

HEALTH SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

23 March 2022

Title: Children's Community Health Services	
Report of the NELFT – North East London NHS Foundation Trust	
Open Report	For Information
Wards Affected: All	Key Decision: No
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Summary This report and presentation provide key insight into the challenges that Children's Community Services experience.	
Recommendation(s) The Health Scrutiny Committee is recommended to note the update provided by NELFT, NEL CCG and LBBB and following the information provided, to discuss any issues that need further exploration with presenting officers.	
Reason(s) This report is for noting and allows the Committee to put questions to the officers presenting the report.	

1. Introduction and Background

- 1.1 The Committee has asked for a presentation from the North East London NHS Foundation Trust (NELFT), North East London Clinical Commissioning Group (NEL CCG) and the London Borough of Barking and Dagenham (LBBB) around the area of Children's Community Health Services, with particular reference to Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS), Children's Therapy Services and Specialist Nursing services.
- 1.2 NELFT is the lead provider of community services for children and young people and adults, including older adults, in Barking and Dagenham.
- 1.3 NELFT provides the following services for the children and young people of Barking and Dagenham:

Community-based:

- Universal 0-19 Services (Health Visiting and School Nursing);
- Community Paediatric Medical services;

- Community Speech and Language Services (SLT);
- Community Children's Physiotherapy Services (PT);
- Community Children's Occupational Therapy Services (OT);
- Community Children's Nutrition and Dietetic Services (N&D);
- Community Children's Audiology Services;
- Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS);
- Looked After Children's Team; and
- BCG Childhood Immunisation Service.

- 1.4 All services have remained open to referrals during the Covid pandemic and have had to develop different ways of working in order to continue delivery through the pandemic period. Services have also had to account for requirements around infection prevention and control (IPC) measures, access to personal protective equipment (PPE), lockdown impact and patients requesting alternative means of contact and support, as opposed to traditional methods.
- 1.5 Referrals to these services during key lockdown periods reduced significantly and we saw spikes in referrals post-lockdown. This has led to challenges in waiting times and this has heightened the previously known and recognised sufficiency gap, particularly for paediatric therapy services.
- 1.6 Acuity of patients' needs has increased, resulting in the need to increase the amount of contact per referral now required. This was especially acute for children and young people as the impact of Covid and lockdown was experienced differently. We know that the impact was compounded through less visibility as schools and other services remained closed or operated in reduced delivery.
- 1.7 The accompanying presentation provides both pictorial and trend analysis, and we welcome further discussion and questions.

Public Background Papers Used in the Preparation of the Report: None

List of appendices:

- Appendix 1: NELFT, NEL CCG & LBBB PowerPoint Presentation (Data)