



To: Health and Wellbeing Board

Date: 5th February 2025

Title: Early Help and Protection – Trauma Vanguard

1 Purpose of the Note

- 1.1 In August 2021, Coventry and Warwickshire CCG/ICS were awarded Trauma Vanguard status for the West Midlands via the NSHE Framework for Integrated Care been extended from March 2024 to March 2028, such has been the success of the initiative.

Our Framework was co-designed by Coventry and Warwickshire young people and was developed as a response to the NHS England & NHS Improvement Long Term Plan (LTP) commitment to provide additional support for the most vulnerable children and young people with complex needs across multiple domains between the ages of 8-19, including some of the most complex children who have been subjected to child exploitation and significant trauma(s) to provide early intervention to interrupt their potential future challenges. This funding has enabled the ICB and partners to pilot work with our young people to lead on designing the framework and offers a unique opportunity to respond to assess the impact of this new way of working to achieve cultural and organisational change.

The report will share the impact that this initiative is making for Coventry young people and our staff across all agencies and outline how the learning used to influence future commissioning intentions.

2 Recommendations

- 2.1 **To recognise the impacts to our most vulnerable children and families in our city and use the learning from the Vanguard's test and learn approach to influence future commissioning for young people in the most complex situations.**

3 Information/Background

- 3.1 In August 2021, Coventry and Warwickshire CCG/ICS were awarded Vanguard status for the West Midlands via the NSHEI Framework for Integrated Care September 2021 - March 2024, which has been extended to March 2028 such has been the success of the initiative. We are one of 12 nationally.

Our Framework was co-designed by Coventry and Warwickshire young people and was developed as a response to the NHS England & NHS Improvement Long Term Plan (LTP) commitment to provide additional support for the most vulnerable children and young people with complex needs across multiple domains between the ages of 8-19, including some of the most complex children who have been subjected to child exploitation and significant trauma(s) to provide early intervention to interrupt their potential future challenges. This funding has enabled the ICB and partners to pilot work with our young people to lead on designing the framework and offers a unique opportunity to respond to assess the impact of this new way of working to achieve cultural and organisational change.

The model has been designed by our young people for our young people. They told us:

- **Don't label us bad or diagnose us as mad.**
- **Connect us back to our communities** and our schools so we engage meaningful activities, have a sense of purpose, and make positive friendship groups.
- Make sure that people working with us, and our family, **don't judge, understand all of our lived experiences and are kind and approachable**

We listened to our young people, and responded, which formed the basis of our 3 pillar framework:

- **Trauma Informed System Training:** The production of a suite of 8 stakeholder developed Trauma Informed training modules endorsed by Coventry and Warwickshire Safeguarding Partnerships. We have developed a Trauma Informed reflective handbook and organisational self-assessment tool, all underpinned by a Community of Practice being established.
- **CYP Social Prescribing Approach:** We have developed an ICB hosted CYP Social Prescribing platform called 'Positive Pathways' [Happy Healthy Lives](#), established a Social Prescribing fund and assurance group, and commissioned enhanced social prescribing offers including Equine, Education and Sports therapy offer.
- **14 Pilot Positive Directions Service: Youth Workers** embedded into Children's Services plus Allied Health Professionals in Coventry, using **relationship-based** youth worker approaches underpinned by Trauma Informed Practice using *Social Prescribing*, supported by **Occupationally, Speech and Language and Case Formulation and Case discussion**. The project is focused on empowering young people by increasing their engagement in activities that build confidence, skills, and community connections. Through social prescribing, mentoring and personal development sessions, the project has supported young people overcome challenge and achieve their goals.

3.2 Between 1st April 2023 - March 2024, our service has worked with over 400 young people across Coventry and Warwickshire. All young people open to the service have a suite of data captured from entry to exit of the project, which is uploaded on a NHSE data landing portal, and has demonstrated the following impacts:

- 85% improvement in family connection and relationship with parent/care/siblings.

- 100% have accessed community-based activities, making friends, having fun and making friends.
- 65% have an improved school attendance.
- 83% report an improvement in their emotional and mental health.
- No young people admitted to a ward setting in crisis.

4 How does this work contribute to the delivery of the Health and Wellbeing Strategy?

4.1 Vanguard: The aim of the project reflects the strategy with its mission to improve the lives and wellbeing of children and young people in the most complex situations who have experienced health inequalities and support them positively into adulthood, to adopt a social model of health connecting children and young people to their communities and responds to reduce health inequalities.

4.2 The Vanguard was a finalist in the 2024 Health Service Journal award in the category of 'Improving the Health Inequalities for Children and Young people'. In challenging market conditions, future commissioning investment is often determined by differentiators when making such decisions. Being a finalist for a HSJ award, the 'Oscars of the NHS', recognises the local, regional, and national impact of the learning from our project for children and young people that experience health inequalities.

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