

Child & Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS) in Barnsley – Cover Report

1.0 Introduction and Background

- 1.1 In April 2014, significant concerns were raised regarding the performance of Barnsley Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS) which resulted in establishing an officer Task and Finish Remediation Group. Barnsley CAMHS reflected national trends in terms of rising demand and insufficient capacity, which was supported by the Parliamentary Health Select Committee report published in November 2014 which concluded that nationally ‘there are serious and deeply ingrained problems with the commissioning and provision of children’s and adolescents’ mental health services’.
- 1.2 In March 2015, the Government published the ‘Future in Mind’ report as a result of the ‘Children and Young People’s Mental Health and Wellbeing Taskforce’ which ‘considered ways to make it easier for children, young people, parents and carers to access help and support when needed and to improve how children and young people’s mental health services are organised, commissioned and provided’. The key themes which arose from this were:
- Promoting resilience, prevention and early intervention
 - Improving access to effective support – a system without tiers
 - Care for the most vulnerable
 - Accountability and transparency
 - Developing the workforce
- 1.3 On 10th March 2015, the then Children’s Services Scrutiny Committee (CSSC) considered the performance of local CAMHS which included raising concerns regarding extensive wait times. A number of recommendations were made which included that performance of the service should be followed up every 12 months.
- 1.4 In May 2016, the then Safeguarding Scrutiny Committee (SSC) undertook this follow-up and acknowledged that during 2015/16 improvements had been made to wait times (from 14 weeks in April 2015, to 5 weeks in March 2016); however wait times for Core/Partnership appointments were still lengthy and the overall wait times for access to specialist CAMHS extensive.
- 1.5 During 2015, Healthwatch Barnsley, who are an independent consumer champion that gather and represent the views of the public with regards to health services, undertook a survey of service users of Barnsley CAMHS. A report summarising the findings was published in December 2015 which highlighted issues within the service that were impacting upon individual’s experiences. The findings of this report were used by the service to inform their future work.
- 1.6 In May 2016, the SSC were advised that continued improvement work was planned by the service to reduce the wait times for appointments, utilising national ‘Future in Mind’ financial investment. To do this, a number of priority work-streams had been identified to contribute to service improvement.

- 1.7 Over the last 12 months, improvements have been maintained and review work has been undertaken to identify those children who have been waiting the longest and treat them as a priority. However, local demand for services continues to be high and wait times to treatment still remain long.

2.0 Current Position

- 2.1 The attached report (Item 4b) provided by Barnsley CCG (Clinical Commissioning Group) who commission CAMHS Services in Barnsley, provides an update on performance information as well as challenges faced by the service which is delivered by South West Yorkshire NHS Partnership Foundation Trust (SWYPFT).

3.0 Invited Witnesses

- 3.1 The following witnesses who are responsible for the commissioning and provision of CAMHS have been invited to today's meeting to answer questions from the OSC:

- Brigid Reid, Chief Nurse, Barnsley CCG
- Dave Ramsay, Deputy Director of Operations for SWYPFT
- Carol Harris, District Service Director, Forensic and Specialist Services, SWYPFT
- Abdullah Kraam, Clinical Lead for CAMHS, SWYPFT
- Claire Strachan, General Manager, Barnsley CAMHS, SYPWFT

- 3.2 Two Barnsley Foster Carers have also been invited to today's meeting as expert participants to support the OSC in providing challenge to CAMHS services, representing Foster Carers in Barnsley who have accessed services in support of Barnsley Looked After Children.

4.0 Possible Areas for Investigation

- 4.1 Members may wish to ask questions around the following areas:

- What significant achievements have been made over the last 12 months and what priorities are of concern?
- What impact are social media platforms having upon young people's mental health and what can be done to combat the issues?
- Is there an increasing trend for any specific conditions and are there sufficient resources to meet the demand?
- To what extent have interventions to reduce inappropriate referrals been effective and have GPs engaged with these?
- Has further analysis been carried out to determine why people do not attend (DNA) appointments and therefore implement preventative strategies?
- How are services promoted to ensure that those in need are aware of the services available, particularly those groups that are difficult to reach/in a minority (for example BME, traveller children, child carers, those that are home schooled etc.)?

- What is in place to help patients transition from CAMHS to adult mental health services and is this a seamless process?
- What performance management arrangements are in place to monitor and improve the service and are these comprehensive, reliable and robust?
- How effective are partner arrangements regarding information sharing and joined up working (GPs/school nurses/Youth Offending Team) and how could they be improved?
- What support is available to parents and young people between referrals/appointments?
- What are the main barriers to recruiting and retaining appropriate staffing and how are these being overcome?
- What can Members do to support improvement in CAMHS?

4.0 Background Papers and Links

- Link to minutes from the Children's Services Scrutiny Committee meeting on CAMHS from 10th March 2015:
[http://barnsleymbc.moderngov.co.uk/Data/Safeguarding%20Scrutiny%20Committee/201505051400/Agenda/\\$Copy%20A%20-%20CSSC%20Minutes%20from%2010%2003%202015.doc.pdf](http://barnsleymbc.moderngov.co.uk/Data/Safeguarding%20Scrutiny%20Committee/201505051400/Agenda/$Copy%20A%20-%20CSSC%20Minutes%20from%2010%2003%202015.doc.pdf)
- Link to the minutes from the Safeguarding Scrutiny Committee meeting on CAMHS from 3rd May 2016:
<http://barnsleymbc.moderngov.co.uk/documents/s11211/Minutes%20of%20the%20Safeguarding%20Scrutiny%20Committee.pdf>
- Healthwatch Barnsley CAMHS Experience Report December 2015:
<http://healthwatchbarnsley.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2014/06/CAMHS-report.pdf>
- Future in Mind: Promoting, Protecting & Improving our Children & Young People's Mental Health & Wellbeing Report:
https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/414024/Childrens_Mental_Health.pdf

5.0 Glossary

CAMHS	Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services
CCG	Clinical Commissioning Group
CSSC	Children's Services Scrutiny Committee
OSC	Overview and Scrutiny Committee
SSC	Safeguarding Scrutiny Committee
SWYPFT	South West Yorkshire NHS Partnership Foundation Trust

6.0 Officer Contact

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