Committee Response - Preventative Agenda

• Which areas of preventative spending/ the preventative agenda would it be most useful for the Health and Sport Committee to investigate?

  It would be useful for the Health and Sport Committee to investigate an increase in family support services and perinatal mental health services to families where there are adversities that could impact on parent/child attachment, family relationships and child development.

  It would be useful for the health and Sport Committee to investigate an increase in support to children and families aged 0-5 where there are adversities that could affect children meeting their normal developmental milestones.

  It would also be useful for the Health and Sport Committee to investigate increasing access to mental health support for children and young people particularly where there is an experience of trauma. The current CAMHS target of seeing a child within 18 weeks should be reduced further as this is a long time for a child to wait. Consideration should be given to providing more stable funding to the voluntary sector to work alongside statutory services to carry out this work.

• How can health boards and integrative authorities overcome the (financial and political) pressures that lead to reactive spending/ a focus on fulfilling only statutory duties and targets, to initiate and maintain preventative spend?

  Health Boards and integrative authorities could invest longer term funding in the voluntary sector to support existing services that carry out preventative work with children and families.

  Health boards and integrative authorities could also support community groups who are offering preventative services

• How could spend that is deemed to be preventative be identified and tracked more effectively? What is required in terms of data, evidence and evaluation to test interventions for producing ‘best value for money’?

• How can the shift of spending from reactive/acute services to primary/preventative services be speeded up and/or incentivised?

  This could be achieved by supporting voluntary sector services and community groups already offering preventative services to carry out longer term work

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