

THE LINK NEWSLETTER

Issue 3
October 2019

Regional Facilities for Children and Young People Programme

Inside this issue:

Latest from Programme Board & Stakeholder Reference Group	Pg 2
Engagement: September workshop & study visit to Kibble.	Pg 3
Service design proposals	Pg 4 –5
Feature Section- Independent Chair of Multi-Agency Panel	Pg 6
Feature Section- NI Commissioner for Children & Young People	Pg 7

As we move into the final quarter of this first phase of the programme, this issue focusses on the development of a draft set of service design proposals for the new integrated Campus and its outline functionality– a summary of the team’s current thinking is included on pg 4 & 5.

These proposals have been developed and co-produced with key stakeholders through various engagement forums facilitated by the Team. We would like to emphasise the draft status of these proposals at this stage as it is anticipated that these proposals will be reviewed by the Programme Board in November and refined as necessary. A huge thank you to all those that have been involved to date, we hope you are excited as we are, as we start to see real progress on the design of the new Campus!

Look out for our two feature sections in this issue featuring the Independent Chair of the Regional Multi-Agency Panel for admissions to secure care and the NI Commissioner for Children & Young People. As part of the engagement process, the Team have had a real insight into the importance of the Commissioner’s role in the work of the Programme. We would like to extend our thanks to the Commissioner for her continued support and for sharing her views to be included in this issue. We, alongside the Team look forward to continuing to work closely with the Commissioner as this Programme progresses.

Seán Holland and Ronnie Armour



Seán Holland, Chief Social Worker/ Deputy Secretary, Social Services Policy Group, Department of Health



Ronnie Armour, Director of Reducing Offending, Department of Justice

Latest from Programme Board & Stakeholder Reference Group

August Programme Board meeting

- ◆ **Dr. Ian McMaster, Medical Officer, DoH and representing CAMHS agreed to join the Programme Board and attended his first meeting in August.**
- ◆ **Michael Burns, Social Services Officer, DoH, delivered a presentation on the proposed Framework for Integrated Therapeutic Care to be adopted across all Looked After Children care settings in NI, in response to recommendation 7 of the Review of Regional Facilities Report.**
- ◆ **Judith Brunt, Independent Chair of the Regional Multi-Agency Panel delivered a presentation on the establishment of the Panel. The Board noted that the pilot Regional Panel was due to commence on 1 September 2019.**
- ◆ **Next Programme Board meeting scheduled to take place on 12th November 2019.**

August & September Stakeholder Reference Group meetings

- ◆ **Following the meeting in August, the Programme Team arranged visits to both Lakewood and Woodlands for interested members. Feedback was largely positive, with individuals finding the experience valuable in the undertaking of their role as a reference group member.**
- ◆ **Reference Group members are developing a bespoke engagement mechanism in order to undertake meaningful engagement with children and young people. It is anticipated that this engagement will take place throughout October.**
- ◆ **The Programme Team presented draft design proposals with the group at the September meeting. Members agreed to take more time to consider fully and report back to the Team directly. More on this later in the issue...**

Engagement: September Workstream Advisory Group Workshop & Study Visit to Kibble

September Workstream Advisory Group Workshop

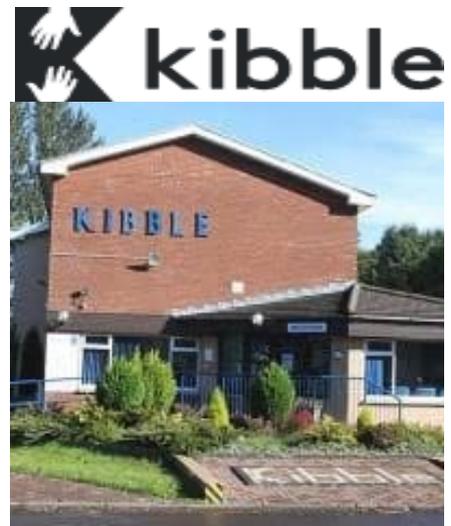
- ◆ The Programme Team held a joint Service Design and Pathways & Admissions Workstream Advisory Group workshop on 10th September.
- ◆ Approx. 40 members of both advisory groups were in attendance.
- ◆ The Programme Team presented draft service design proposals and attendees considered and discussed through interactive sessions.
- ◆ Overall, feedback provided during the workshop and discussion sessions was positive—there was broad support for the draft service design and outline functionality.
- ◆ The Programme Team agreed to consider the views and comments of attendees and undertake further refinement of the proposals as necessary.

Study visit to Kibble

In September, the Programme Team undertook a study visit to Kibble Education and Care Centre in Paisley, Glasgow.

Kibble supports at risk children and young people (aged 5-26) many of who have experienced significant trauma in their lives. Kibble provides dedicated care and support to help these vulnerable children and young people move forward. This includes residential and community support, as well as dedicated schools and wellbeing services all delivered on a Campus style basis.

A key element of this care and support is the secure care provided within the on-campus secure care centre. Kibble Safe Centre provides a safe, secure and supportive environment for young people aged 12 – 18. It's aim is to help highly vulnerable young people to overcome past difficulties, open up future opportunities and positively re-engage with their communities. What the team found most interesting is the young person's route into Kibble (and secure care across Scotland). Young people come to the Safe Centre, either via a referral from the Children's Hearing System or a court order and live side by side in the one facility. This process is one that the Team have taken into account in the development of design proposals for the new Campus.



Service Design Proposals

The following narrative provides you with a summary of the ***draft*** service design proposals developed by the Programme Team. These proposals are very much 'draft' and will be subject to further refinement based on ongoing stakeholder engagement. You'll see that these have been separated into the sections: admission, in secure accommodation and leaving secure accommodation. This will hopefully give you an idea of a child's/young person's experience through the new Campus from admission to discharge.

Admission

The draft design proposes that:

- * Children will be admitted to the Campus on a child's rights, integrated needs-based approach. Existing routes into secure accommodation (ie through the care and justice system) will remain.
- * A regional multi-agency panel will be established to make decisions about admissions to the Campus via a care route.
- * The Panel will also have an important role in planning the care/ services that a young person going into the Campus will require, and in planning for their discharge. The Panel will work closely with a single Director of the Campus, who will bear ultimate responsibility for the care and risk management of children while they remain in the Campus.

In secure accommodation

These draft design proposals centre around both the existing Lakewood and Woodlands sites. It is suggested that:-

- * Children and young people in secure accommodation will not be separated on the basis that they have been placed there via a 'care' route or a 'justice' route, but assessed on their individual needs and on a risk management basis.
- * All children and young people placed in the Campus will have access to high quality health and social care services, education, training, and other services designed to meet their individual needs.
- * A single therapeutic framework model to looking after children and a single approach to behaviour management will be adopted across the new Campus.

Service Design Proposals contd...

Leaving secure accommodation

The ultimate role of the Campus will be to provide relationship-based, trauma-informed, individually tailored interventions to every young person and to facilitate a return to community based services in the shortest time-frame possible. The draft design proposes that:-

- * Every child/young person will be supported to leave the Campus in a planned and coordinated way with appropriate services in place in the community.
- * A step-down facility will be developed which will support and encourage young people to safely and appropriately build relationships with family and friends, build life skills, and engage with services in the community, including education, training or work.
- * A network of dedicated satellite provision will be developed and locally based in the community to enable children and young people to engage with, and have direct access to, a range of services across health, social care, education and justice once they exit secure accommodation in the Campus.

Feature section: Independent Chair of the Regional Multi-Agency Panel for admissions to secure care

Mrs Judith Brunt, Independent Chair of the Regional Multi-Agency Panel for admissions to secure care has given us an overview of the work that she has taken forward alongside her implementation team in the establishment of the Panel.



Photo: Judith Brunt & some members of the implementation team.

I took up my post as Independent Chair for the Regional Multi Agency Panel for Secure Care in March 2019. In May 2019, the Multi Agency Regional Panel Implementation Team began its work. The purpose of this Team was to take forward the key objectives set out in Recommendation 5 of the “Review of Regional Facilities for Children and Young People” Report. The Report recommended the establishment of a workstream to deliver the establishment of a regional, independently chaired Panel responsible for decision-making relating to admissions to the new Campus. From this, it was decided that this Multi-Agency Regional Panel which would concentrate initially on the decision making regarding admissions to Lakewood Secure Care Centre.

The Team worked hard to deliver the necessary documentation within a tight timescale and produced an extensive Practitioners’ Guidance which was launched at an Awareness Workshop on 13th August 2019 in the Dunadry Hotel, Antrim. This was well attended by over 100 practitioners and managers from the region and included an excellent presentation from VOYPIC and Care Leavers on their personal experiences of secure care.

The Multi Agency Regional Panel became fully operational on 1st September 2019 and has commenced its responsibilities in thresholding and monitoring the admissions to Secure Care throughout the region.

Judith Brunt

Independent Chair Regional Multi Agency Panel

Feature section: Views from NI Commissioner for Children & Young People– Koulla Yiasouma

Koulla Yiasouma, NI Commissioner for Children & Young People, provides us with a little bit of insight into her thinking around the proposals for the new Campus and her role within the Programme.



My role as Northern Ireland Commissioner for Children and Young People is to promote and safeguard the rights of all children and young people in Northern Ireland. I believe that we test a state's compliance with children's rights by how they care for their most vulnerable children, particularly those who may require some restrictions. Detaining a child either in a secure children's home or a juvenile justice centre must be a measure of last resort and with the clear purpose of achieving better outcomes for that child/young person. Therefore, I view my role as ensuring that the rights of children and young people as outlined in the United Convention on the Rights of the Child are at the core of the Reform of Regional Facilities for Children and Young People.

Myself and my team meet with representatives of the Departments of Health and Justice on a regular basis and I have been pleased by how responsive the Programme Directors have been to our comments and suggestions. Whilst I welcome the approach taken by the Departments and believe that that there will be many benefits for young people, caution must be taken with regards to maintaining the integrity of differences of a child in custody and one in secure care. It is also crucial that we can be assured that children are only in the new regional facility as a measure of last resort. As stated above my role will be in the monitoring to ensure the implementation of rights include safety, education, healthcare (both physical and emotional) and rehabilitation when required. As the programme develops, I am particularly looking forward to seeing how children and young people who are experts by experience in custody and secure care are involved in the design of the facilities and the services surrounding them. The experiences and ideas must be integral to every aspect of the work of this programme.

Koulla Yiasouma
Commissioner

Check it out...

The Programme's privacy notice is now online– it can be accessed here: <https://www.health-ni.gov.uk/publications/privacy-notice-regional-facilities-children-young-people-programme>