



Lord Agnew Kt DL

Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for the School System
Sanctuary Buildings Great Smith Street Westminster London SW1P 3BT
tel: 0370 000 2288 www.education.gov.uk/help/contactus

Baroness Browning
House of Lords
London
SW1A 0PW

Dear Lady Browning,

28/10

October 2019

During Lord Watson's Oral Question on Thursday 17 October you asked me how often the department discusses issues regarding children with special education needs with Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS).

Firstly, the joint CQC/Ofsted SEND area inspections look at the effectiveness of SEND services in identifying and meeting needs, including access to support such as CAMHS. The DfE works with partners, including NHS England, to consider how we can support local services to build on their strengths and improve services and standards where necessary.

Additionally, to improve access to mental health support in schools, including for children with SEND, we are introducing new NHS-funded mental health support teams linked to groups of schools and colleges. DfE has set up a specific joint programme with NHS England, DHSC, NHSE and others which meets regularly to consider implementation issues.

This new resource will be established in 20% to 25% of the country by 2023 and will intervene in cases of mild to moderate mental health issues and work with schools and colleges to improve join up between schools, colleges and mental health services/professionals and support them with mental health and wellbeing issues. MHSTs will be comprised of newly trained workforce of Education Mental Health Practitioners (EMHP) as well as more senior clinicians and therapists.

The first 25 trailblazer sites, delivering 59 MHSTs were announced in December 2018 and will be operational by the end of 2019, 12 of these sites are also piloting a four-week waiting time. A further 123 Mental Health Support Teams will be introduced in 57 sites around the country during 19-20, 48 of these sites were new and brings the total number of sites to 73 to date. The full list of sites can be found here, including the 12 areas testing the 4 week wait.

I hope this answer has been useful and will place a copy in the house libraries.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Theodore Agnew', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

THEODORE AGNEW