

South Kent Coast Health and Wellbeing Board

Children and Young Peoples Service

(Formally Children and Adolescent Mental Health Service)

1. This paper sets out the background and current services provided for children and young people with emotional and mental health issues in the South Kent Coast CCG area.

Services are commissioned at four levels:

Tier 1 - support delivered within universal settings

Tier 2 - targeted support

Tier 3 - specialist support

Tier 4 – specialist mental health services including inpatient provision

2. Kent County Council commission tier 1 services from Young Healthy Minds, this is for children and young people presenting with issues which may include, but are not limited to:

- Anxiety/phobias
- Low mood
- Behavioral difficulties as a result of emotional needs
- Low self –esteem
- Poor self-image
- Relationship/ social interaction issues
- Loss/ attachment/ bereavement issues

Access to this service is via the Common Assessment Framework (CAF) however, the current CAF review has noted that as this is a single agency referral, it should not require a CAF. The purpose of the CAF is to provide a holistic approach for children and their families to ensure the appropriate services are in place to support them, it should not be used as a referral tool.

Activity for South Kent Coast CCG into the Young Healthy Minds service shows that Dover had the highest number of referrals in the last year, 146 in total; Shepway was the second highest with 120. Quarter 2 2014 has seen a reduction in referrals from Dover. By the end of March there were no cases over 6 weeks in South Quadrant, which covers Dover and Shepway.

3. Sussex Partnership Foundation Trust (SPFT) were commissioned in September 2012 to provide both tier 2 and 3 services in Kent. This contract is coordinated by NHS West Kent CCG on behalf of the East Kent and Medway CCGs. The service is divided into hubs, Maidstone & Tunbridge Wells, Dartford, Gravesham & Swanley, West Kent, Medway & Swale, East and South. South Kent Coast CCG falls under the South hub.

There were higher numbers of children waiting for assessment and treatment than originally anticipated during the tender process, leading to delays and failure to meet the contract Key Performance Indicators (KPIs). A review took place which resulted in a restructure of workforce, which in turn led to vacancies in some teams.

In February 2014, SPFT were served a performance notice letter by NHS West Kent CCG requiring them to produce a recovery plan and deliver improvements in order to

comply with the contract standards of a 4-6 week waiting time for routine referrals to assessment, and 8– 10 weeks from referral to commencement of treatment. SPFT are being regularly monitored to ensure compliance, the aim is to have full achievement of the contract KPIs by the end of August 2014.

4. Tier 4 services are commissioned by NHS England. Both SPFT and NHS West Kent CCG have written to express dissatisfaction at the current level of provision which has resulted in young people being admitted to paediatric wards while a suitable inpatient placement is identified. South London and Maudsley (SLAM) have 20 inpatient beds at Woodland House, Staplehurst; this is a general, open adolescent unit. If additional beds are required, SLAM will try and source within their other units at either Bethlam Royal or Snowfields. If the patient requires more intensive support or has been sectioned, private providers are used; there are no NHS PICU (Psychiatric Intensive Care) facilities in the South East. Recently a suite has been identified in Dartford for those patients under a section 136. Negotiations are in place for similar provision in the Canterbury and Maidstone areas.
5. There have recently been workforce issues in Shepway and Dover however, an additional nurse has just been recruited for the Folkestone unit and will be in post July 2014. The service manager is confident that by August both areas will have the full complement of staff.

The current activity is as follows:

Cases waiting to be seen: Folkestone 89, Dover 26

Waiting for an ASD Assessment: Folkestone 49, Dover 7

Waiting for an ADHD Assessment: Folkestone 0, Dover 1

Cases closed in the month of May: Folkestone 27, Dover 16

Discussion has taken place with SPFT around the ASD cases and the length of time patients are waiting for an assessment. They are not currently contracted to provide a service but have been “holding” cases until a formal arrangement is agreed, this will include working with EKHUFT. To address this, SPFT have agreed to review cases with colleagues from the CCG, EKHUFT, KCHT to see if support can be offered to the young person and their family pending the assessment.

The primary mental health specialists have been holding clinics in Caterpillars children’s centre, Cheriton and New Romney children’s centre. The project was established in February 2014 aimed at providing mental health advice and support to both families directly and practitioners across the district. This has been well received and has re-directed some referrals that would have been sent, inappropriately into the children and young people’s service (ChYPS). The referral criteria for the ChYPS can be found in the attached document.



Referral Criteria
ChYPS 2014 (2).doc



South Kent Coast
Clinical Commissioning Group