Office

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To: Deputy Clerk; Clerk; David Lainchbury; Dennis Thompson; Jonathan Spencer; Martin

Lury; Wendy Kapp; Deputy Clerk; Gillian Yeates; Keir Greenway; Patrick Hastings;

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Subject: District Report

Have attended planning briefings and a surprisingly relatively short meeting in October . The first of November I attended a Zoom Members' briefing on Services provided for Young People with a particular focus on Mental Health . Statistics were abundant - 198 Early Help plans current in Arun (16.61 per cent of West Sussex plans) . Arun accounts for 15.66 per cent of West Sussex children in care , over 20 per cent of CIN plans are in Arun and 17.41 per cent of children on Child Protection plans reside in Arun .

Significant difficulties identified with mental health and the under 18 population has increased with a 17 per cent increase in 5-9 year olds and a 12.16 per cent increase in 10-14 year olds . 73 is the total for YES (Youth Emotional Support) cases in Arun and there are 17 homeless youths in Arun (16.3 per cent of West Sussex . Significantly there are 35 teenage parents currently being supported in Arun on The Young Parent Pathway and this is over a third of all YPPs in the County !

As you have probably seen on South Today where the West Sussex coroner criticised four youth suicides as being possibly preventable, we were presented with the figure of eight youth suicides in the County between May 1 2021 and March 20 2022. Recurrent themes in this have been history of domestic abuse, experience of loss, LGBT identity and the impact of Covid lockdown.

In July 2022 The Children's Mental and Emotional Health Team based in Horsham was launched using govt Covid Support Fund and with funding until 2024. MAMHET (The Multi Agency Mental Health Education Triage) currently only involves 18 schools , two in Arun namely The Regis School and Felpham . Matthew Thomas is Commissioning manager of Children's Mental Health and the cost of all this totals eleven million pounds per year. Four tiers of intervention : tier 1 non - specialist teachers , tier2 community provision (not a clinical offer) , tier 3 high end intervention such as CAMHS and tier 4 Inpatient provision . Youth can self refer to the various interventions through the SPOA (The Specific Point of Access) , although it is admitted that the offer does not match the level of demand . Low mood and thoughts of wanting to die are common issues and 9000 children have been seen at least twice with CAHMS having 4000 open cases . In May 2022 there were 761 referrals to CAHMS . Unfortunately Mental Health teams only cover 50 per cent of schools , the majority of CAHMS referrals are seen within thirteen weeks ! I raised both of these issues as somewhat concerning .

Full Council at Arun tomorrow night!
District Councillor Martin Lury

Sent from my iPhone