

**GREATER MANCHESTER  
CHILDREN'S HEALTH AND  
WELLBEING STAKEHOLDER  
FORUM  
NAVIGATING THROUGH COVID-  
19 RECOVERY**

FRIDAY 10 JULY 2020



# INTRODUCTION



The children's stakeholder forum event was delivered virtually this summer with the focus on how health and education sectors can work and plan together to **Build Back Better** after Covid-19 by taking a short to medium-term view.

# AIM AND OBJECTIVE

The GM Child Health and Wellbeing Stakeholder Forum supports the GMCH&WB Framework programme<sup>1</sup> and holds 2 events per year to give colleagues across the GM system to come together to work on a specific theme. The theme of this event was to identify the opportunities to connect, collaborate and co-produce across both physical and mental health and wellbeing services and the education sector to help to **Build Back Better** during Covid 19 recovery and beyond by:

- Identifying key challenges and opportunities for a range of CYP stakeholders.
- Identifying common themes and opportunities for collaborative working and adoption of innovative practice that builds resilient children and young people, parents and carers and the whole of the CYP community.

# TARGET AUDIENCE

The target audience was made up of people with a passion for building resilience in our children and young people and the communities to which they belong and to work together to improve their outcomes.

The event was conducted using MS teams live, was chaired by Dr Carol Ewing and facilitated by the Greater Manchester and Eastern Cheshire Strategic Clinical Network team (GMEC SCN).

On the day, we were joined by **74** colleagues who collectively represented our child health and wellbeing community for the Greater Manchester Health and Social Care Partnership (GMHSCP), Greater Manchester and Eastern Cheshire Strategic Clinical Network (GMEC SCN), Health Innovation Manchester (HInM), Greater Manchester Combined Authority (GMCA) and NHS England and Improvement (NHS E&I). There was also representation from the voluntary and community sector including parent and carer representatives and Youth Focus North West. Wider representation came from the Clinical Commissioning Groups (CCGs), Local Authorities, provider Trusts and Universities:

## CCGs

- Bolton
- Bury
- Heywood, Middleton and Rochdale
- Manchester Health & Care Commissioning
- Oldham
- Salford
- Wigan Borough

<sup>1</sup> <https://www.gmhsc.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2018/10/Greater-Manchester-Childrens-and-Young-People-Health-and-Wellbeing-Framework-2018-2022-Final-Print.pdf>

### Local Authorities

- Bury
- Manchester
- Oldham
- Rochdale
- Salford
- Stockport
- Trafford
- Wigan

### Trusts

- Greater Manchester Mental Health NHS Foundation Trust
- Manchester University NHS Foundation Trust
- North West Boroughs Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust
- Pennine Acute Hospitals NHS Trust
- Pennine Care NHS Foundation Trust
- Salford Royal NHS Foundation Trust
- Stockport NHS Foundation Trust
- Wrightington, Wigan and Leigh NHS Foundation Trust

### Universities

- University of Oxford
- University of Salford, Manchester

### Others

- 42nd Street
- Bright Futures Educational Trust
- GreaterSport
- Kingsland School, Oldham
- Manchester Mind
- Place2Be
- Wigan and Leigh Carers
- Wraparound Partnership
- Youth Focus North West

The live stream from the session can be viewed on YouTube at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nnuMpk-lihg&feature=youtu.be>

## AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION

During the session we utilised several formats to engage with our audience through a question and answer facility as well as through an interactive online platform Mentimeter.

## MENTIMETER

The session opened with 2 icebreakers and as you'll see from the images below, there will be no surprise in 'lockdown and covid' being amongst the most used word/phrase in 2020 together with missing our families and friends the most during lockdown. The larger the word on the Mentimeter 'Wordles', the more people responded in that way.



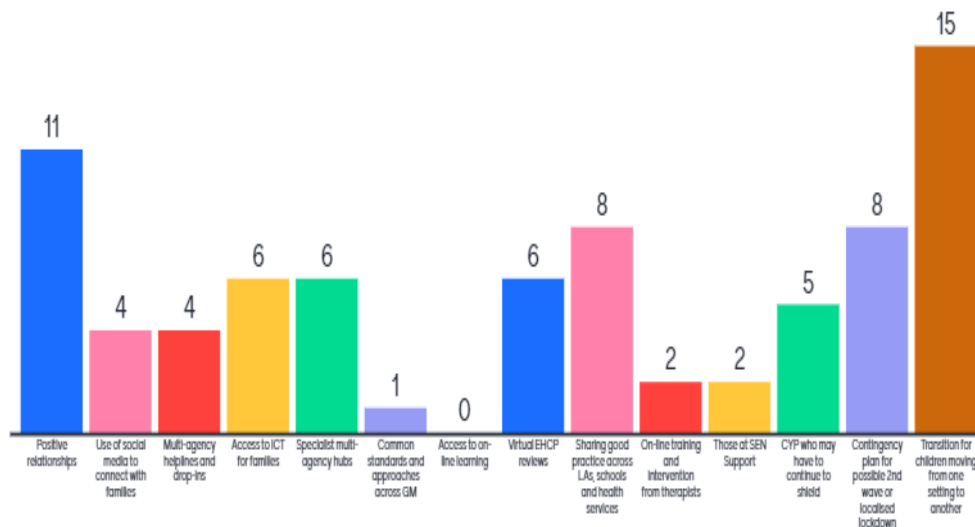
Time	Title	Presenter
13:35	Mental Health	Dr. Sandeep Ranote, Medical Director, NWB Healthcare NHS FT, Zulfi Jiva, GM HSCP Head of Cross-cutting Programmes
13:45	Education	Lisa Fathers, Director of Teaching School & Partnerships BFET Executive Team
13:55	Early Years	Miriam Loxham, School Readiness Project Manager, GMCA
14:05	SEND	Audrey Taplin, GM SEND Co-ordinator
14:15	Physical Health - School nurse perspective	Carol Bailey, GM Imms and Vaccs team, Victoria Riley, School nurse lead
14:25	Local Authority	Cathy Starbuck, Assistant Director (Education, Work and Skills), Salford
14:35	Mentimeter  (word/ short phrase answer)  What practical step can be taken to improve collaborative working to support children returning to school in the autumn?	Interactive session
14:40	Panel Q & A	Questions from the chat
14:55	Summary and close	Chris McLoughlin, Director of Children's Services, Stockport MBC, Co-Chair of GM CHWBEB

The presentations are in the accompanying slide pack. As part of each presentation, presenters were asked to pose a question to the audience. Below are highlighted common themes and/or responses that rated highly with all Mentimeter outcomes available in a separate attachment to this report.

1. Due to technical difficulties we were unable to show the video produced by Lauren Barclay from Youth Focus North West. You can now view this on YouTube at <https://youtu.be/CtiFM8sZRPM>
2. Elizabeth Stanley, Wraparound Partnership, provided the parent/carer voice and asked for input - as a result of Covid, how will you/will you change how you communicate with families, parents and carers?
  - a. Frequency of communication rated highly from the 45 responses received.
3. Sandeep Ranote and Zulfi Jiva presented on mental health and requested input around - what mental health support would you envisage is required for schools during the initial recovery period (academic year 2020/21)?
  - a. 24 responses were received to this question and included suggestions around strengthening pastoral support and support to schools in this work as well as staff training.
4. Unfortunately, due to timing and technical issues, Lisa Fathers who was going to provide the education overview was unable to present on the day - a copy of Lisa's slides is Included in the slide pack.
5. Miriam Loxham giving an early year's overview and asked for audience participation as below which gleaned 78 responses and highlighted job losses and poverty amongst the top 2 concerns.



## Practical steps to support children and young people with SEND and their families - vote for your top 3



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6. Carol Bailey presenting on physical health from a school nurse perspective asked what practical steps could be taken to improve physical health when all children return to school?

This received 26 responses - amongst them were suggestions around using PSHE effectively such as building on healthy behaviours in lockdown breakfast clubs and enhancing ways of increasing physical activity such as PE time.

7. Local Authority representative, Cathy Starbuck wanted to know 'what could schools do to promote attendance in September'?

42 responses were received for this and highlighted the need to reassure families through listening to their concerns and providing clear health information for virus control in the run up to September.

The session ended with a wrap up from Chris McLoughlin, Director of Children's Services, Stockport MBC, Co-Chair of GM CH& WB Executive Board and the audience were asked one final question around what practical step can be taken to improve collaborative working to support children returning to school in the autumn? Of the responses, it is clearly shown how important **communication** is together with having **access to the same data** and **being inclusive**.

## What practical step can be taken to improve collaborative working to support children returning to school in the autumn?




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## ACTIONS TO TAKE FORWARD

- This report will be shared widely with all relevant stakeholders in GM and made available to download from the GMHSCP and GMEC SCN websites.
- An action plan will be developed in collaboration with the stakeholders involved to support the health and education sectors' recovery plans and beyond.
- This report and the action plan will be presented to the GM C&WB Executive Board. GMEC SCN is organising a live Q&A session for parents and carers to address some of the concerns that parents and carers have about their children's health needs as they return to school.
- GMEC SCN is hosting a joint communication meeting for the physical and mental health leads to produce more joined up messaging for the public and for professionals across GM.
- GMEC SCN is working with colleagues from across the GMHSCP and GMCA to develop a single space for all communications and Information and Children and Young People.
- We have also learned a lot from running a MS Teams live event such as this and we intend to hold another stakeholder event in this format in December 2020 - next time we will address the technical issues that arose around sound and video sharing, as well as aim to offer lots of practice runs for our presenters.

## QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

Throughout the event, participants were asked to pose questions for the expert panel using the chat function. All these questions have been reviewed and answers are provided below.

### **Agenda Item: CYP Voice, Lauren Barclay, Youth Focus North West (Video)**

Q. Prof Andrew Rowland - We've published work last week in Archives of Disease in Childhood showing how children's voices have not been adequately heard during lockdown ([www.doi.org/10.1136/archdischild-2020-319894](https://www.doi.org/10.1136/archdischild-2020-319894)). When schools return in September how can we ensure that children's voices are heard loud and clear (so they can express their concerns, tell us how lockdown has affected them, help us to re-design the system so we have a co-designed solution to ensure children's voices are heard nationally in the next pandemic, and so that



as advocates for children and young people we can lobby national and regional policy-makers to better protect children's rights)? For example, in the daily press briefings from national government not a single question has been permitted from anyone aged under 18 years old (including from people just one day before their 18th birthday). How can we do better in Greater Manchester to be a shining light of good practice for other regions, where we have mechanisms in place to hear children's voices across our region even during times of national emergency? Perhaps national policymakers could learn from us if we get this right...

*A. Stuart Dunne (CEO Youth Focus North West):*

*Dear Professor Andrew Rowland, thank you for your question. As you rightly point out young people have not been adequately heard during lockdown. There is some irony here, especially as the young people not being offered avenues to engage will be picking up the bill for many of the decisions made during COVID by the adults excluding them. However, I do feel that in GM we have an opportunity here to reimagine how services may be delivered and how we re-engage young people in reimagining those services. As a non NHS member of staff I confidently state that we have a Health Service and Mayor that values young people's involvement, subsequently, we have started to explore how systems and structures can coincide with a culture shift in order to develop accessible opportunities for young people to be heard. Schools are one mechanism, as are the numerous out of school youth projects as well as groups already in place, ones like Bee Heard. In GM we have worked with young people to create the Youth Agreement and this is a good start, however, it is the start and not the destination. Therefore, I would certainly be happy if we could open up discussions as to how young people can be heard, valued and involved in developing a GM that is the envy of regions.*

*A. Parent/ carer voice- Elizabeth Stanley, Wraparound Partnership:*

*I think in terms of this question, there needs to be a focus on hearing children with additional needs and marginalised communities, especially those from BAME and Asian communities who have been overly affected by the pandemic, how do we ensure that we are having conversations with these groups. I think we need to think differently about how we engage with young people - not expect young people to just apply or have the confidence to attend meetings and or voice their opinions, we need to go to where they are - schools/colleges, community groups, faith settings, utilise the expertise of community leaders and peers, to engage effectively and really listen to what matters to these groups. In my experience its usually the quiet ones who have the most to say but need encouragement to participate. I also think we should utilise media more with young people, the use of ZOOM, WhatsApp, texts etc questionnaires, surveys, are a vital way that young people communicate with each other, we need to try to engage with them in a way that suits them not us!! Also, those with additional needs, learning difficulties will require an advocate to support the conversations, people with sensory impairments (poor sight or hearing) need adaptations and some thought gone into how we would enable them to participate fully.*

*Thanks for your really valuable questions.*

**Agenda item: Mental Health, Dr Sandeep Ranote, Medical Director, NWB Healthcare NHS FT, Zulfi Jiva, GM HSCP Head of Cross-cutting Programmes**

Q. can you explain how the programme aligns and reports to the CYP Board

*A. Zulfi Jiva- The CYP element of the GM MH Programme reports through the CYP MH Programme Delivery Board chaired by Sandeep Ranote and Charlotte Ramsden. The CYP MH Board reports to the GM MH Programme Delivery Board. The GM MH Programme Delivery Board is responsible to the GM Partnership Executive Board and the GM Health & Care Board. Reps from the CYP MH Board (Sandeep, Charlotte and Zulfi) sit on the CYP Board to ensure connectivity.*

*Also there is a GM MH Executive Group made up of the CYP Portfolio Holders from the 10 GM localities, the GM CYP MH Programme Delivery Board will periodically take updates to the GM CYP Board which is also chaired by Charlotte Ramsden and the GMCA and GM H&SC Partnership PMO offices are closely aligned.*

Q. How is some of this great work being shared across all school settings not just the mentally healthy schools? Really important all children have access.

*A. Zulfi Jiva- We are working to increase our work with schools and colleges across GM through a managed transition to a sustainable Mental Health Support Team blended model that will be locality based. These teams will not only be aligned to schools and colleges delivering MH support and more but will also be embedded in localities providing effective links to multi-disciplinary teams, locality led initiatives and help and advice as needed.*

Q. Professor Andrew Rowland- Since March 2020, for example, children have suffered from bereavement, there is likely to have been an increase in domestic violence at home, children have missed out on social contact, children will have been living in poverty, some children will have serious worries about COVID-19 to name but a few things. What strategies will Greater Manchester schools put in place to identify and respond to the needs of children who have suffered adverse mental health during lockdown and who might not come to the attention of statutory services until September when large numbers of children return to school?

*A. Zulfi Jiva- The GM H&SC Partnership is working with education leads in each locality to support their COVID Recovery plans. Additionally, we have accelerated work to develop the GM Bereavement Service which is a universal service available to help to find support for anyone in Greater Manchester that has been bereaved or affected by a death. <https://greater-manchester-bereavement-service.org.uk/>*

*Further the GM H&SC Partnership has:*

- 1. Collated all COVID related response/recovery resources and categorised them on the GM H&SC Partnership Website <https://hub.gmhsc.org.uk/mental-health/covid-19-resources/> with the aim of making them more easily accessible for schools and colleges.*
- 2. Consulted with CYP from schools, FE colleges and existing groups to understand what they are concerned about and what is making them anxious about returning to socially distanced schools. We have identified a number of themes from this consultation and are currently aligning existing resources, developing new resource or working with our Expert Reference Group to source good examples for each theme.*
- 3. Our longer-term work will involve the mobilisation of the GM Standards for MH in Education which have been developed by our Expert Reference Group to support a whole school approach to mental health and wellbeing.*

Q. Martin Powell: Educational Psychology colleagues in Southend conducted a survey of children and young people (N=700) to gather their experience of life under Covid-19 and their ideas and what they need to support their return to school. The information has been shared on YouTube.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZOQQHyGgQfg>

*A. Zulfi Jiva- Thank you, you may also be interested in the surveys of children and young people that have been conducted during the COVID period that have been collated by the RCPCH*

*<https://www.rcpch.ac.uk/resources/covid-19-research-studies-children-young-peoples-views>*

#### **Agenda item: Physical Health - School nurse perspective, Carol Bailey, GM Imms and Vaccs team**

Q. Julie Flaherty, Clinical Adviser, GMEC SCN)- We absolutely need to ensure our children are vaccinated over the summer - whatever we can do to support its important we all work together

*A. Thank you, we are awaiting restart plans from school immunisation teams and will bring back to the group, any teams that are having difficulty accessing venues or need additional support to run the sessions.*

Q. Prof Andrew Rowland: Has any approach been made to higher education establishments in our region - especially where they are sited in the core parts of our communities - to see whether they could be commissioned by the NHS to support catch-up immunisations and whether regulated professionals working at

HEIs could contribute to the catch-up programmes required to improve the health and wellbeing of children and young people?

*A. HE establishments are a good idea and we can pass this information to the immunisation teams, as part of the scoping for venues. Also, if they could garner support for the running of the sessions. Any staff working at an HE establishment would not be able to immunise unless they were directly employed by the organisation delivering the immunisations to young people but may be able to provide additional support e.g. marshalling and signposting.*

**Agenda item: Local Authority, Cathy Starbuck, Assistant Director (Education, Work and Skills), Salford**

Q. Really interesting would be interested in sharing in our local area with senior leaders, would you be happy to present to us in Rochdale?

*A. Cathy Starbuck- yes of course*

Q. Karen McCullum- Can you share more on that Cathy? We are trying something with our data on CARME and identifying the agencies involved. (starting at the other end) Your App looks really good.

*A. Cathy Starbuck- Of course - happy to have a chat about it more - can share terms of reference/ Information sharing agreement etc.*

Q. Carol Ewing, Chair of GMCH&WB Stakeholder Forum and Co – Chair GMCH&WB Executive Board, Clinical Adviser GMEC SCN- Can the Assure App, using the evaluation to support its value, be rolled out across Greater Manchester and if people agree, how?

*A. Cathy Starbuck- Would welcome support for evaluation*

Q. Jules Flaherty: Are we anticipating a greater increase than normal for the time of year when children and young people go back to school and further education colleges in the Autumn term, and how will we manage over and above what we are already doing? We are seeing lots more of the middle children 5 years to 13 years struggling with the effects of covid and the constant bombardment of the media when they attend for urgent care, is there a recipe book to deal with these issues?

*A. Cathy Starbuck- Local areas are developing their approach to supporting emotional wellbeing and having a trauma informed approach*

Q. Professor Andrew Rowland: Digital poverty has been recognised - locally and nationally - as a significant issue. to prepare for the next national emergency (and to deal with the tail end of this national emergency) what more can we do locally to counteract the effects of digital poverty to ensure we are able to properly engage with children and young people and their families - regardless of ability - across Greater Manchester?

*A. Cathy Starbuck- <https://www.greatermanchester-ca.gov.uk/news/greater-manchester-technology-fund-launches-with-over-500-digital-kit-bundles-for-digitally-excluded-young-learners/>*

Q. Prof Andrew Rowland: Food poverty and holiday hunger is a significant issue (especially during school holidays). A common-sense interpretation of lockdown is that it may have had the same effects given the school closures that holiday hunger has when the schools are closed during the holidays. What steps need to be taken between now and September across Greater Manchester to ensure children living in our communities have enough food at home, of the right nutritional value, to optimise health, wellbeing and development - with a particular focus on those children who might not have previously reached the attention of statutory or third sector services (or who might not have previously crossed intervention thresholds)? Is there anything from the work of Lindsay Graham we can use in our region (<https://www.wcmt.org.uk/fellows/stories/lindsay-grahams-story>) - perhaps there are similar examples of work within our region that we can use to a) devise any additional interventions before September and b) to have in place for either i) the next pandemic or ii) should lockdown happen again before the end of the year, either locally or nationally?

*A. Cathy Starbuck- Children eligible for free school meals have been vouchers for supermarkets and these will continue over the summer holidays (thanks to that Man United player - though I am a city fan myself!).*

**Further comments:**

Professor Andrew Rowland: Thanks for saying that each of the questions posed here will be taken away and answered (or acted upon) - could all of these questions (either identifiable or anonymous if people prefer) be captured on a webpage - with the answers - so there is a record of the discussions and the actions that will result from these questions in a way that might be accessible to those who can access the webpage (and other methods for those that cannot - given what has been said about digital poverty)?

## **END NOTES**

# GET IN TOUCH

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