



**CORPORATE PARENTING BOARD
27 April 2006**

**CHILD & ADOLESCENT MENTAL HEALTH SERVICE
(CAMHS) LOOKED AFTER CHILDREN'S SERVICE**

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PURPOSE OF REPORT

1. To inform members of the Corporate Parenting Board, of the Child and Adolescent Mental Health Service (CAMHS) Looked after Team, the evaluation of that service and actions arising from this.

BACKGROUND

2. The increasing complexity of emotional and behavioural issues for children looked after, coupled with the long waiting lists for a CAMHS service, led to a 'needs analysis' being completed in 2003. This was undertaken with Social Workers and care professionals and identified the components needed to improve the service eg:
 - easy access to therapeutic interventions
 - 'drop-in' service to discuss concerns
 - work with staff teams in residential settings
 - input into foster-carer training
3. The model of service was developed, and in January 2004 the new service was established funded on a South Tees basis via the CAMHS grant.

4. The CAMHS Looked after Service provides both direct therapeutic work with young people; consultation to professionals; risk assessments; and training to staff.
5. The Team currently consists of 2 full time clinicians, 4 psychology sessions, 2 psychiatry sessions and 10 therapeutic sessions per week.
6. There have been some staffing difficulties, so the Team has only briefly worked at full capacity.

EVALUATION

7. An evaluation was undertaken late 2005 by Tina Jackson (Development Worker). This covered:
 - referral process
 - interventions
 - caseload analysis
 - waiting list
 - views of referring agencies
8. Young people were not part of this exercise as a broader CAMHS consultation with young people was also taking place at this time.
9. The Service works with ages 3-18 years, the highest percentage of young people being seen are aged 13/14 years – 58% being male. Overall, the evaluation was positive, with the dedicated service being seen as a great improvement.
10. Its 'proactive approach' was valued and willingness to offer joint visits and assessments. There was some 'mis-information' with other professionals about the range of services the team could provide, so more clarity is needed on this. There were also problems with ongoing data collection and analysis, which would be used to inform service developments.

FUTURE ACTIONS

11. The evaluation highlighted a number of areas where services could be developed. These were:
 - data collection/analysis
 - facility to 'fast track' referrals
 - improved services for children and young people, where both CAMHS and learning difficulties services are needed
 - increased post-adoption work
 - CAMHS 'road-show' to raise awareness of the service
 - Social Worker attached to the Team
12. These recommendations will form the basis of a joint action plan, which will be developed and agreed by Middlesbrough, Redcar & Cleveland and CAMHS.

SUMMARY

13. The CAMHS/LAC service was established in January 2004. The 2005 evaluation demonstrates a positive proactive team, delivering much improved services to young people and children 'looked after' by South Tees Local Authorities, highly valued by other professionals.
14. The areas for development, will form the basis of an action plan for 2006/07.

RECOMMENDATIONS

15. That Corporate Parenting Board advise the Executive to note the report and its positive findings in relation to CAMHS services.

REASONS

16. Children and young people 'looked after' have a higher level of emotional and mental health issues, relating to past trauma.
17. This high level of need, requires a specialist service to ensure a timely, quality response.
18. The CAMHS/LAC Teams provides the specialist service and contributes to improved outcomes for this group of young people.

BACKGROUND PAPERS

No background papers were used in the preparation of this report.

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