

Amanda Jupp
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6 August 2020

Sarah Lofts,
Senior Programme Delivery Officer
Working Together as Sussex
Commissioners

Via Email

Dear Sarah,

Ref: Foundation for our Future – Sussex Wide Review of Emotional Health and Wellbeing Support for Children and Young People.

I am writing to confirm that the West Sussex Health and Wellbeing Board (HWB) has virtually considered the above report. The Board notes and welcomes the report and the recommendations and will look forward to receiving the implementation plan which will be monitored through the newly created Children's Sub Group which will sit underneath the Health and Wellbeing Board and bring together the children's elements of the HWB role.

I recognise that some of our partners may have responded directly to you on the content of the report and attach a formal response (below) from West Sussex Healthwatch for your review.

Yours Sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Amanda Jupp". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Amanda Jupp
Cabinet Member for Adults and Health
Chairman of the Health and Wellbeing Board

Healthwatch Response – July 2020

Healthwatch in Sussex (West, East and Brighton and Hove) are keen to work with the newly forming Oversight Group. We will be doing this in partnership with youth and family groups across Sussex, to support the implementation of the recommendations and concordat. **We have agreed that Healthwatch West Sussex will be the lead organisation on behalf of Healthwatch in Sussex.** We are working with several Sussex-wide youth organisations on the creation of a Youth Advisory Board and Youth Advisor volunteer roles, to inform any project work. We believe this Board and the role will also inform the more general work of Healthwatch West Sussex, thereby increasing involvement of young people in the co-design of our work.

We are satisfied that the Independent Review has accepted our formal response and that the recommendations seek to address the issues identified. As our report was produced nearly 9 months ago and the unprecedented events of 2020 have changed things, we have decided not to publish it. Instead, we are gathering new insight to inform the implementation of the recommendations.

To kick-start this we are sharing an informative [case study](#) (use arrows to navigate). This is aimed at supporting commissioners and services to foster their professional curiosity to explore with a wider group of young people the opportunities and challenges in offering services digitally.

At the heart of this work must be co-design and learning to listen and react to the views of children and young people. **We therefore request the author and team include young people in the interview process for the new Programme Director** who will lead on the implementation of recommendations. We recognise it is easy for us to throw this request out, but we do so mindfully and to support this, we suggest the following:

The recruitment of a pair of young people – so they have peer support (which is needed to create allies in this space).

Careful thought is given to how to demonstrate to the young people involved that they have an equal voice in the process and this could be achieved by the young people co-creating, with equal power, the following:

- a job description
- a shortlist for interview
- development of interview questions
- selection criteria
- development of induction training for the selected candidate.

Through our partnerships we can network you with potential young people for this recruitment process, but as the review has already involved so many local people, they may already have young people to work with on this.

As preparation for our involvement in the next steps, **we request that you please share your thoughts on process for establishing an**

Implementation Oversight Group, including any draft terms of reference, selection mechanisms, learning from review process etc. It is important we understand, early what this looks like and can offer constructive challenge to support Sussex on its journey of co-design.

In order for Health and Wellbeing Board members to endorse this there needs to be assurance that locally there will be a commitment to codesigning (or preferably co-creating) the future of children and young peoples' emotional and mental health support and that the Board will strongly challenge if this is not happening. We recognise this will take time and is not easy, but we hope it will start with agreeing a shared understanding of what co-design means and how it will be demonstrated throughout this transformational process. Again, we are ready to support in this process through putting forward collaborative ideas. Given the historical failures to act on what young people and families have said we believe system leaders need support in developing skills in co-design and recommend that independent expertise are bought in, and we can also help in sharing some examples of youth organisations that lead in this field.