

By: Jenny Whittle, Cabinet Member for Specialist Children's Services
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To: Social Care and Public Health Cabinet Committee – 21 March 2013

Subject: **Update on the Children & Young People's Mental Health Service (CAMHS)**

Classification: Unrestricted

Summary: The purpose of this report is to inform and update Members about the implementation and progress of the new Community Children and Young People's Mental Health Service (CAMHS).

1. Introduction

- 1.1 At the previous meeting on 11 January 2013, Members expressed concern that there is a substantial waiting list for the Community Children and Young People's Mental Health Service (CAMHS) and requested a further update on progress made since the start of the current contract on 1 September 2012, with the new provider Sussex Partnership NHS Foundation Trust (SPFT)
- 1.2 Lorraine Reid, the Chief Operating Officer and Simone Button, Service Director for the SPFT will attend the meeting to answer members' questions about the how the service is progressing and to provide the latest figures on waiting times. This report provides a brief background and update along with the revised action plan.

2. Background

- 2.1 On 1 September 2012 following a procurement process, SPFT commenced delivery of the CAMHS, with NHS Kent and Medway PCT as lead commissioner. KCC commissioned the Emotional Health and Well-being Service which commenced on the 3rd September 2012 (Young Healthy Minds). Each element of the service has been aligned to ensure clear pathways for children and young people between the different tiers of need.
- 2.2 Following the establishment of the Early Intervention and Prevention (EIP) Framework there is now a range of early intervention services to meet the emotional health and well-being needs of children and young people. An early intervention Emotional Health and Well-being Service is provided by consortia under the umbrella of Young Healthy Minds (YHM)¹. Access to this service is via the Common Assessment Framework (CAF). YHM engage individual children and young people who are experiencing, or at risk of experiencing, low-level emotional difficulties and will offer time-limited group or 1-1 support.

¹ Kent Children's Fund Network, Family Action, CXK, Stepahead support

3. Progress since contract implementation

3.1 Since the 1 September 2012, SPFT have been actively engaged in a mobilisation process to introduce and embed the new service model called 'Right from the Start', which will deliver high quality, easily accessible and timely support and interventions consistently across Kent and Medway.

3.2 This mobilisation process has included:

- The TUPE of 287 staff from the 6 previous organisations providing CAMHS in Kent,
- Embedding strong governance with clear and effective interim management and professional leadership structures,
- A staff consultation process to enable the introduction of the new management and governance structures, appropriate skill mix and deployment of staff resource across Kent and Medway,
- The development of strong partnership working with a range of stakeholders in particular including the providers of Emotional Wellbeing services (KCC), CAMHS Tier 4 (inpatient services), Adult Mental Health providers as well as children, young people and their families,
- The establishment of an out of hours service so that all children, young people and families presenting in crisis out of hours are responded to,
- A newsletter, which will be distributed monthly, sent to GPs and other professionals and information in the schools bulletin.

4. Key operational issues

4.1 At the point of the new contract commencing in September 2012, there were significant numbers of children and young people on lists waiting to receive a service. This was a particular issue in west Kent. In total 1,688 children and young people were waiting for a CAMH service at October 2012.

4.2 At December 2012, the CAMH service was working with 6,814 cases. SPFT have triaged all children and young people on the waiting list and 389 cases have been assessed as appropriate for the YHM service to meet their emotional health and wellbeing needs.

4.3 In west Kent the average waiting times for routine referrals have been reduced from 24 to 22 weeks and in east Kent from 7.5 to 2.4 weeks. The discrepancy between east and west largely lies within the fact that the historic level of staff was low compared to demand and the service provider has been unable to move staff around to meet demand until after staff consultation and restructuring of the service is completed.

4.4 SPFT confirm that the waiting times for assessment and first appointment across Kent will be reduced to 4 – 6 weeks by July 2013. Further recruitment of staff could see this achieved by April 2013. See trajectory attached in appendix 1.

4.5 An action plan (see Appendix 1) to address the waiting lists has been put in place and includes the following:

- Identify a staff team of 10 from other parts of the service to target teams with waiting list pressures,
- A new discharge checklist added to all team meetings to ensure proactive discharge of cases where appropriate,
- Weekend and evening assessment clinics established ,
- Introduction of new assessment paperwork created by SPFT to speed up the assessment process,
- Staff to consider necessity of attendance at all meetings and avoid duplicate attendance,
- East Sussex staff approached regarding additional working hours,
- Clinics to be closed one week in February and one week in March for all but emergency appointments so whole teams can focus on assessments.

5. Children in Care

5.1 The current Children in Care (CIC) element of the service is the Adolescent and Children in Care Emotional Needs team (ACCENT), which is only providing a service to 7% of CIC. SPFT has reviewed this service and proposed a new model that will reach 30% of Kent's CIC at any one time. The CAMH service will be for Children in Care and Adopted Children providing a range of evidence-based mental health clinical interventions, as well as support, consultation, training and in-reach to social care.

5.2 Consultation with staff in the current CIC service commenced on 20.2.13. The new model will be in place on 1.4.13. There is a fast track process in place to ensure that CIC referred to the service are prioritised.

5.3 At January 2013 SPFT were working with 237 CIC across Kent and Medway. (Medway figures are being disaggregated).

6. Recommendation

Members are asked to NOTE the contents of the report.

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Background Documents: CAMHS Update to Social Care and Public Health Cabinet Committee, 11 January 2013