

f) Mohammed Ilyas of Belmont ward asked the following question of Councillor Carroll, Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care, Children's Services, Health, Mental Health, & Transformation:

As a teacher by profession, I have some awareness of the effect of Covid and the lockdowns on children's education over the last 2 years in particular. May I ask the Lead Member for Children's Services to share what initiatives RBWM have taken and investments made to support the life chances of our young citizens following the pandemic to date.

Written Response: Thank you for your question Mr Ilyas. The pandemic has impacted many areas of our resident's lives and the disruption to education has been significant. The first response from schools has been fantastic. They have adapted to flexible ways of teaching, including remote learning, and stayed open for children of key workers or otherwise vulnerable children and continue to focus on helping every pupil learn. The council have supported schools with a number of interventions which are detailed below, including early years outreach for social, emotional and mental health support; support with emotionally related school avoidance (ERSA); and access to resources like Fantastic Fred.

We also recognise that some young people need additional support outside of school so we have increased the capacity of the early help team to provide both small group and one to one support.

I would be happy to provide more information should you need it.

School Led Tutoring

School-Led Tutoring is part of the National Tutoring Programme (NTP) in 2021/22. Eligible state-funded schools receive a ring-fenced grant to source their own tutoring provision for disadvantaged and vulnerable pupils who have missed the most education due to COVID-19.

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/1069886/Updated_School-Led_Tutoring_Guidance_.pdf#

Early Years SEMH Outreach.

With the evidence that the pandemic has impacted significantly on children in the formative stages of life resulting in schools and nurseries reporting that there are witnessing issues around;

Speech and Language development, Toileting, Sharing and playing, independence, turn taking, dexterity and mark making as well as Social emotional and mental health issues relating to self-regulation and aggressive outbursts. RBWM and AfC have joined with Manor Green School to develop an Early Years SEMH Outreach service for 2022/2023 to provide support for the most vulnerable children at this key stage and increased capacity for the setting that the children are in prior to an SEMH Hub facility being available through Capital Funding later in the year.

ELSA - Emotional Literacy Support Assistants

ELSA is an evidence based school intervention programme which strengthens school capacity to support CYP with mild to moderate social, emotional and behavioural difficulties. As part of the quality assurance process, all new ELSAs attend the annual training programme (RBWM EPS) and are subsequently supervised by RBWM Educational Psychologists on a half termly basis. Approximately 60 schools in and just outside the borough have an ELSA/s who have been trained and receive continued supervision facilitated by RBWM EPS.

Mental Health Support Teams (MHSTs) became fully operational in RBWM in September 2021.

The teams support children and young people in 14 RBWM schools (and the virtual school) who have emerging, mild or moderate mental health difficulties which may be affecting their day to day life. Depending on the age of the child or young person, The team either work directly with them or with their parents. They also work with school staff and offer support on different levels, with the aim of developing and supporting a whole school approach to mental health.

The Attachment Aware Schools Award Through whole school CPD and coaching delivered by Educational Psychologists for Designated Teachers in all RBWM schools, the programme aims to increase the academic progress and wellbeing of young people in care and c/yp with attachment needs. Attachment and trauma aware schools report less behaviour incidents and improved outcomes for vulnerable children. This programme enhances relational practice in educational settings and attachment and trauma awareness across the school to facilitate wellbeing and inclusion for all.

RBWM Emotionally Related School Avoidance (ERSA) toolkit. ERSA has doubled during the pandemic; this was preempted by the Educational Psychology and Wellbeing teams. A graduated and multi-agency pathway and toolkit guidance produced by RBWM Achieving for Children has been sent to school Attendance Officers. The guidance and webinar includes information on definitions and causal factors, a universal and intervention levels 1-3 pathway and school-based strategies. We have appointed an ERSA co-ordinator from September to consult with schools and further embed the use of the audit and toolkit to ensure early intervention and support.

The Link Programme In January 2022 RBWM education settings and partners were invited to engage in The Link Programme (in collaboration with The Anna Freud Centre). This programme improves joint working in mental health and wellbeing between NHS mental health services, Local Authorities including Public Health, and VCSE services. This consisted of an introductory session and three further targeted meetings with education leads, health professionals, early help teams in RBWM and voluntary sector organisations. An action plan has been collated as a result based upon local considerations for further enhancement of policy and practice within the health and wellbeing remit.

Fantastic Fred

A free preventative and educational mental health resource for primary aged children delivered by a team of actors. It is specifically designed to inform, equip and build resilience. It delivers simple, practical and memorable ways in which children can look after their mental health and provides links to physical health. The performance is based on the acronym FRED - Food, Rest, Exercise and Devices. It includes follow up resources for parents and teaching staff. This programme was developed as part of the Good Health Matters Campaign and has been offered free of charge to all schools (including independent) in RBWM. A secondary programme will also be developed which will be offered on the same basis.

Area SENCo/Specialist Teacher Service

- *Continuing to support SENCos through training, clusters and networking*
- *Support school leaders with SEND reviews and Inclusion Quality Mark awards*
- *EAL cluster formed*
- *1:1 and small group SEND and EAL support*