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Agenda

- Why did we undertake the review and what was our overall conclusion?
- What did children and young people tell us?
- What are our main findings and recommendations?

Why did we undertake the review?

- Significant numbers of children and young people at risk of or experiencing mental health problems
- Mental health is a priority for the Assembly Government
- Concerns about these services raised by related audit and inspection work and those involved in providing services and support to children and young people

What was the objective of the review?

We set out to establish whether services are adequately meeting the mental health needs of children and young people in Wales

We concluded that...

What is our main conclusion?

Despite some improvements in recent years, services are still failing many children and young people, reflecting a number of key barriers to improvement

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Barnardo's
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What did children and young people tell us?

- Consulted with:
 - 68 children and young people across Wales
 - 60 parents and carers
- Gathered views on:
 - Satisfaction with information, support and services
 - Involvement in planning care and in decision making

What did children and young people tell us?

Experiences vary greatly with:

- Some children and young people reporting a very positive experience
- Some reporting an extremely negative experience
- A significant proportion having a mixed experience

Some other headline issues...

What did children and young people tell us?

Significant numbers of children and young people are not being adequately involved in their care:

- just over half of children and young people said that they had been involved in decisions about their care
- younger children in particular were often not aware of the reason why they are involved with specialist services
- around 60 per cent of children and young people said that they are 'not always sure what is going to happen or why' or that they 'don't know what is going on most the time'

What did children and young people tell us?

Children and young people's views on practitioners varied a lot:

- a quarter said that they did not think their views had been listened to
- some children and young people spoke about practitioners who were difficult to understand, rude and dismissive
- although most practitioners were identified as good at explaining things, some children and young people made comments about being confused by, and not understanding, what practitioners say

What did children and young people tell us?

Nearly one in five children and young people in our consultation had accessed inpatient services – this group were more critical of the care they received

- The new inpatient units will have addressed some issues
- But other issues remain...

What did children and young people tell us?

- Most said that they had sometimes felt frightened in hospital
- The majority did not feel being in hospital made them feel better
- A small number of young people had had extremely negative experiences
- Discharge arrangements were poor

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What are our main findings and recommendations?

Our main findings

- Recent improvements have been made
- Services are still failing children and young people
- There are a number of key barriers to improvement

What are our main findings?

Recent improvements have been made with for example funding for :

- Parenting and family intervention services
- Expanding school counselling
- Introduction of primary mental health workers
- New inpatient units

What are our main findings?

Services are still failing children and young people:

- Unlike other parts of the UK there are no specialist mental health services in the community for children under five
- In parts of Wales some groups of young people do not have access to the specialist mental health services that are in place
- Specialist community services are too variable

What are our main findings?

- Staff working on a day to day basis with children and young people provide too variable support for their emotional and mental health problems
- Services are often not child friendly and many children and young people are not involved enough in planning their care
- A number of practices are putting children at risk including placing significant numbers of children inappropriately, on paediatric or adult mental health wards

What are our main findings?

There are a number of key barriers to improvement these include:

- The way services are planned and provided
- Joint working health, local authorities and voluntary sectors
- Issues around workforce development
- Performance management

What action do we recommend?

Our report makes 16 specific recommendations, these include:

- To address shortfalls in service provision:
 - the Assembly Government to develop an action plan to address service shortfalls within 6 months
 - Health Boards and Local Authorities to develop local multi agency plans for implementing the national action plan

What action do we recommend?

- To address practices that are placing children at risk:
 - We identify a number of immediate steps that the Assembly Government, health boards, and local authorities need to take
- To address the barriers to improvement :
 - We make recommendations to remove or lessen each barrier
 - We also recommend improvements to the information available to children and young people and to their involvement in developing and review of services

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