

Feedback on the Draft Mental Health Strategy for Children and Young People

Redesigning services for children and young people's emotional wellbeing and mental health is an immediate priority for the Government of Jersey. The draft Emotional Wellbeing and Mental Health Strategy builds on all this previous work and considers the additional impact of the COVID-19 pandemic.

The draft Strategy was co-produced with children, young people, parents, carers and professionals. It sets out 16 actions to take forward change over the next four years with not all actions commencing at once.

The draft strategy was out for consultation from the 10th May until the 11th June 2021. There were 264 responses, with 20 responses being on behalf of an organisation. The survey was available online and promoted heavily in social media. It was translated into Polish, Portuguese and Romanian and shared with organisations that support islanders from ethnic minority groups. It was also shared with Schools and Highlands via the Headteachers Newsletter and subsequently shared directly with secondary school age pupils and parents/carers via Parent Mail. This short paper provides a high-level evaluation of the survey responses.

Who responded?

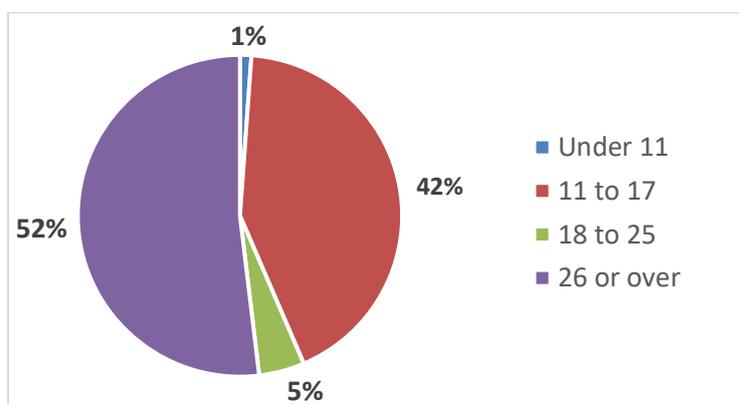
In total there were 264 responses with 20 of those being on behalf of an organisation. The following organisations were listed.

- Alcohol & Drug Service
- Best Start Partnership
- Brightly
- CAMHS
- Education
- Springfield school
- FNHC
- Haute Valle School
- Hautlieu School
- Highlands College
- Jersey Gambling Commission
- Jersey Youth Service

- La Passerelle
- Liberate
- Mind Jersey
- Victims First Jersey
- Victoria College

Age profile of respondents:

The majority (52%) of those that responded were over 26 however 48% were under 26, with the second largest group (42%) being between 11 to 17. Please note if responding on behalf of an organisation, responders had an opportunity to tell us which age band they fitted into.

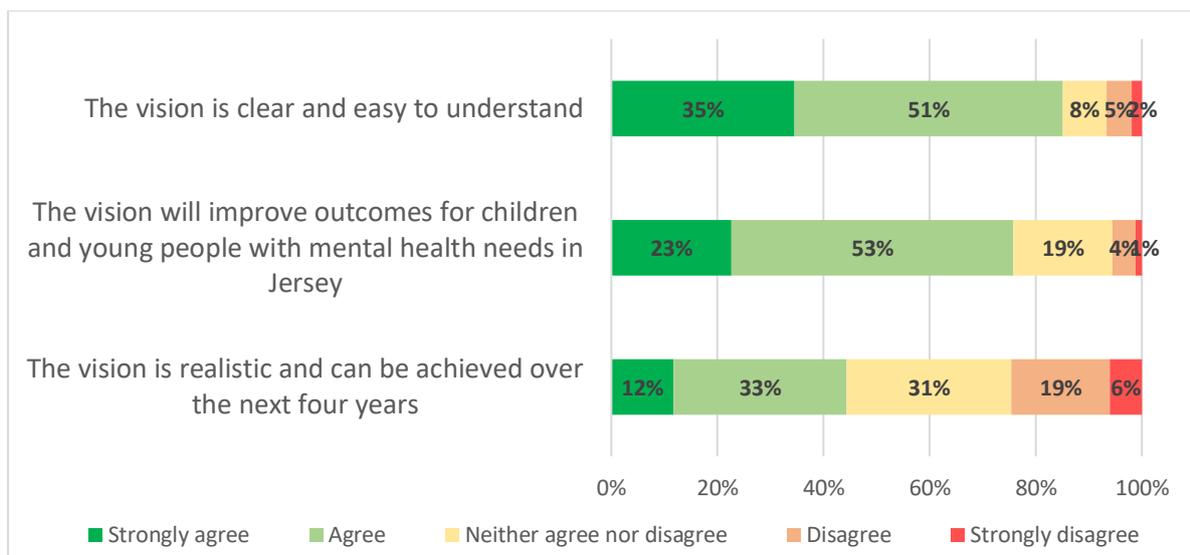


Numbers:

Under 11	3
11 to 17	112
18 to 25	12
26 or over	137

Feedback on the vision

The consultation asked several questions about the strategy vision and asked responders to score these on a five-point scale; strongly agree, agree, neither agree or disagree, disagree, or strongly disagree. There was also an option for 'Don't know/No opinion'. Responses are summarised in the table below:



Those who disagreed with any of the above statements about the vision were asked to indicate which statement they disagreed with and why. Comments and an analysis of the data are summarised below:

A) The vision is clear and easy to understand

86% agreed that the vision was clear and easy to understand. There were very few specific comments that could relate directly to this statement for those that disagreed or strongly disagreed, but the main points raised were that the vision needed to be more specific, with more detailed plans which set out roles and responsibilities. Of the few people that provided further thoughts on this point there was confusion about the difference between a vision and the subsequent action points that follow on from the vision. One respondent felt that information given by government was incorrect and another said that it was unclear whose vision it was.

B) The vision will improve outcomes for children and young people with mental health needs in Jersey

76% agreed that the vision will improve outcomes for children and young people with mental health needs in Jersey. The main comments in this section were that more specific detail was needed to determine whether outcomes could be improved with a vision or a statement on its own not necessarily leading to successful outcomes. Many of the comments overlapped with responses about the vision being achievable, with many citing outcomes being dependent upon sufficient resourcing.

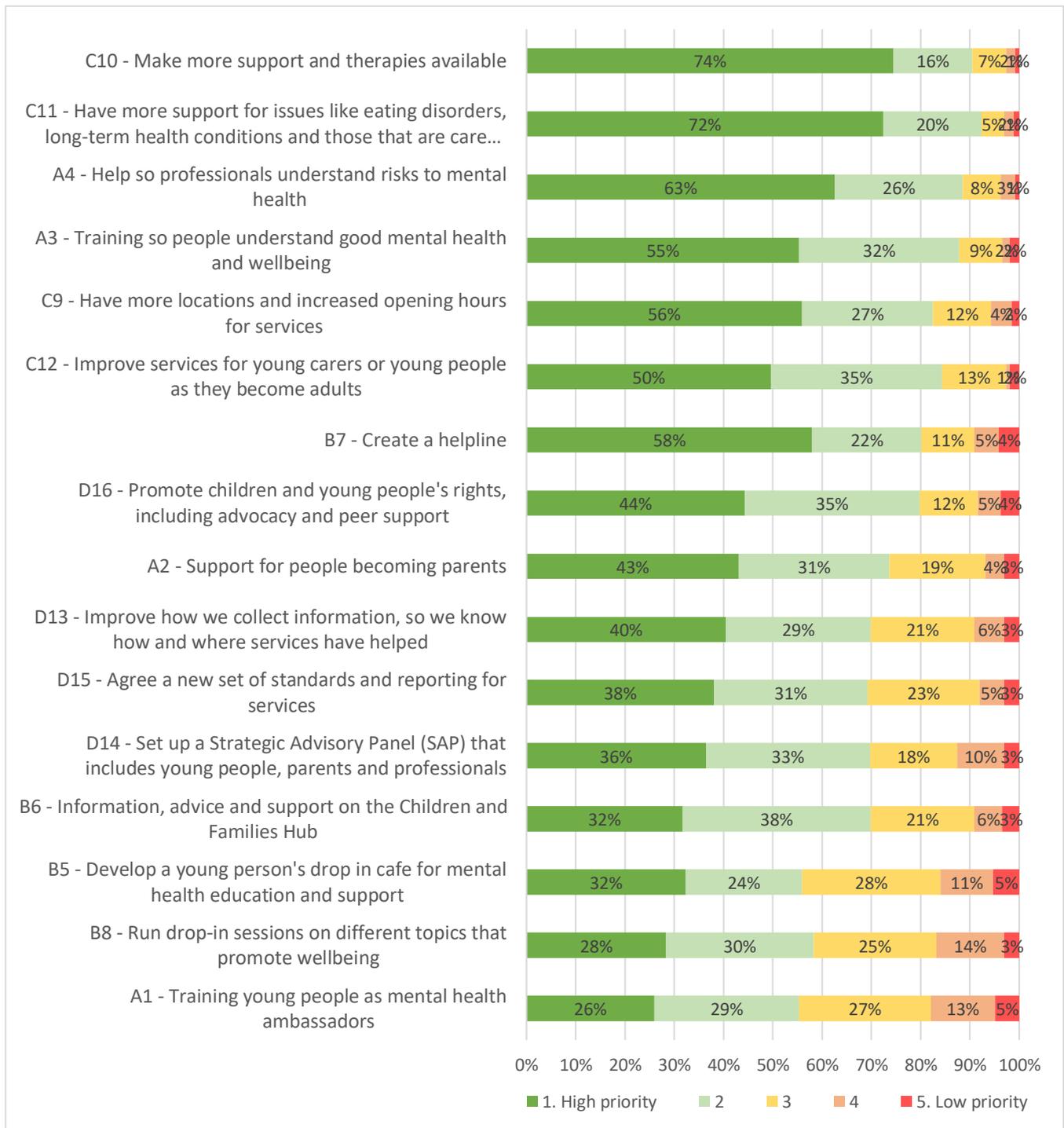
C) The vision is realistic and can be achieved over the next four years

This statement had the highest level of disagreement with only 45% of respondents strongly agreeing or agreeing with the statement and therefore also the highest number of associated comments. The main concerns in order of mentions were as follows:

- There is a lack of current staff and it will be hard to recruit and retain sufficient skilled staff to achieve and support the vision
- Lack of funding and resources will be made available
- The timescale is overly optimistic and ambitious to sort out all of the issues
- Historic and current policies have either failed or remain undelivered, leading to a lack of confidence in a future strategy being achievable within the timescale
- Inadequate training of staff
- It is overly ambitious to state that the strategy will improve mental health for “all” young people and their specific issues
- Achieving the vision will require a change in culture, with better communication and interaction between services, agencies and departments, and this could take time
- Lack of general confidence and trust in government

Feedback on the action points

Respondents were asked to prioritise the 16-point action plan on a scale of 1 to 5 with 1 being high priority and 5 below low priority. The following table shows the action points in priority order:



Respondents were asked whether the strategy should include any additional actions. Many of the comments and suggestions reiterated or expanded upon the action points already set out. The main additional comments in order of mentions were as follows:

- Improve the provision of training for those working in education or elsewhere with children and young people
- Rather than just support for those becoming parents, provide more ongoing support, advice and training for parents and families through all stages of bringing up a child
- Improve the working environment, including by more investment and incentives, to attract and retain appropriate staff
- More education to be made available in schools about different mental illnesses, resilience and coping strategies, and where to go for help
- Adequately resource the existing CAMHS to reduce waiting times
- Provide more leisure opportunities (activities, sport, exercise etc.) for young people to socialise in a safe, affordable and fun manner (to distract them from other less productive activities)
- More effective, coordinated and collaborative interaction between relevant government services and agencies
- Focus more on prevention
- Schools to have dedicated full-time mental health/well-being counsellors
- Earlier intervention with quicker and clearer signposting and pathways
- Alternative and appropriate in-patient facility to Robin Ward / Orchard House
- Better social workers trained to deal with mental health
- Address discrimination and stigmas associated with mental health

Next steps

Using this feedback, work is being undertaken to finalise and launch the Children and Young People's Emotional Wellbeing and Mental Health Strategy. In addition, we have had an overwhelming response from those that would like to be part of the Strategic Advisory Panel (SAP)- over 80 people. We are developing a process to ensure that those that want to be involved, can be involved. Information and updates will regularly be provided on the gov.je website.

Taking this feedback and working with groups of young people, parents, carers and professionals, work has already commenced to develop a new CAMHS model that will ensure greater capacity and a wider range of treatments, and we are looking for an organisation to work with to undertake an audit of mental health support in schools. This work will help us to meet many of the priority actions identified in the 16-point action plan.

Updates will regularly be posted on: www.gov.je/cypmentalhealth

A huge thank you to all those that have participated in this work to date. If you have any further comments or questions, please get in touch at: cypmentalhealth@gov.je