

# Child & Adolescent Mental Health Scrutiny Inquiry Panel

## Terms of Reference

### Key Question

The panel has agreed that the primary focus for the inquiry should be on prevention and early intervention to reduce the numbers of children seeking specialist CAMHS support. The key question, therefore, is:

***How is the Council working with health and other partners to reduce demand for specialist child and adolescent mental health services?***

### Lines of Inquiry

- a) **Multi-agency prevention & early intervention:** how do partners (education, health, youth offending, child and family services, third sector) work together to provide prevention and early intervention services?
- b) **Accessing services:** what is the new referral process and how does it operate? Is a diagnosis/dual diagnosis the best course of action to access services?
- c) **Training:** how are professionals who work with children and young people trained to identify mental health issues? How does the expert patient scheme operate and what are the benefits?
- d) **Transition:** how effective is the transition from child & adolescent mental health services to adult services?

These lines of inquiry will form the basis for evidence gathering and for questioning strategies in panel meetings.

### Intended Impact and Contribution

- Evidenced proposals that will lead to better access to child & adolescent mental health services
- The views of key stakeholders including health professionals providing services, the voluntary and community sector, social services and education officers
- Consideration of the conclusions and recommendations from regional and national reports
- Increased councillor understanding about how child and adolescent mental health services are delivered and the effectiveness of the services
- Greater public awareness of child and adolescent mental health services.