

**Update on Implementation Of Wiltshire's Strategy to Improve the Emotional Well-Being and Mental Health Of Children & Young People**

**Purpose of the Report**

1. To provide an update on progress to implement Wiltshire's Commissioning Strategy to Improve the Emotional Well-being and Mental Health of Children and Young People (known as the Child and Adolescent Mental Health Strategy – CAMHS). The Strategy covers the period 2008–2011 and is attached as Appendix 1.

**Background**

2. A report was presented to Children's Services Scrutiny on 22 May 2008 providing an overview of the CAMHS Strategy, including its overall aims and the service development priorities. An update on progress was provided in July 2009.
3. The Strategy is overseen by the Emotional Well Being sub-group of the Children & Young People's Trust. The group is chaired by Julia Cramp – Joint Service Director – Commissioning and Performance. Membership of this Group includes the PCT, Social Care, the jointly funded Primary Mental Health Service, the specialist provider of CAMHS, Early Years, Education Psychology, Primary Behaviour Support Service, Extended Services and the voluntary sector. A key principle of the Strategy is that mental health is the 'business' of all agencies and a joint approach is necessary in order to improve children and young people's mental health. The Strategy Group oversees delivery of CAMHS at all levels, including the role of universal services, such as schools, in promoting well-being and building resilience.

**Progress on implementing the Strategy**

4. The CAMHS Strategy has three overall aims:
  - To enable children and young people to receive effective preventative support;
  - To have their needs effectively met by local, community-based services;
  - To have equality of access and reduced waiting times for specialist CAMHS.

5. The service development priorities outlined in the Strategy that will ensure these aims are met are outlined below:
  - (a) To continue to focus on promoting emotional well-being/building resilience;
  - (b) To implement the recommendations of the review of Wiltshire's Pathways for Troubled Children (now known as Healthy Minds);
  - (c) To sustain and build on progress made to meet the Public Service Agreement targets for comprehensive CAMHS – 24 hour cover, full range of CAMHS for children and young people with learning disabilities, and access to CAMHS for 16/17 year olds where this is appropriate to their difficulty/level of maturity;
  - (d) To move from 3 providers to a single provider of specialist CAMHS (Tier 3) for Wiltshire population of children and young people, delivered in line with a clear service specification;
  - (e) To improve access to and value for money in Tier 4 (inpatient services) and reduce the number of children and young people inappropriately admitted to general paediatric or to adult mental health wards due to mental health difficulties;
  - (f) To have a clearer focus on children and young people with very challenging behaviour, particularly those who are young offenders, 'looked after' or at risk of becoming 'looked after'.
6. This update report focuses on the changes that have occurred within specialist CAMHS (Tier 3 and Tier 4) that will enable Wiltshire to deliver most of the service development priorities outlined in the Strategy.
7. During 2008, a procurement project was set up to tender for a single provider of specialist CAMHS. The purpose of the procurement exercise was to secure improved and integrated services across Wiltshire, to deliver improved quality, better value and better outcomes for children and young people.
8. The re-tendering of specialist CAMHS (Tiers 3 and 4), led by the PCT working in partnership with local authority colleagues, has now been completed. In October 2009, the NHS Wiltshire Commissioning Committee (under delegated powers from the Board) approved the recommendation to award the contract to Oxfordshire and Buckinghamshire Mental Health NHS Foundation Trust (OBMH). The contract started on 1 April 2010 and will run for a period of 5 years, with the option of extending it for a further 2 years. This reflects the effort required to tender the service and time it will take to fully implement the new service model and realise the benefits for service users and their families.
9. The revised service specification included within the new CAMHS contract includes changes needed to service delivery to meet national standards and targets. The following changes and service improvements have been introduced since the contract started in April:

- (a) Over 100 staff from the three previous providers transferred to OBMH on 1 April 2010. Following a period of consultation, all staff have now been allocated a role to ensure that the new service model can be delivered.
- (b) Work has been completed on a new office base at Savernake for the team serving East Wiltshire (previously based at Marlborough House in Swindon).
- (c) A significant amount of work has been undertaken with the Tier 2 primary mental health service managed by the local authority – Healthy Minds – to provide quicker access to mental health support and reduce the need for multiple assessments.
- (d) Lengths of stay in the adolescent inpatient unit have reduced from an average of approximately 240 days a year ago to approximately 150 days. Further reductions are expected to meet a target of 45 – 50 days when the full service model, including Crisis and Outreach, is put in place to support young people leaving the unit and returning back home.
- (e) All young people who need an admission to an inpatient unit receive an appropriate service from a unit focused on adolescents – there have been no admissions of under 18s to an adult ward.
- (f) A Young People’s Participation Worker has been appointed (through Off the Record – a voluntary sector organisation) and an initial survey to assess the views of children and young people on the service they receive has been completed.
- (g) All referrals to the specialist service since April have been offered an appointment within 8 weeks (although there can be longer waiting times for Healthy Minds who act as a Single Point of Access for CAMHS and screen referrals for the Tier 3 service);
- (h) A launch event for stakeholders has been held to outline the new service model and to ensure that partner agencies have information on accessing the service.
- (i) Progress is being made on developing a dedicated service for children and young people with a learning disability. A Project Manager has been appointed by OBMH alongside psychiatric, psychological and nursing staff, and key stakeholders are now involved in considering the detail of how the service will be delivered.
- (j) Staff who will be involved in delivering the new Crisis and Outreach Service are now being trained so that this service can begin in January 2011. This service will provide interventions for

young people with complex care needs who do not have a traditional mental health diagnosis. Part of the remit will be to work with young people who find it difficult to engage with traditional Tier 3 CAMHS, for example, looked after young people and those on the caseload of the Youth Offending Service. When the full Crisis and Outreach Service is up and running, Wiltshire will be one of the few areas in the country with access to this type of service for its children and young people.

- (k) A consistent out-of-hours service operating 24/7 for 365 days a year will be in operation from January 2011.

### **Environmental impact**

- 10. The intention is that the new specialist service is delivered where the child/young person and family wishes, rather than always requiring travel to a clinic setting. This may increase the amount of staff travel.

### **Equalities impact**

- 11. The new specialist service has a clear focus on ensuring that very vulnerable young people are able to receive a service, including those who are looked after, young offenders and children and young people with a learning disability.

### **Risk assessment**

- 12. There are no identified risks associated with the specialist service.

### **Financial implications**

- 13. The contract for Tier 3 and 4 CAMHS is mainly funded by NHS Wiltshire. It is anticipated that the work of the Crisis and Outreach Team will reduce the need for some specialist placements previously made by children's social work teams.

### **Legal implications**

- 14. There are no legal implications for the local authority.

### **Recommendation**

- 15. The Children's Services Selection Committee is asked to note the progress made towards implementation of the Strategy, and the new contract for specialist CAMHS.
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**Appendices**

Appendix 1 – Child and Adolescent Mental Health Strategy

**Background documents**

None