

- a. Increase funding for children's mental health services at a greater rate than funding overall and spending on adult mental health, to address the significance imbalance identified above. I would like to understand what specific targets you have set in this regard.
 - b. Embedding mental health support in schools and colleges
 - c. "Ensure that 100% of children and young people who need specialist mental health care can access it"^{iv}
- 4) Specifically, I would ask that straight away you:
- a. Ensure at least 1% of your budget is dedicated to CYPMHS in 2019/20
 - b. Aim to ensure that 'no child is turned away' by guaranteeing that every child referred to CYPMHS will be offered some type of support either from the NHS or voluntary sector partner. I would be grateful if you would give a timeframe for this response.

This letter, and your response, will be published.

Section 2C of the 2004 gives me discretion over the time-frame in which I require a response. Given the seriousness of these issues, I expect a response by 11th March 2020. If you cannot respond by this date please contact my Head of Public Affairs, Martin Lennon (martin.lennon@childrenscommissioner.gov.uk) to discuss an extension.

I look forward to working with you to improve the provision of mental health services for children.

Yours sincerely,



Anne Longfield
Children's Commissioner for England

ⁱ Section 2(C)(3) of the Children Act 2004 applies when, following the publication of a report, the Children's Commissioners writes to someone 'exercising functions of a public nature' relative to children.

<https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2004/31/section/2C>

ⁱⁱ By which I mean NHS specialised commissioning, providing in-patient and other highly specialised services.

ⁱⁱⁱ Defined as two or more contacts with CYMPHS.

^{iv} <https://www.longtermplan.nhs.uk/wp-content/uploads/2019/08/nhs-long-term-plan-version-1.2.pdf>