

Regulation 28 Response to Coroner 21 November, 2023

Subject: Response to Regulation 28: Preventing Future Deaths report

Purpose: To provide a response to the Regulation 28: Preventing Future Deaths report which was issued by Abigail Coombes, Assistant Coroner, on 10 October, 2023

Author: [REDACTED]
Executive Principal,
Outwood Grange Academies Trust

By Email to: Ms Abigail Coombes, Assistant Coroner

Copy to: [REDACTED] Barrister, Browne Jacobson

Dear Ms Coombes

The following response has been written on behalf of Outwood Grange Academies Trust as requested in your Regulation 28: Preventing Future Deaths report dated 10 October 2023.

Format of Response:

1. **Provision of Mental Health and Wellbeing (MHWB) Services involved with the Academy**
2. **Referrals to MHWB services in Barnsley Local Authority**
3. **Discharge from MHWB services in Barnsley Authority**
4. **Further guidance from DfE on support in schools for pupils who are transgenering**

Appendices:

- A: **I-Space referral form**
 - B: **Barnsley MHWB Services referral flow-chart**
 - C: **Branching Minds/Compass Be referral form**
 - D: **I-Space discharge form**
 - E: **I-Space process information document**
- (All attached in pdf format)*

I. **Provision of Mental Health Services involved with the Academy**

As part of the expected graduated response to support young people who may be struggling with their mental health and wellbeing, Outwood Academy Shafton offers a wide range of internal and external interventions and has built strong, positive relationships with external agencies to ensure that students can receive the best possible interventions which can support their wellbeing and learning. Alongside this, we have ensured training of our own Inclusion and pastoral staff to enable them to deliver one to one or group work sessions which help us to create a bespoke intervention package to help, guide and support our students and families.

The starting point for access to these services is referral by pupil, parent or member of staff to a member of the Academy's Inclusion team. This team is line-managed by the Vice Principal, Deep Support (who is usually also the Designated Safeguarding Lead), and includes the Inclusion Co-ordinator, SENDCO, Safeguarding Officer, SEND Officer and a team of 6 Learning Managers who support students in each academic year group. This team meets weekly, on a Thursday evening, to discuss all pupils on the vulnerable register. It is at this meeting that pupils will also be added to this register as new information or new referrals come to light. In terms of referral for internal interventions, a pupil is added to the waiting list and referred into one of these services as soon as a slot becomes available. Because pupils on the vulnerable register are discussed weekly, there is a constant re-evaluation of waiting lists such that a pupil may well move up in priority if new information has been received via CPOMS as a cause for concern.

External agencies involved include:

- Branching Minds: Launched August 2022- now exists as a single point of contact for referral into adolescent mental health services in the borough. All access to CAMHS is now through this single point of referral.
- Compass Be: Launched in Barnsley in September 2022- Compass Be Mental Health Support Team (MHST) works with children, young people, and families in education settings in Barnsley and is the NHS procured service for this function. They support young people with low mood, fears and concerns, challenging behaviours, family relationships and transitioning adjustments. The service is made up of Education Mental Health Practitioners and Supervising Practitioners, Trainees and Assistant Practitioners from a range of health and education backgrounds working alongside a specialist Family Practitioner and Bereavement Counsellor.
- I-Space: Additional counselling service procured and paid for by the academy to fill any gap in service. They specifically support young people with Anxiety, depression, suicidal thoughts, self-esteem, stress, anger, bullying, self-harm, bereavement, family breakdown, abuse, neglect.
- AdAstra: A community interest company, formed in 2013, and part of the local offer in Barnsley. They work with groups of students on managing emotions, anxieties/worries, exam stress. They also offer a support group for young people who identify as LGBTQIA+.
- Think First for the Future: A social enterprise organisation that partners with schools to deliver a structured Behaviour and Resilience Mentoring Provision which is proven to have a positive measurable impact on engagement in learning.
- Youth Justice Service: Youth Justice Service work with children aged 10 to 18 who are involved or are at risk of being in the criminal justice system. This would be as a result of behaviour that has been determined by police to be an offence. They work with the child, their parents or carers and in partnership with any other professional working with the family to prevent further/any offending.
- Early Help: referral for Early Help either as part of a graduated response where a family support worker may be required or as a step-down from a social-care Child in Need or Child Protection plan.
- Internal interventions delivered by our own team of specialists including bespoke interventions around trauma, social skills and social stories, life skills, self-esteem and confidence, resilience, emotional regulation, anxiety.

2. Referrals to MHWB services in Barnsley

2.1: I-Space

ISpace is a Wakefield-based Community Interest Company working with young people, their families, schools and communities to support progress and raise aspirations. Their work encourages young people to reach their full potential; become active citizens who want to improve their emotional, social, physical and economic environments.

They partner with schools to provide innovative services that give students the opportunity to achieve in education, build life skills and work towards a brighter future - and they work closely with local communities to come up with solutions for local issues.

Their team specialise and are passionate about working within the youth arena and are trained in a range of therapeutic and family work interventions. Their practitioners are experienced and qualified in working in a range of areas, including:

- Emotional wellbeing & mental health
- Early intervention and prevention
- Drug work
- Youth justice
- Youth & Community work
- Parent support work

They use a range of techniques, strategies and interventions in their work, always based on an assessment of the needs of each individual. They consider personal differences such as culture, ethnicity, values and beliefs to inspire and motivate all young people to develop their potential.

Referral to I-space is via the Inclusion team at the academy who would work with the young people and their family to complete the referral form (Appendix A). Where there is a possible delay in service due to a waiting list, a pupil would remain on the vulnerable register and be triaged weekly at the aforementioned Inclusion Meeting.

In addition to the services available in school from ISpace at the time of Alex's death they now also host a wellbeing drop-in session for students who no longer access iSpace but may need a catch-up. This session is also open for students and families who may be waiting to see iSpace to become familiar with colleagues and to learn a little more about the support available.

2.2: Branching Minds and Compass Be

Referrals to Compass Be can be made through Branching Minds, which is a multi disciplinary team who provide advice, support and guidance for new referrals for all children and young people's mental health services in Barnsley as a single point of contact. The team do not hold any case loads or provide direct support to children and young people, but the referral will be triaged and if suitable for

the service it will then be forwarded to Compass Be. Branching Minds accept requests for support from young people, parents, carers and professionals

Branching Minds have since issued an updated referral flow-chart which is included as Appendix B to this report. This is intended to clarify the routes into the services for schools and others who refer.

Referral forms for Branching Minds are readily available and the referral form can be found at [South West Yorkshire Partnership website](#) or on the [CompassBe](#) website. These have also been included as Appendix C of this response. Both professionals and parents can ring in for advice. The advice now given is to use the single contact number in an urgent referral scenario. Referrals are triaged by the services on the same day. The service is clear that referrals need to be made as part of a graduated response which should include appropriate MHWB support internally at school. Branching Minds begin an information gathering process when a referral is made and they sometimes need to seek additional information. All cases are treated on an individual basis and some cases may need other services to support and not MHWB services. Branching Minds look at which service may be most appropriate in terms of ways forward for an individual. Branching Minds is a triage service.

The Branching Minds Barnsley team work Monday - Thursday from 9am to 4:30pm and Friday, 9am to 4m (excluding bank holidays). For emergency support outside of these hours, patients are directed to contact their out of hours GP or NHS 111. Further advice is also given by the service to ONLY contact 999 or attend A&E if someone's life is at immediate risk.

2.3 CAMHS

Since the implementation of the Branching Minds single point of access process, all referrals from school to CAMHS are now through this route. Parents can, of course, access Branching Minds directly as above or speak to their GP for support.

3. Discharge from MHWB services in Barnsley Authority

3.1: I-Space

The academy has worked with I-space to review processes around how a young person is discharged when their allocated sessions come to an end. This review had already taken place prior to the inquest and has now been in place for over a year. A copy of the discharge form ([Appendix D](#)) shows that the service now provides a discharge report to the inclusion team in school. This details how the school could support further and would be used to detail how any further re-referral to the service would best be considered. In any event, a pupil who has received support from the I-Space service would remain on the academy's vulnerable register and, therefore, be triaged weekly as to whether any re-referral or referral to an escalated service might be deemed necessary.

3.2: Branching Minds and Compass Be

When a referral is accepted or not accepted by these services, an outcome letter goes to the referrer and the GP. If the parent is the referrer then this outcome letter only comes to school with parental consent. There are specific reasons why a referral would not be accepted by the service. The main reason highlighted is if the child is receiving any other support via any other service. This could be a school-based MHWB service (such as Ispace), CAMHS or a private therapist. A referral may also not be accepted if they already hold information shared via a GP or other safeguarding/family support service which means that the referral was deemed not appropriate. We have been informed by the service that whether a referral is accepted is based on a case by case approach.

When Compass is allocated a case they will communicate verbally with the school to ensure they are aware of specific students and interventions that will be covered. They will also update the waiting list for our students. The aim at the moment is to have a four week turnaround in terms of support, however, this depends on the caseload and differs from school to school. A student usually accesses six sessions from Compass and then at this stage the referrer receives an outcome letter outlining what had been covered in the sessions. As above, if the school is not the referrer they will only receive the outcome letter if the parent or carer chooses to share this with them. Compass will, however, update verbally during the half termly link meeting sessions in school. Also if Compass has an ongoing concern about a student in the academy where they are not the referrer then they will bring the academy's attention to the concern via email or telephone contact which is then noted on the academy's CPOMS system and discussed at the Inclusion meeting.

3.3 CAMHS

Where a student has been accessing CAMHS the formal discharge letter is sent to the child's parent/carer and to the GP. The school would not be informed of this unless the parent chose to inform.

4. Further guidance from DfE on support in schools for pupils who are transgenering

At the time of writing this response there has been no update on the expected DfE guidance on supporting pupils who are transgenering. There has been some media update that a delay in the release of this guidance, promised a number of months ago, has been caused by matters of law surrounding disclosures to parents and carers where a young person confides in a member of staff in a school setting. It is felt that this guidance is long overdue and that schools are trying hard to piece together best practice in the absence of any official stance or response. Many schools have, indeed, pieced together their policies and procedures sourcing what they can from local authorities, public health and the third sector.

Yours Sincerely



Executive Principal

Outwood Grange Academies Trust