

Committee: Education Board	Date: 12 January 2017
Subject: Mental Health in City Schools	Public
Report of: Director of Community and Children's Services	For Information
Officer: Tizzy Keller, Policy Support Officer, Community and Children's Services	

Summary

This report provides Members with an update on the work being undertaken by the Education Unit regarding Mental Health in the City schools. It highlights the importance of addressing mental health issues within schools and informs Members about the Mental Health audit currently being undertaken and how this information will be used to produce a proposal for what the Education Board can do to support and enhance the Mental Health provisions in the City Schools.

Recommendations

Members are asked to note the report.

Main Report

Background

1. There is a large evidence base for the importance of addressing Mental Health issues in schools. One in ten children aged between 5 and 16 years has a mental health problem and 75% of mental ill health has developed by the age of 18. Children are less likely to suffer from serious mental health difficulties in later life if they receive support at an early age. Additionally, a child's ability to learn and take in new information is highly dependent on the state of their mental health. The increasing recognition of the effect of mental health issues on academic attainment, and the unique platform that schools can offer in access to and support for children with psychological difficulties, has resulted in an increased focus of Mental Health in the educational environment nationally.
2. There is a growing awareness of the stressful environment that teachers face due to the high pressure nature of the role and a large workload. This has resulted in an increase in Mental Health issues amongst teachers. A 2016 survey of teacher wellbeing in England revealed that 60% of teachers stated that the job had adversely affected their mental health in the last 12 months.
3. The mental health of students and staff has been identified as a growing concern in all the City schools (Trust, Co-sponsored and Independent) and

discussions around the Mental Health have arisen in a number of meetings with City school staff and governors. However, a full audit of what Mental Health issues exist in City schools and what is being done to address them has never been undertaken. At Education Board on 15 September 2016 Members requested that a full audit of Mental Health related activity is undertaken to ensure this issue is being addressed and determine how the City of London Education Board support the schools in this area.

Current position

1. A Mental Health Audit table has been produced (Appendix 1) which is being used to collect information on what the main mental health issues are for staff and students at the City schools, what Mental Health activities and support schools currently offer and what additional resources the school would find beneficial.
2. This table has been sent to the schools to complete. Once returned, the feedback will be collated and analysed. This information, together with national guidance, will be used to produce a proposal for what the Education Board can offer to supplement and support Mental Health related activities in schools. The aim of this work is to ensure that the City schools promote positive mental wellbeing and have the knowledge and resources to provide swift treatment when mental health issues do arise in staff and pupils.
3. The Education Board will receive the full Mental Health report at the meeting on ... March.

Conclusion

1. Nationally there is an increased focus on the importance of addressing mental health in the educational environment and the City schools have identified this as a grown concern. Therefore the Education Unit are undertaking an audit of Mental Health issues in city schools and how they are currently being addressed. This information will be used to create a proposal of what the Education Board can do to support and enhance the Mental Health provisions in the City Schools. Members are asked to note the report.

Appendices

Appendix 1- Mental Health Audit spread sheet.

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