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**Dr Catherine Driscoll,**  
Director of Children, Families,  
and Communities

Children, Families and  
Communities Directorate  
County Hall  
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WORCESTER  
WR5 2NP

Our Ref: CD/SW/PC/BW

15<sup>th</sup> April 2019

Dear Jane

### **Healthwatch Worcestershire Children and Young People's Mental Health Report – Response to recommendations**

Thank you for your letter of 18<sup>th</sup> March 2019 and copy of the Children and Young People's Mental Health Report. Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services are commissioned by a children's health commissioning team based in Worcestershire County Council, which commissions services on behalf of the Worcestershire Clinical Commissioning Groups under a section 75 agreement.

We welcome feedback in order to inform the ongoing development and annual refresh of Worcestershire's Transformation Plan for Children and Young People's Emotional Wellbeing and Mental Health. The Healthwatch Worcestershire surveys and reports on children and young people's mental health and emotional wellbeing issues undertaken in 2015 and 2017 are referenced in and have influenced previous annual refreshes of the Transformation Plan. We will ensure that this latest report is taken in to account in ongoing development plans for services and reflected in the next refresh of the Transformation Plan. This Plan is now overseen by the Children and Young People's Partnership Strategic Group, which ensures a whole system view.

Your survey was of people's experience over the past two years and, as noted in your report, a number of new services have been commissioned over this time including face to face and online emotional wellbeing services (Reach 4 Wellbeing and Kooth), community eating disorder service and the CAMHS CAST (consultation, advice, support and training) team. In addition, the CCGs invested an additional £100,000 in 2018/19 to increase capacity and reduce waiting times in specialist CAMHS and Reach 4 Wellbeing. The CCGs have also recently been successful in bidding for non-recurrent funding from NHS England to further improve access and waiting times. This funding is being invested in additional capacity in CAMHS, Reach 4 Wellbeing and the Umbrella (ASD assessment) pathway and also to pilot training for parent carers in relation to autism and anxiety.

The CCGs will be continuing to invest additional resources in mental health services, including those for children and young people, in line with the national Mental Health Investment Standard. We will continue to consult and engage stakeholders in decisions on how this money is invested, including through the Children and Young People's Mental

Health and Emotional Wellbeing Partnership Board, which we are pleased that Healthwatch Worcestershire provides representation to through Morag Edmondson.

For 2019/20 commissioners are working collaboratively with Worcestershire Health and Care Trust to develop and invest in a range of schemes which will further improve access and waiting times for mental health and emotional wellbeing services and address a number of the issues raised in your report.

A response to the specific recommendations of your report directed to commissioners is attached.

Yours sincerely,



**Dr Catherine Driscoll**  
**Director of Children, Families and Communities**

cc Simon Trickett, Accountable Officer, Worcestershire CCGs