

## CHIEF OFFICER'S REPORT: HM BOARD 1<sup>st</sup> May 2020

### Update & Developments

#### Recruitment

- **Project Worker (Time Out):** Alex Abel started with us on 14<sup>th</sup> April. An unusual start in that she is remote-working from the outset but, given Alex's familiarity with Time Out and HM, we felt it was workable in this instance.
- **Marketing & Communications Officer:** recruitment postponed. Kate and Jen have started on shortlisting, however, with a view to kick-starting the process. In this instance, the role will involve being immersed in HM and (I think) none of the candidates has the familiarity. It does not feel as workable to start a new member of staff in this role during lockdown.
- **Safespace additional team leader:** interim position to enable extended Safespace (more below). Given urgency, this was opened internally to the Safespace team, and Maddy Smith (Safespace project worker) has accepted 3-month role on 18 hours per week.

#### Safespace

Main development is the extension of Safespace, requested by Calderdale CCG in response to growing concern on mental health due to pandemic restrictions. HM staff team was asked to move hours to take on Safespace shifts in addition to the current 4-day Safespace team, and the response has been good, with 7 staff willing and the Safespace team covering some extra shifts.

CCG has paid approx. £2500 per month towards additional capacity, and £480 for additional mobile phones to enable remote-working. Note that we have moved capacity from other projects into Safespace, and other regular activity in those projects is still being maintained.

As of 20<sup>th</sup> April, Safespace is open every evening 6.30 – 10.30pm.

It is worth noting that this has not been easy: there have been technical and logistical challenges in getting Safespace to remote-working, made all the more difficult by extending the team.

A sterling effort across the team and a remarkable achievement to fast-track developing and launching a 'new' service at this time.

Notwithstanding the interim extension, the Safespace tendering process continues. Our proposal was submitted on 20<sup>th</sup> April, with a decision expected by the end of April. This would secure a 7-day Safespace over 2 years, with intended start date of 1<sup>st</sup> July 2020.

#### Time Out

Given that a large part of Time Out's work was in schools, the lockdown has given renewed impetus to the activity strand. A brilliant and creative response from the team has a steady flow of activities on the Time Out website and social media; competitions; blogs and contributions from young people; letters from children to care homes. The "find your thing" message - to do whatever helps you feel good and stay well – has become even more pertinent.

Also at CCG's request, the team is exploring the possibility of a listening line / telephone support for young people: this is to support the wider system along similar lines to the Safespace extension. We have agreed to proceed carefully, with engagement from CAMHS and the Council, rather than rush into this.

#### Other services

Again, a great response across the team has kept services going. Support groups and drop-ins have been maintained, albeit remotely. Some groups are meeting on Zoom. People have been receiving check-ins and telephone support, including ongoing support on welfare rights.

Increasing number of requests from other organisations for us to assist them with wellbeing support. We are responding where possible, with some others needing a little more work.

## **Delegated Actions**

- **Supervision & Appraisal Policy & Performance Report:** I have not achieved this task.
- **Business Plan 2020-21:** JRG (hopefully, at the time of writing) completed update, reviewed at Development Sub-group.
- **Safespace tender proposal:** completed and submitted. Decision by end of April.

## **Key Meetings and External Relationships**

### **West Yorks & Harrogate Mental Health, Learning Disability & Autism (MHLDA) Programme Board**

After a poor experience at first meeting, I have been to another and that was somewhat better – I even got a seat and the chance to speak: contributed to discussion about the appalling experiences of people in long-term inpatient MH units.

Whilst much of the board's programme is worthy, it does feel like an exercise in making a meal of issues through endless debate and painfully incremental action. I don't recall any particular decisions or actions from the meeting that felt like achieving much.

### **Children and young people's emotional health and wellbeing task force (EHWB task force)**

Led by Calderdale MBC, all relevant providers attend this meeting to try to ensure a coordinated response. Meetings have continued by Zoom, with an additional providers' peer support meeting fortnightly.

### **VSI Alliance peer support meetings**

Another regular Zoom meeting, with an open invitation to VCS providers in Calderdale. This week's meeting included an HR lawyer advising on furlough, and both Calderdale MPs attended to listen to providers' experiences.

## **Overview of finance / risk & actions**

Funders have confirmed that anticipated income is unaffected by the pandemic, with most acknowledging challenges and easing reporting pressures. Some have authorised unrestricted use of funding temporarily. As such, everyone's job remains secure within expected parameters.

Lots of additional funding has become available to respond to the pandemic. Discussion at Finance sub-group determined that Healthy Minds does not need to apply for emergency funds in our current financial position: there are other charities more in need of funding.

We have, however, identified a need for additional interim capacity in recovery & support; more capacity for welfare rights; and more capacity for marketing as the recruitment is on-hold and our facebook presence is all the more important at the moment. An application to Mind, administering government funding, is being developed along these lines.

The outstanding risk is the Safespace extension, pending decision end of April.

## **Questions for Trustees**

I feel have been covered in other discussions, sub-groups, etc.