

**CHILDREN'S SERVICES SCRUTINY
31 JANUARY 2008**

**A STRATEGY FOR CHILD AND ADOLESCENT
MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES (CAMHS)****Purpose of the Report:****To provide an update on the progress of the CAMHS strategy.****1 Background**

- 1.1 Two early drafts of a CAMHS Commissioning Strategy were produced by a senior manager of the Primary Care Trust during the summer of 2007. These were considered by the sub group of the Children and Young People's Trust Board – namely the sub group for children and young people with emotional, behavioural and other mental health problems.
- 1.2 It was agreed that more detailed work was required, but due to a lack of staffing capacity in the PCT, this would need to await the appointment of the Assistant Director Commissioner – children and young people. This post has been filled and the appointee started early January 2008. Completion of the strategy in conjunction with partners including the Local Authority is a top priority for the post holder.
- 1.3 The CAMHS Strategy will span the 0-19 year age range and cover all four levels or tiers of need as follows.

Tier 1	-	Universal provision, including the promotion of emotional well being.
Tier 2	-	Skilled time limited intervention for children and young people with emerging emotional well being concerns working with and supporting the universal provider.
Tier 3	-	Specialist mental health intervention provided by the Specialist CAMHS teams across the county.
Tier 4	-	Highly specialist provision including hospital in-patient and day patient provision.

- 1.4 The Strategy will therefore, consider those Tier 3 and 4 services which fall to the PCT to commission, as well as Tier 2 services, which are in part provided through the Local Authority grant and other external providers such as Off the Record, school counsellors etc.

2 Key Aims of the Strategy

- 2.1 To comply with relevant requirements within the National Service Framework for Children, Young People and Maternity Services. The specific standard is number nine – ‘The Mental Health and Psychological Well-being of Children and Young People’.
- 2.2 To ensure there is equitability in respect of access to service provision across Wiltshire.
- 2.3 Through the coordination of resources and joint commission within The Children’s Trust, to avoid gaps or duplication of services and achieve a flexible cross sector seamless service.
- 2.4 The vehicle for agreeing the Strategy will be through the Children and Young People’s Trust Board.

3. Proposal

- 3.1 To provide a further progress report in three months.

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Director of Department for Children and Education

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