

**Child & Adolescent Mental Health Services
Procurement Project
Project Bulletin 1: 12th August 2008**

1. What does the project aim to do?

Wiltshire & BANES PCTs are committed to improving the emotional well-being and mental health of Children & Young People within their catchment areas and to achieving the aim of Standard 9 of the National Service Framework for Children, Young People and Maternity:

All children and young people, from birth to their eighteenth birthday, who have mental health problems and disorders, have access to timely, integrated, high quality, multi-disciplinary mental health services to ensure effective assessment, treatment and support, for them and their families.

In order to fulfil this aim, it is vitally important that the PCTs commission good quality Child & Adolescent Mental Health services (CAMHS). There are some excellent services already provided in our areas, however, we believe that further improvements could be made by strengthening the commissioning of CAMHS through the development of a single service specification, contract and associated performance measures.

Our commissioning approach is to enter into competitive tender for the re-provision of Tiers 3 & 4 CAMHS across both PCTs. We believe that this approach will allow us to develop an innovative and sustainable service in partnership with organisations that can prove that they are leaders in this field.

We will be looking for organisations with: a track record of good performance in delivering services; sound mechanisms for supporting and developing staff; clear approaches for working in partnership with other agencies; and a thorough commitment to involving children and their families in the development and delivery of services.

2. Information on the project & current actions

A Project Board has been established across the PCTs to manage the commissioning process, consisting of representatives from Commissioning, Finance, HR, Public Health, Estates, Procurement, Nursing, Midwifery & AHPs, Wiltshire & BANES Local Authorities.

The chair of the Project Board is **Sally Sandcraft**, Director of Nursing, Midwifery and AHPs at Wiltshire PCT, supported by a Project Lead, **Emma Jones**. In addition, the project receives consultancy support from **Ian Tordoff** of Integre Consulting.

The project commenced in May 2008 and is following the timetable given below (these dates are not fixed and can be varied if required):

Date	Action
24 th June 2008	PCT Board approval to tender for Tiers 3 & 4 CAMHS
25 th June 2008	Notice given to providers of current services
25 th June 2008	PCTs place advert in Official Journal of European Union (OJEU) and informs interested parties
Mid July 2008	PCTs hold visioning sessions for staff and stakeholders to develop outcome measures for new service
18 th August 2008	Interested parties deadline to register interest from OJEU
21 st August 2008	PCTs issues Pre Qualification Questionnaire (PQQ) for tender for services provision
4 th September 2008	PQQ Forum for interested parties
15 th September 2008	Interested parties deadline for responses to PQQ
29 th September 2008	PCTs will have evaluated and short-listed, and issued Invitation to Participate Document (ITPD)
1 st October 2008	Bidder session for short-listed parties.
28 th November 2008	Bidder deadline to respond to ITPD
December to Feb 2009	Evaluation and short-listing
March to May 2009	Competitive Dialogue with interested parties that have been short-listed.
30 th May 2009	Issue of final specification to bidders
4 th July 2009	Bidder deadline response to final specification
Aug 2009	Evaluation and selection of preferred bidder
Sept 2009	PCTs Board approval on preferred bidder & award of contract
Sept 2009 to Dec 2009	Anticipated implementation of new service

3. Gathering views on CAMHS

We are keen to ensure that the development of our new service is informed by the views and opinions of staff, stakeholders and particularly children & young people.

We have held five workshops across Wiltshire & BANES for staff working within CAMHS or alongside these services (e.g. Education, Health and Social Services). At these workshops, we heard the views of staff on our current services, how services could be developed in the future and their opinion as to how proposals by potential bidders could be judged. Two further workshops are likely to be held in September to allow a further opportunity for staff input into the process.

In addition, concerns, comments or queries can be sent by email to:

camhsproject@wiltshire-pct.nhs.uk

Each of our current providers also has a named lead for sending out information to staff and to be a key contact for staff to ask any initial queries or express concerns:

Peter Wilson **Avon & Wiltshire Partnership NHS Trust**

Chris Davis **Salisbury NHS Foundation Trust**

Kate Hannam **Swindon & Marlborough NHS Trust**

With respect to gathering the views of children, young people and their families, we will be adopting a three-pronged approach seeking the views of the general population, current and past service users, and Looked After children. For the general population, we will be contributing to Tomorrow's Voice (a regular survey of young people's views) and Wiltshire Youth Service will be holding focus groups in local youth centres. For service users and their families, we will be sending out a postal survey and will also be holding focus groups or interviews. For Looked After Children, we will be working with Wiltshire Children's services to hold focus groups.

A sub-group is being established to develop the service specification. The group will incorporate the views gathered through this approach, alongside considering guidelines, policy directions and evidence-based practice across the country, into the development of the new service.

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