

Jersey Youth Parliament

Response to Questions

Deputy Trevor Pointon: Assistant Minister for Health and Social Services with responsibility for Mental Health

1. Is there anything that you are currently working on that we could support you with?

Yes. You recently met the Head of the Health & Wellbeing Service, and you will be seeing the Lead for the Children and Young People Emotional Wellbeing and Mental Health Strategy 2022-2025 on 23 March 2022 for an update. Continued discussion with both the Health & Wellbeing and the Strategy teams will be helpful to co-produce and improve services for children, young people, and families across the Island. Both teams very much welcome a joint working approach.

2. In light of the various causes of poor mental health that we have highlighted in young people, are you confident that funding is being spent in the right areas?

Yes, there is significant new Government Plan investment and staff are being recruited in key areas like eating disorder support, neurodevelopmental assessment, and therapeutic input. The new Duty and Assessment Service and all referrals for CAMHS now operate via the Children and Families Hub - meaning children, young people and families will get more joined up support and access to assessments and support more quickly. The Early Intervention Service will focus on getting support in the right place, at right time.

The Youth Wellbeing Drop-In has also been set up at the YES Project at Eagle House; this runs on a Saturday from 10.00 am-6.00 pm, young people and families to drop in for a chat, a youth worker, CAMHS practitioner and Counsellor are all available to support. It would be helpful if you had some time to drop in to tell us what you think and to let us know about any improvements.

We are also currently undertaking a piece of work to understand mental health support in schools through the Anna Freud Centre. Based on what is required this may lead to additional investment in mental health support specially in schools and colleges.

3. We were aware that there were 18 roles recently advertised for mental health professionals. Is there an update on if these have all been filled?

We've had applications for all posts advertised. Interviews for these posts commenced yesterday. There have been 3 new appointments already and there are further interviews scheduled next week.