

27th September 2018

Health and Social Care Board Statement in relation to NICCY report

The Health and Social Care Board (HSCB) welcome the report from the Northern Ireland Commissioner for Children and Young People (NICCY) and will now take time to study the findings.

HSCB Director of Children and Young People, Marie Roulston said:

“NICCY’s review provides a timely contribution to the journey of improvement of children’s emotional and mental health services.

“There are clearly a number of challenges highlighted in the report that the Health and Social Care system, working very closely with the community and voluntary sectors and wider society need to address in the short and longer term. There is no quick or easy fix.

“It’s also important for maintaining confidence in the services to acknowledge the improvements that have been made in the last decade, stemming from the Bamford Review and other key reforms.

“We need to continue to listen to the voices of children and young people to enhance the care and support we provide now and into the future, building on the progress made to date.

Mrs Roulston explained that across the UK, it is recognised that child and adolescent mental health services (CAMHS) are underfunded.

“The launch of NICCY’s Review provides a further opportunity to highlight this important message and it is one that the HSCB has been consistent in emphasising.

“However, any increase in investment needs to be seen against a backdrop of increasing demand for services, which continues to outstrip supply and finite resources.”

A number of ongoing measures to address this include:

- Increased investment towards prevention and early intervention to mitigate the need for specialist child and adolescent mental health services.
- Investing and developing the skill and capacity of the workforce in psychological therapies under the Psychological Therapy Strategy.
- £1m investment in CAMHS specific projects. These include conducting the first prevalence study on children’s mental health, improving the transition

process for young people moving into adult mental health services and project work to improve data systems.

- Funding has been secured for the establishment of the Managed Care Network to bring the acute service response into a single system of care, delivered locally. This will help ensure a more consistent approach across the region as well as more timely access for support and advice to young people presenting in crisis.