

CAMHS T4 Provider Collaborative  
Kent and Sussex

## Health and Scrutiny Oversight Committee Report 31<sup>st</sup> January 2023

### Update on CAMHS Tier 4 (specialist inpatient /day patient and alternatives to admission) Provider Collaborative

#### 1. Context

Sussex Partnership NHS Foundation Trust (SPFT) is the lead provider of the Kent and Sussex Provider Collaborative for Child and Adolescent Mental Health (CAMHS) Tier 4 Services. The Provider Collaborative is delegated by NHSE to commission CAMHS inpatient beds for children and young people from Kent and Sussex. The Provider Collaborative (PC) operated in shadow form from October 2020 until going live on 1<sup>st</sup> October 2021.

The current CAMHS Tier 4 services commissioned in the Provider Collaborative network are:

- KMAH – a CAMHS General Adolescent Unit (GAU) located in Staplehurst, Kent that currently provides 11 beds and is managed within the Crisis and Home Treatment (CREST) care pathway. There is also a Health Based Place of Safety on site where young people can be detained under S136 of the mental health act.
- Chalkhill– a CAMHS General Adolescent Unit (GAU) located in Haywards Heath, Sussex that is commissioned to provide 16 beds and where there is also a Health Based Place of Safety.
- Elysium Brighton and Hove - a CAMHS Specialist Eating Disorder Service (SEDU) that provides 16 beds.

#### 2. Purpose of Update Report

This update paper is in response to further questions raised within HOSC at the meeting in November 2022 on discussion of a written response provided to this meeting authored by Andrew Sutherland, Head of Quality Specialised Commissioning Mental Health, Health and Justice, Acute - South East Region NHS England & NHS Improvement

#### 3. Background

The Provider Collaborative enables a more collaborative and joined-up approach to commissioning and associated service delivery through admissions and discharge planning, increasing the likelihood of patients getting access to appropriate services that best suit their needs at the earliest possible opportunity including accessing appropriate community treatment rather than going into hospital if it's not needed.

As a partnership we have formed a Clinical Activity Panel (CAP) and Single Point of Access (SPA) for CAMHS Tier 4 services. The CAP consists of senior clinicians, managers from Tier 4 in-patient services /crisis teams and specialist community CAMHS / Eating disorder services and senior representatives from social care nominated directly by the respective Directors of Children's Services. By bringing together clinical and operational experts we are ensuring that clinical decisions are made by the most appropriate people to better

CAMHS T4 Provider Collaborative  
Kent and Sussex

enhance patient care. The CAP operates across Kent and Sussex to ensure there is a shared understanding of demand across the footprint of the PC and to be able to oversee flow into the units across the area.

The SPA operates a full bed or day service finding and gatekeeping function. This allows a better grip of the cohort and releases clinical capacity in teams who were previously bed searching. Case Managers oversee all young people who are referred for admission and those in units as well as unit quality assurance working with the PC Quality and Safeguarding Leads.

#### 4. Service developments

- 1) 3 Additional General Acute beds at Kent and Medway Adolescent Hospital and the addition of 3 short stay beds. The short stay beds allow for a seamless pathway from crisis to inpatient and back to home as these will fall under the enhanced treatment pathway so they remain with their teams.

##### **Progress to date:**

The unit at KMAH has been redeveloped to increase the overall number of bedrooms as per the plans above. The physical works are now complete to add 3 new beds and 3 new crisis (72 hour) beds and a high dependency area to manage children and young people needing specific support off the main ward area. The completion of the work was significantly delayed due to access to construction materials in particular ligature safe doors. This was a consequence of Covid and the impact of the changes in the relationship with the European Union.

However, in November 2022 it was identified there are further essential estates works needed in the existing bedroom corridor because of health and safety issues. It has therefore been necessary to undertake further works to rebuild walls in bedrooms to ensure they are more resistant to damage and to replace windows with integral blinds to reduce ligature risk. During these works the unit has to limit the overall bed numbers to 9 to enable works to be completed safely and to limit the impact on the young people. This is regrettable but the works are clearly needed to ensure the safety of the young people and to limit the risk of them being able to harm themselves.

The overall refurbishment, which will lead to the full 17 bed capacity is due to be completed at the end of February. Recruitment is underway for additional staffing to support the new beds but this is in the context of overall NHS national workforce challenges.

NELFT has also continued the improvement to the environment in KMAH since taking on the service including completion of a sensory room, reconfiguration of the space to enable quieter areas and to ensure the nurses station is partitioned to avoid inappropriate access by young people. This will ensure the environment is of higher quality to support the young people who are admitted.

NELFT are ensuring the community crisis and home treatment (CREST) team can proactively support young people to avoid admissions where possible. The Provider Collaborative and NELFT are working together to ensure the flow through the unit supports young people to be admitted for as short a period as possible and to enable admission and discharges to be smooth.

- 2) Day hospital for Sussex for young people with Eating Disorders.  
This unit opened at the end of October 2022. The building works were delayed due to the lack of

CAMHS T4 Provider Collaborative  
Kent and Sussex

availability of construction workers and materials. Due to its location it is true to say that this is likely to be accessed predominantly by young people in Sussex. However, the Kent and Medway all age eating disorder pathway is highly effective at supporting young people to remain well in their community and there has been a significant reduction over time in referrals for admission which is really positive. As a CAMHS inpatient Provider Collaborative we continue to review opportunities to develop alternatives to admission in Kent and Medway and to work with the Integrated Care Board to consider how we can work together to enhance the overall pathways of care for children and young people in Kent and Medway.

- 3) There was initial allocation of revenue by NHSE to fund the development of a Psychiatric Intensive Care Unit in Kent and Sussex but due to a lack of identified capital this scheme is not currently progressing. The Provider Collaborative does not hold a capital budget as this is delegated to the Integrated Care Systems in Sussex and Kent and Medway.

Alison Nuttall

Provider Collaborative Programme Director for Kent and Sussex CAMHS Tier 4 Services and Adult Eating Disorders.

Gill Burns Children's Services Director NELFT