



March/April 2021

PROGRAMME UPDATE

Keeping stakeholders, parents and carers informed about Dudley's Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) Improvement Programme

11.Children and Young People's Mental Health Keyworker Pilot

About the pilot

The Black Country is one of 14 areas across England to take part in the Children and Young People's (CYP) Mental Health Keyworker pilots which aims to boost care and avoid hospital admission for children and young people with a learning disability, and/or autism with the most complex needs.

The 18-month pilot will see keyworkers and a professional lead recruited to work with children and young people with complex needs in each of the Black Country boroughs. The team will provide support to individuals, families and carers to navigate multiple services and agencies, and to overcome barriers. Keyworkers will advocate and engage with partner agencies to reduce hospital admission and enable a better quality of life.

The model

Co-produced with young people and families, the model is very much based on a partner collaborative, working with key agencies to ensure children, young people and families are fully supported. Alongside keyworkers, families will also have access to a network of peer support – those with lived experience who can provide additional support.



Meet our key workers

**Andrea Craddock,
Professional lead**



My name is Andrea. I have been a senior occupational therapist in Walsall Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services for over five years, this role has helped me develop my skills and knowledge base in working with young people and their families who may be experiencing mental health difficulties. During that time, I have built good working relationships with other professionals within the NHS as well as those in the education, youth justice and private sectors. I'm excited to be part of a team that will be developing future services for our young people and families with complex needs.

**Charlotte Thomas,
CYP Keyworker**



My name is Charlotte and I am very happy to be part of the CYP Keyworker Pilot. I have always enjoyed working with a diverse range of children to help them learn and grow. This has seen me work in baby day care, nurseries, schools and student support settings. In my most recent position I taught personal, social, health and economic education in a primary school and I also worked one to one with the most complex and vulnerable children. I was keen to be involved with the keyworker pilot as I wanted to put my skills and experience to use to improve the lives of children with special education needs in order for them to access the best opportunities to prepare them for adulthood. I am very excited to get started in my role.

**Duncan Liddell,
CYP Keyworker**



My name is Duncan. I'm blessed to be the father of a little boy with autism. Our families' journey has given me a huge passion to help children, young people and their families.

I feel the role of a keyworker has the potential make a huge difference in the lives of those affected by learning disabilities and autism and along with the rest of the team; I will be giving my all to affect positive change for the future of our children and young people.

**Sharon Fogarty,
CYP Keyworker**



My name is Sharon. My background has been predominantly in the education sector with my last job being Safeguarding Lead in a special school for over four years. The role was extremely varied, and I was able to support children and adults directly as well as enjoying partnership working with the NHS, social care and other agencies. I hope to continue supporting individuals with complex needs and use my skill set to really make a difference and strengthen services. I am very much looking forward to joining the NHS!

**Emily Worsey,
CYP Keyworker**



Hi, my name is Emily, my background is assisting with the learning and development of children aged between two and five. Most recently I worked as a special educational needs co-ordinator and was deputy manager at a local nursery, where I was in charge of co-ordinating care of children with a variety of needs, alongside managing a team of eight staff.

I can see the importance of this role and how it can aid children, young people, families and professionals to work together. I'm looking forward to the new challenges that this role will bring and being a part of making a difference.

**Rebecca Slater,
CYP Keyworker**



Hello, my name is Rebecca. I am a learning disabilities nurse and have been working in a child and adolescent mental health services psychiatric intensive care unit since I qualified almost three years ago.

I have really enjoyed the interactions with the young people I have worked with and feel privileged to have had this experience.

I am very much looking forward to my new role and hope that I can continue to help make a difference in the lives of young people, their families and the people that help to care for them.

Charli's Story

Following some early traumatic experiences, when Charli began experiencing daily panic attacks aged 14, she was referred to child and adolescent mental health services (CAMHS). Unfortunately, her mental health declined, and she found herself in a tier 4 CAMHS bed by the November of that year. Whilst in tier 4 services Charli was diagnosed with autism. Even though it was very challenging, Charli worked hard and managed to go back to school and in time achieved fantastic results in her exams – all A and A* grades.

Whilst Charli and her family were being supported by services, they found it very difficult to know where to go and what help they should be getting. They didn't have keyworkers, so it made it that much harder for them to navigate services.

Where is Charli now? Well she is doing pretty well. She's 20 years old and studying politics and international relations at university. Passionate to help others and share her experiences, she has been integral to the development of the keyworker pilot. She is vice-

chair of the CYP keyworker pilot steering group and is the driving force behind the co-production subgroup which is a vital part of the model. She wants others to have a better experience and wants to give hope to others in a similar position.

If you would like to find out more about the project please contact Rosie Millar, Children and Young Person's Commissioning Manager Rosemary.millar2@nhs.net

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