

Children and Young People Overview and Scrutiny Committee

BRIEFING NOTE – No. 04/13

Date: March 2013

Briefing paper to: All Members of the Children and Young People Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Purpose: Brief members on progress reducing waiting times at the Children and Young People's Mental Health Service

CHILD AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S MENTAL HEALTH SERVICE

Background: Sussex Partnership NHS Foundation Trust (SPNFT) became the new provider of specialist community Children and Young People's Mental Health Services in September 2012.

The service inherited a waiting list of 143 people from Medway who were waiting up to 63 weeks for an assessment. This was higher than initially planned. Further to a benchmarking exercise, the service target is to reduce the waiting time to assessment to 4-6 weeks and the waiting time to treatment to 8-10 weeks by July 2013.

Monthly updates against the implementation plan are provided to commissioners. This is an executive summary of the 10 page report.

Measures: The provider and commissioners have agreed an action plan and a trajectory to reach the waiting time target without compromising on quality of services provided. Progression is monitored on a fortnightly basis and the plan adapted to ensure that the trajectory is followed.

Action Plan Summary

- Standard approach to acceptance of referrals;
- Increase staff capacity and recruitment to vacancies to focus on waiting lists;
- Improved joint working with other agencies to support appropriate referral allocation;
- Ensure good case-management systems are in place to encourage throughput and increase capacity;

- Introduction of Choice & Partnership Approach (CAPA), a partnership approach between child and adolescent mental health services and other agencies to offer support services to impact positively on waiting lists;
- Identify staff from other parts of the service to work some hours in teams with waiting list pressures;
- Weekend and evening assessment clinics established.

Progress: Despite a seasonal increase in referrals to the service associated with cases of deliberate self-harm between September and December, the total waiting list for assessment has reduced from 143 individuals waiting in September to 133 in January. The majority of the referral received by the service are derived from the Child and Adolescent Support Team (CAST).

The average waiting time for individual waiting assessment has also steadily reduced from 17 weeks in November to 15 weeks in January. This is in line with the trajectory to reach a sustained reduction in waiting times.

From April 2013, the provider will have implemented a new reporting system that will enable them to report waiting times from referral to treatment. In the interim, both the number of individuals on the waiting list and trends relating to the type of treatment that individuals are waiting for are being actively monitored.

Officer Contact Details:

Susan Anderson-Carr, Assistant Director, Commissioning and Strategy
Tel: (01634) 334049 Email: susan.andersoncarr@medway.gov.uk