

MENTAL HEALTH STRATEGY – REPORT ON PROGRESS – ACTION 7

Date of report	18 July 2019
Date of last report	6 December 2018
Project end date	March 2021
Action Number	7
Action Owner (s)	Tom McNamara/Liz Murdoch
Action Link	Niall Kearney
Action Text	Support an increase in support for the mental health needs of young offenders, including on issues such as trauma and bereavement.

Progress Update from Previous report	RAG
<p>1. Community Safety colleagues funded Barnardos to deliver trauma, bereavement and loss (TBL) projects in Polmont for 2 years (2016/17 and 2017/18). The project was to provide:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provision of TBL service to young women in Polmont and associated staff training and development, with small scale evaluation • Pilot to explore support needs in relation to TBL for young people leaving Polmont, who have participated in the Here and Now Service • Responding earlier to young people’s experiences of TBL by working with identified children in schools, capacity building with parents and staff, with small scale evaluation <p>An evaluation of trauma, bereavement and loss services in three Scottish schools has been completed, and is due to be published over the summer.</p>	
<p>2. The evaluation of trauma, bereavement and loss services for females in Polmont is due to be published over the summer.</p>	
<p>3. The Centre for Youth & Criminal Justice, Barnardo’s Scotland and the University of Strathclyde developed a summary paper of the past 5 years of work on Trauma Bereavement and Loss. The key learning and messages from research and practice document looks at 5 research papers and a body of work which seeks to document and support the trauma, bereavement and loss needs of vulnerable young people and adults who are at risk, or have found themselves in the criminal justice and other systems. The paper aims to summarise the main findings from each piece of research, drawing out the key messages and themes in order to inform the development of trauma-informed approaches more widely. This summary paper is completed and due to be published over the summer.</p>	
<p>4. CYCJ undertook research into bullying as an adverse childhood experience and the impact it has for all those involved. The research explores evidence of how bullying behaviour in childhood can later lead to involvement in offending. The research paper was published on 27 June 2019, and has been shared with colleagues working in Education and Adverse Childhood Experiences.</p>	
<p>5. The <i>Report on an Expert Review of the Provision of Mental Health Services for Young People Entering and in Custody at HMP YOI Polmont</i> was published in May 2019. This review makes a number of recommendations to support the</p>	

mental health and wellbeing of young people entering and in custody. A number of recommendations are already being looked at, including implementation of a pilot of in-cell phones at HMYOI Polmont, with the necessary controls in place. Actions are being taken forward by SPS, Health and SG.	
6. The Scottish Government has committed to appointing a National Childhood Bereavement Coordinator for Scotland over the next two years until March 2021. The coordinator will act as the national champion for understanding the needs of all children who have experienced bereavement and work in partnership with key stakeholders to drive forward improvements in bereavement services support for children and young people across Scotland. This is a Programme for Government commitment and funding has been allocated to deliver this until March 2021.	

Key Deliverables in next 6 months (include estimated date for each deliverable)	RAG
1. Publish key reports on bullying and trauma by Summer 2019.	Green
2. Discussions to be had around some of the recommendations made by the expert review and how they will impact youth justice. Initial meeting on 14 August with partners will explore this.	Green
3. Progress with the appointment of the National Childhood Bereavement Coordinator post.	Green

What does success look like?
1. Increased awareness of the effects that trauma, bereavement and loss can have on young people.
2. Increased evidence of trauma-informed practice in custodial and other justice-related settings.

What data (if any) can evidence delivery?

Any other comments