

## **LANCASHIRE SCHOOLS FORUM**

**Date of meeting 12 January 2023**

**Item No 8**

**Title of Item: Emotional Health and Wellbeing commissioned service**

### **Executive Summary**

This report seeks to provide Schools Forum members with an update on the progress of the Emotional Health and Wellbeing commissioned service.

### **Recommendations**

**The Forum is asked to:**

- a) Note the report.**
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The demand for specialist Emotional, Health and Wellbeing Services has been on the rise nationally and locally for a number of years with the past year seeing a particular spike in demand following the impact of Covid-19 on children and young people's mental health.

Nationally, one in six young people are now estimated to have a mental health problem, an increase from one in nine young people prior to the pandemic.

Prevention and early identification is key in ensuring that children and young people have access to help and support as issues start to emerge and it is critical to capitalise on all opportunities to improve the continuity and outcomes for children and their families across health, education and social care.

The Schools Forum has supported the Early Support Emotional Health and Wellbeing Service for several years providing a funding contribution of £200k. Together with an annual contribution of £1.1m redirected from Tier 2/3 mental health services the service provides an appropriate pathway for children and young people at level 2, 3 and 4 on the Lancashire Continuum of Need who are experiencing escalating emotional health and wellbeing needs.

The service is delivered across the County by the Child Action North West Partnership within both an individual and family context and includes a range of approaches including specialist counselling provision.

The contract is delivered partly on a payment by results basis to ensure that the authority receives optimum value for money with 40% of the annual contract value being paid up front with the remaining 60% paid based upon the achievement of agreed outcomes.

The contract is monitored on a quarterly basis by the Children and Family Wellbeing Service. Systems and processes are in place providing robust reporting, at a family, service, district and county level. Quarterly performance reports are produced and shared through established governance arrangements. Also supplied are case studies to provide examples of the type of work that has been undertaken and the impact that has had on improving outcomes for children, young people and families.

## **Performance 2021/22**

Demand for the specialist Emotional Health and Wellbeing Service during 2021/22 remained high with 1,449 requests for support received. In addition to the referrals received during the 2021/22 financial year the provider was also able to catch up on the referrals delayed throughout 2020 due to the ongoing Covid-19 restrictions.

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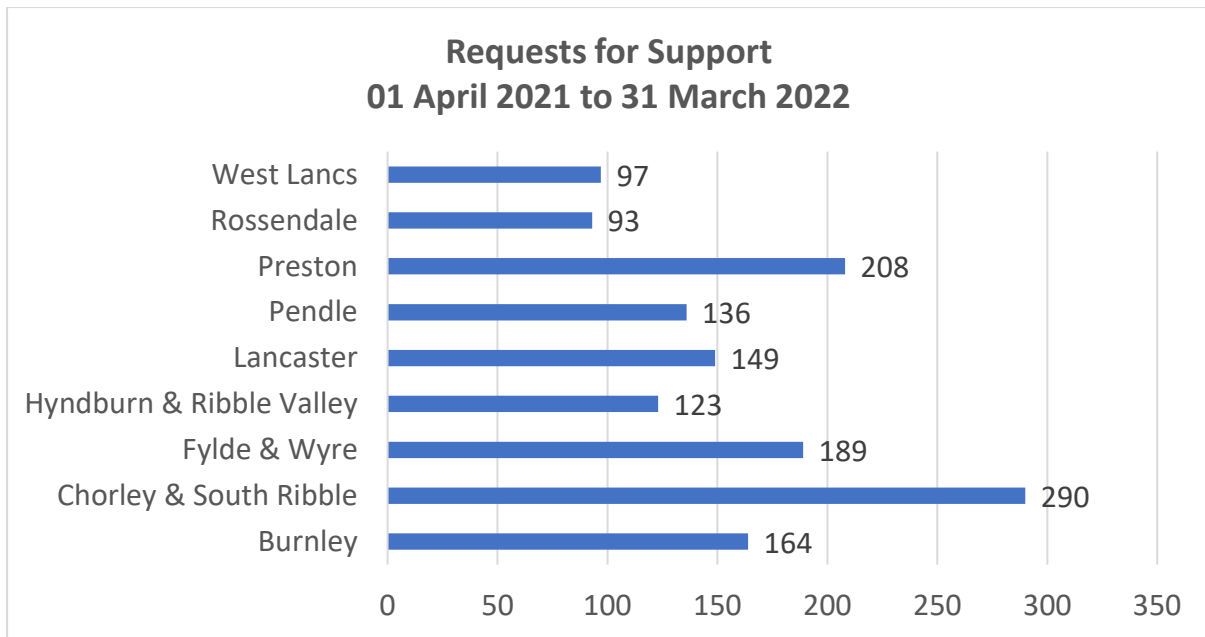


Table 1: Number of referrals received 2021/22 (per District)

The referrals received represented 92% of the available capacity across the contract with some districts exceeding available capacity. This was managed effectively with transfers between districts to ensure all appropriate referrals could be accepted.

District	Capacity used
Hyndburn & Ribble Valley	72%
Lancaster	78%
Rossendale	80%
West Lancs	83%
Burnley	92%
Fylde & Wyre	86%
Pendle	110%
Chorley & South Ribble	106%
Preston	114%

Table 2: Capacity utilised per district (2021/22).

The service is available to children and young people open to services across levels two to four of Lancashire's Continuum of Need. Referrals from statutory services at level 4 has risen slightly accounting for approximately 16% of all referrals whilst the majority of referrals, 69%, continue to be made by Universal Plus early help partners, predominantly schools.

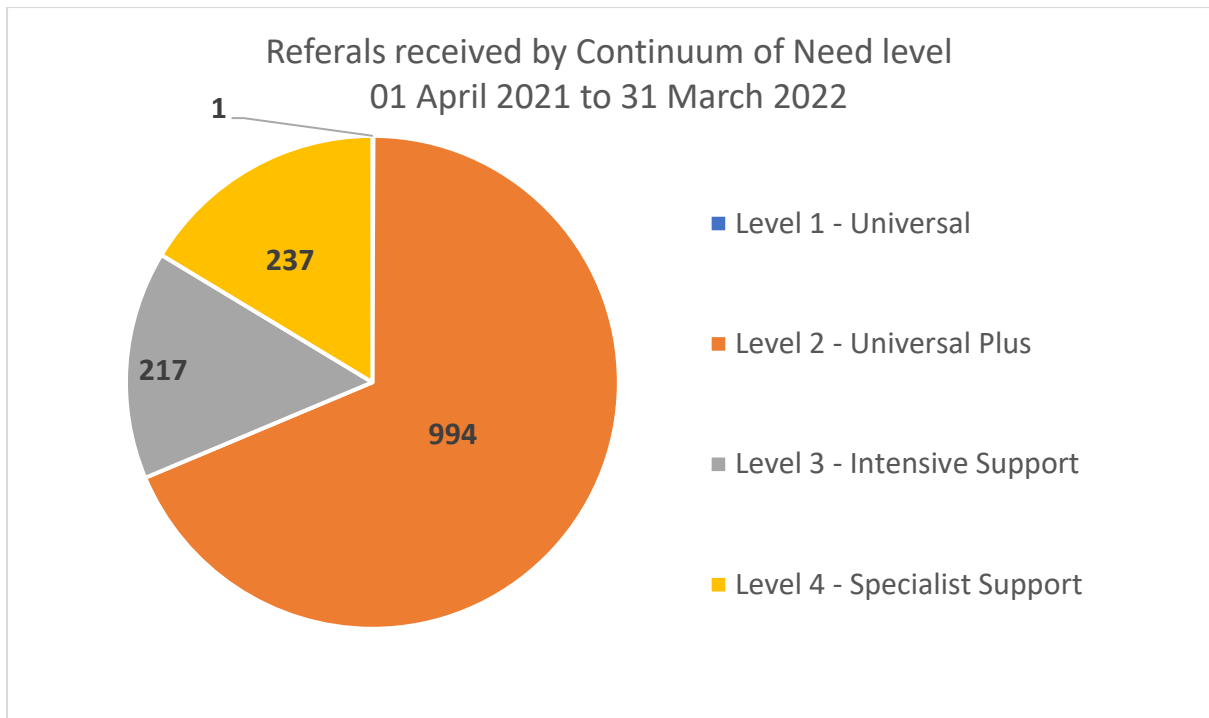


Table 3: Referrals received by Lancashire Continuum of Need level (2021/22)

Referrals were received across the age ranges with the majority of referrals received at age 10 and 15 which coincides with the start of key transition periods as illustrated in Table 4.

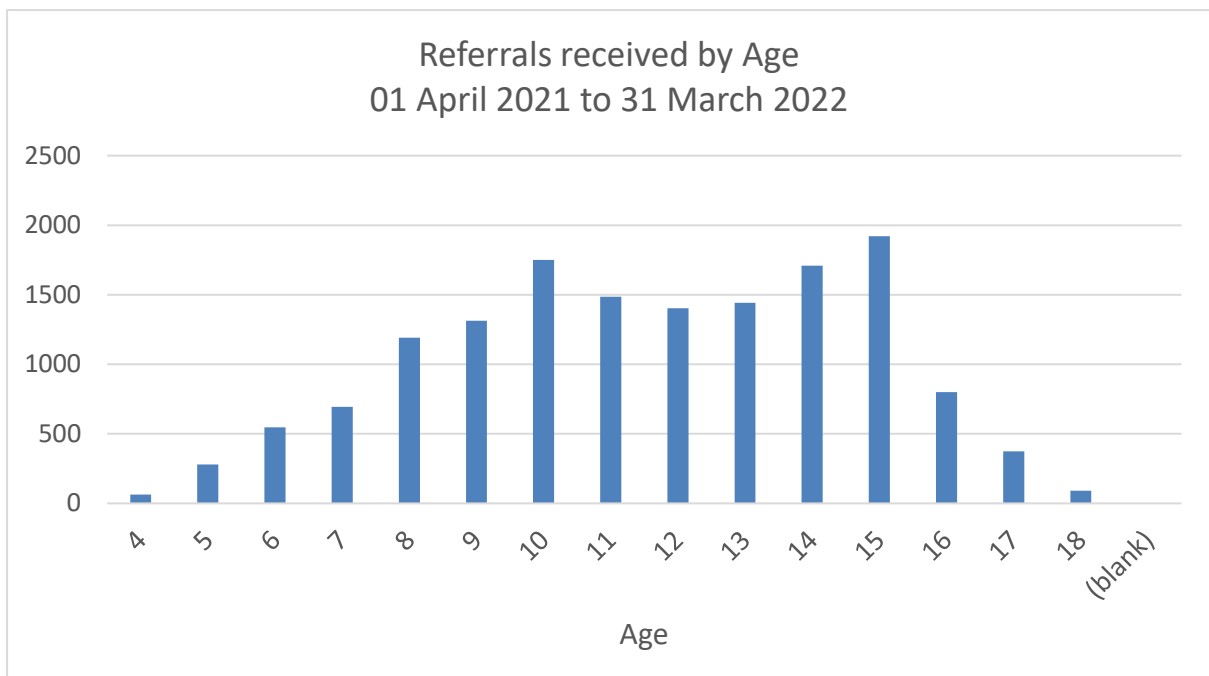


Table 4: Referrals received by age group (2021/22).

The service has worked very hard to successfully catch up on the delays resulting from the Covid-19 pandemic. The service completed a programme of support with 1,168 children, 1,039 of which reported a positive outcome. 403 children and young

people remained open to the service at the start of 2022 with 7 children waiting to be allocated to an appropriate professional.

All the children and young people on the waiting list received regular telephone contact from the provider and were offered access to the virtual support platform.

<b>Emotional Health and Wellbeing Commission Outcomes 2021/22</b>	
% CYP with improved family self-assessment (using the MyStar) reporting positive distance travelled	89%
% of CYP whose level of need escalated to require access to statutory access	0%

### **Feedback from professionals, children, young people and families**

Providers are expected to gather feedback from service users and professionals on an ongoing basis. Feedback received to date has been positive and some examples of feedback collected is outlined below:

*“you made me achieve my getting better at leaving the house and going outside my barrier to push me further to the future”.*

*“X liked being able to get the chance to speak about things without worrying she was going to upset her mum more”*

*School reported that the YP is speaking and giggling at school and teachers have heard her voice for the first time in this class*

*“I felt better”... age 11*

*“Happier and excited”... age 10*

*“I loved it here! I was so thankful that I was able to get the support I needed and I’m going to miss Naheed a lot!”.... age 13*

*Dawn was very lovely and helped me see and understand my emotions. If I ever need counselling again or knew anyone that wanted it, I would recommend Dawn.... age 16*

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