. Council approved the Motion and, in doing so, resolved to:

1. Complete an overview and scrutiny study of Mental Health service's waiting times (including CAMHS).
2. That the Chief Executive be requested to write to the Prime Minister and to the Secretary of State for Health to ask for an increase in children and young people's mental health services spending without any reduction in spending on adult mental health; to again ask the Government to ensure that adequate funding and resources are made available to schools and colleges to allow them to invest in the early intervention services; and for an update on their manifesto commitments.

In respect of resolution 1, above, the Scrutiny Board is requested to consider how it will determine the conduct of scrutiny study.

Recommendations

That the Scrutiny Board establish a task and finish group, comprising five members of this Scrutiny Board, to investigate the issue of Mental Health service's waiting times (including CAMHS) and to compile a report thereon for consideration by a future meeting of this Scrutiny Board, the Cabinet and, if necessary, Council.

1 Background

- 1.1 At Council, on 7th April 2025, the Council approved a Motion submitted by the Youth Council relating to Young People's Mental Health – Minute 7 refers (copy attached).
- 1.2 In line with the resolutions passed by Council regarding this matter, the Scrutiny Board is requested to consider its response and to look at the possibility of establishing a scrutiny study group, comprising five members of the Board, to hold a series of meetings (perhaps 3 or 4), to examine the issue of Mental Health service's waiting times (including CAMHS), for young people including, where necessary input, from relevant officers and external bodies with knowledge of the subject and to report back, in the first instance to a future meeting of this scrutiny board with any findings.
- 1.2 The report outlined the intention for the funding to be attached to the existing TIIAG (Targeted Independent Information, Advice and Guidance) contract as this would provide the most effective use of the additional resource. This became the "Empower Oldham" project currently being delivered by Positive Steps. This grant agreement, contract and funding was made available until 31 March 2025.

2 Options/Alternatives

- 2.1 Option 1: To establish a scrutiny study group, as outlined at paragraph 1.2, above.
- 2.2 Option 2: To consider any alternative approaches for dealing with the request from Council.

3 Preferred Option

- 3.1 Option 1.

4 Consultation

- 4.1 No consultation is required at this stage.

5 Financial Implications

- 5.1 None

6 Legal Implications

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- 6.1 None
- 7 **Equality Impact, including implications for Children and Young People**
- 7.1 None at this stage but the nature of the study will directly impact on children and young people.
- 8 **Key Decision**
- 8.1 No
- 9 **Key Decision Reference**
- 9.1 Not applicable.
- 10 **Background Papers**
- 10.1 N/A
- 11 **Appendices**
- 11.1 The Minute of the Council meeting held 7th April 2025 (no. 7) is attached at Appendix 1 detailing the Motion submitted by the Youth Council and the Council's determination thereon.