

Plymouth Community Healthcare
Briefing Paper for Caring Plymouth
August 2015

Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services

Introduction

This paper provides a summary of the current position, plans for the next 12 months and the aspirations in respect of CAMHS within Plymouth Community Healthcare.

CAMHS is a service commissioned by both local Commissioners as well as NHS England for the services operated in Plym Bridge House, as the local Tier 4 inpatient unit covering Devon and Cornwall. It is also important to understand that CAMHS is a part of a significantly wider system providing help, support and care to children across the City and beyond.

The attached paper highlights a number of positive developments in the service delivery.

These include:

- The establishment of a Place of Safety specifically for Children for Devon. This ensures that children are assessed in a specialist environment as opposed to a Police Custody Suite, when detained under Section 136 of the Mental Health Act.
- An increase in the number of clinical staff through a thorough review of the skill mix of staff. This includes the development of Non-Medical Prescribing.
- The development and implementation of a shared electronic health record.
- Support for Children in Care placed outside of Plymouth.

However, given the increase in staffing and changes in the service and the increasing demands on the service, we should be aspiring in providing and commissioning to create a service that children and young people are able to access quickly in the community at the first signs of difficulties. Ensure that the right information and support is available from this point and that the pathway of care is integrated with the systems around the young person.

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