



Department of Health

Your Ref: Council – Youth Council - 20170712

PO-1096239

Dr Carolyn Wilkins OBE
Chief Executive, Oldham Council
Level 3, Civic Centre
West Street
Oldham OL1 1UG

From Jackie Doyle-Price MP
Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Care and Mental Health

Richmond House
79 Whitehall
London
SW1A 2NS

020 7210 4850

12 SEP 2017

Thank you for your letter of 25 August to Philip Dunne about mental health and wellbeing.

I fully recognise the concerns you raise. As we know that children and young people (CYP) are most susceptible to mental illness and most disorders originate in childhood, we must make mental health a priority in our classrooms and in our families.

That is why we are investing £1.4billion up to 2020 to improve mental health services for CYP. This includes £150million to develop evidence-based community eating disorder services for CYP and £1.25billion for improving CYP's mental health services overall.

We have committed to publishing a joint Health and Education Green Paper on the mental health of CYP by the end of this year. The Green Paper will move forward from the high-level challenges set out in *Future in mind*, the 2015 report of the CYP's Mental Health Taskforce. It will create some clear expectations about the changes every area should achieve to make progress towards a better-informed populace and a support system that is better at:

- preventing mental illness in CYP;
- raising awareness of CYP's mental health issues amongst young people and adults who support them, to increase help-seeking;
- supporting CYP with mental health issues within both clinical settings and the wider world; and
- providing the right treatment, at the right time, in the right place.

The Department of Health is working with the Department for Education to improve mental health awareness in schools, including implementing single points of contact for mental health and developing guidance and tools for children, teachers and parents. This also includes providing mental health first aid training to teachers in all secondary schools by 2019, enabling them to spot the signs and symptoms of mental health issues in young people and have the confidence to guide them to a place of support.

The Department for Education will be able to provide more details of this programme.

Thank you again for writing on this important topic.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Jackie', with a large, stylized initial 'J'.

JACKIE DOYLE-PRICE