

Eastern Devon Population Health Partnership

6 week project update template

Project name: Family Minds Partnership Attendance and Wellbeing Project

Date: 30.4.25

General brief update on progress, actions and milestones since last submission

The project is progressing well. 17 families from Honiton Community College are registered and engaged with the project. A similar number of young people from Thomas Hall School have either begun or are due to start participating in programmes: 5 young people from Thomas Hall are attending YAHT sessions, several more have been identified by the SENCO, and we are waiting for consent. Forest School sessions are scheduled to begin mid May with 2 groups running for different age groups. YMCA staff will be working jointly with school staff to facilitate these groups.

12 families from other schools are engaged with the project and are receiving support in different forms, depending on need. For example, Family Resource is working with several families to bridge the breakdown between school and family, and alongside this is also liaising with inclusion team to look at school approaches, as well as individual accommodations. 6 parents from across different schools have registered for the GROW training programme, which starts in June and will be co-delivered by Esteem Team and Family Resource.

Heads Up and Parental Minds have teamed up to offer parallel skills workshops to parents and children, where a child may be struggling with school attendance. These are being delivered in 9 schools who have expressed an interest and identified a need, this includes primary and secondary schools. Three workshops have already been delivered and we are trialling both in person and online workshops for parents.

What is going well?

The seven delivery organisations continue to work well together to coordinate support, share information and problem solve. The monthly meetings which include wider statutory and voluntary agencies as well as delivery partners are well attended and have proved to be a valuable space for professionals (and schools) to share relevant information and suggestions.

We have developed an excellent working relationship with Honiton Community College and are looking at ways that partner organisations can continue to add value to the way that the school supports families.

Are there any significant developments or successes you want to highlight or provide more detail on?

Some feedback from young people attending Arts and Forest School sessions:

‘It helps me to express my emotions,

Face my fears of talking to other people”

“I could push myself because I could show my art”

Sound Communities are coming towards the end of their current piece of work with young people, and are in the process of finalising the various artworks that the young people have produced to express their feelings about school attendance, which include a podcast, piece of music, poetry and artwork.

The flexibility of our approach has allowed us to adapt our programme in response to need – working across different schools in addition to those originally identified, providing different combinations and support packages for each family. We have also been able to identify ways in which the partner organisations can support school staff and systems - offering staff training, parent workshops, and channelling feedback from families and young people to enable change.

Are there any challenges or risks you wish to raise?

It has taken longer than anticipated to develop effective working relationships with relevant school staff in Thomas Hall School, partly due to changes in leadership and roles within the school. This has delayed the start of the interventions to be delivered at this school, however we adapted our delivery model to work with families in other schools as result, and this has worked well.

It has also been challenging to encourage some families to register with the project, particularly in cases in which they haven't had any previous contact with any of the organisations, and feel they have been 'referred' by the school. In these situations, in which the families haven't yet given consent to pass on their details, we are dependent on a trusted school staff member with an established relationship with the family to facilitate this.

What are the milestones or actions between now and the next submission? (6 weeks)

The Grow (Guiding Relationships with Optimism and Wonder) course will begin at Honiton Community College in June and run for 6 weeks, with 6 parents registered to attend so far.

The YMCA will begin two new forest school groups at Thomas Hall School.

We hope to receive the funding for the evaluation in May; we have already established a relationship with the researchers from the University of Bath and have planned to begin evaluation activities in June.