wellbeing

mental health provision

support, often what we need to change is the school culture, which comes from its leadership,” explains Simpson. “SLEs go in as equals. We’re not here to provide the answers, but tease out what’s working well and build on that.”

School leads also work with colleagues from the EHS Links and Tools for Schools teams to develop resources and initiatives, such as training college students as “mental health first aiders”.

Potter says EHS helps “create a climate in which feelings and emotional health get talked about”. “If staff are confident in this area, they’re more likely to open up conversations about it,” he adds.

OUTCOME
So far, 77 per cent of Cheshire East schools and colleges are engaged in EHS. A 2017 University of Salford evaluation report shows the six pilot schools making 17 out of the 115 – 14.8 per cent – of school referrals to East Cheshire Tier 3 child and adolescent mental health services between January and June 2015. But in the last six months of the trial up to December 2016, referrals by pilot schools reduced to 10 – 6.5 per cent of the 155 referrals by all schools over that period.

Before the pilot, 83 per cent of participating schools’ referrals were accepted but that increased to 90 per cent by the end. This compares with an 81 per cent acceptance rate across all schools for both periods. The percentage of pupils saying they had spoken to a staff member about their emotional health in the past month increased from 12.6 to 22 per cent.

If you think your project is worthy of inclusion, email supporting data to derren.hayes@markallengroup.com

CASE STUDY 2 | London | Youth work

Flat opens up world of finance

PROJECT
The Money House

PURPOSE
To help 16- to 25-year-olds embarking on independent living manage their money and remain independent

FUNDING
Annual running cost of £300,000 funded by the Berkeley Foundation, JPMorgan Chase Foundation and Hyde Charitable Trust

BACKGROUND
The Money House began in Greenwich in 2013 as a financial literacy programme helping young people avoid debt and maintain tenancies. It was initially run by Hyde Housing with Greenwich Council, Citizens Advice and Meridian Money Advice. Financial educational and enterprise charity MyBnk took over the management of the programme in January 2017, opening a second project in Newham. More than 900 young people have participated to date.

ACTION
The Money House is a one- or five-day programme that takes place in a flat typifying the type of accommodation young people first move into. The programme is open to all 16- to 25-year-olds regardless of housing status, but most referrals come through the local authority. Attendance is a mandatory part of Greenwich Council’s “move-on” process for young people entering social housing.

Up to 10 young people take part in the five-day programme from Monday to Friday, which features interactive games and activities designed to build knowledge and skills in subjects including tenancy rights and responsibilities, avoiding eviction, handling household bills, banking, saving, budgeting, borrowing safely, benefits entitlements and employability.

The whole flat is used. Participants practise inventory checks, read the electricity meter, calculate utility costs, and cook, working towards qualifications in personal money management and preparing for work.

MyBnk education manager Nick Smith-Patel, who runs the course in Greenwich, says “we teach them the rules”. “This stuff doesn’t have to be dull. Finance is amazing; about how we survive in the world. Once you show young people the value of knowing it, they eat it up.”

OUTCOME
Of 395 completing the five-day course in the first four years, 99 per cent said they felt more confident about their financial situation.

Data collated by Hyde Housing shows just 11 per cent of young people who took part in the scheme in the first year and went on to be housed by Greenwich Council had rent arrears of more than £500. This compares with 33 per cent of young tenants who did not take part in the programme. No participants in the scheme were evicted.