

Briefing: Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services Out of Hours (CAMHS OOHrs) (in relation to Councillor Rawling's Urgent Item)

1. Introduction

The out of hour's service is targeted at children and young people who attend the Emergency Department/s who are experiencing a mental health condition. The out of hour's service is accessed by the Emergency Department Medical and Clinical staff. The model of service is expert child mental health telephone advice given by an on call mental health professional, with a "hot line" access to a psychiatrist. The psychiatrist may undertake a face to face patient consultation if the case deems necessary. This provision is for children and young people **aged 0-18 years in need of an urgent mental health assessment** (e.g. acute self-harm, suicidal behaviour, acute psychosis) **out of hours 5pm – 9am**.

2. Background

Barnet CCG was one of the nine CCGs within a consortium contributing £25,000 to a total contract value of approximately £250,000 for Out of Hours CAMHS provision which was managed by Central North West London across North West London (NWL) geographical area.

Barnet CCG served a notice to CNWL to decommission the OOH service in February 2014, in line with commissioning intentions for 2014/15; therefore the current contract terminated on 31st March 2015, however was subsequently extended to 30th June 2015 to allow sufficient time for the re-provision process. As a result of CNWL review of CAMHS out of hours provision they have re-organised geographically and Barnet General Hospital is now out of area previously covered.

3. Actions taken to date

- Commissioners sought the approval from the Finance, Planning and Quality Board (FPQ) of the proposal and funding to implement an Out of Hours CAMHS for 1 year as an initial pilot scheme to inform the requirements of the service beyond the pilot phase. This would also enable the acceleration of the procurement process to ensure that the timescale for re-provision were met.
- The board was asked to note that the total cost of the proposed service is yet unknown, however based on the indicative costs of the CNWL OOH review findings the potential cost could be £90,000, approximately which is required for the first year pilot this will be funded by the Barnet CCG and has no financial implications for Barnet Council
- Commissioners under the instructions of the procurement team carried out a 'market testing' exercise for the OOH service on 12 March 2015 for a two week period. This was because the funding was under £90,000 which is in line with Standing Financial Instructions (SFIs). At the end of the market testing exercise the response was extremely disappointing with only one provider, Tavistock and Portman out of 5 potential providers expressed a tentative interest.

Addendum: Agenda Item14: Any other items the Chairman decides are urgent

- Commissioners continued to have discussions with our local CAMHS providers; Barnet Enfield Haringey Mental Health Trust, The Royal Free Foundation Trust and the Tavistock and Portman to secure and put in place interim arrangements which will allow sufficient time for commissioners to develop a robust service model with a view to re-procure within 6-9 months' timescale a service that will meet the needs of children and young people.

4. Current Position

Interim arrangements for this service are now in place and commenced from the 1st July 2015. The service which is being delivered at the Royal Free Barnet site will move to the Royal Free Hampstead site.

Commissioners continue to work across commissioning and provider services to develop a more consistent approach which will inform the new CAMH out of hour's service going forward.

A formal letter and in and out of hours protocols have been sent to all stakeholders including the Liaison Police Inspector for CAMHS.

A variation to the Royal Free Foundation Trust Contract is being drawn up.

Linda Edward
Interim Joint Childrens Commissioning Manager

3rd July 2015