

**CHILDREN'S SERVICES SCRUTINY PANEL REFERRAL: CHILD AND ADOLESCENT MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES (CAMHS) UPDATE****REPORT OF THE CHILDREN'S SERVICES SCRUTINY PANEL****1. Purpose of Report**

- 1.1 To provide the Scrutiny Committee with the Children's Services Scrutiny Panel's findings and recommendations in relation to the commissioned item from the committee.

**2. Background**

- 2.1 At its meeting on 13 September 2012 the Scrutiny Committee received a report detailing the outcomes of the announced inspection of Safeguarding and Looked After Children's Services in Sunderland. In discussing the report concerns were raised in relation to the waiting times for CAMHS Tier 2 and Tier 3 support and it was agreed that the Children's Services Scrutiny Panel should be commissioned to investigate this further.
- 2.2 The Children's Services Scrutiny Panel held a meeting on 16 October to discuss the issues raised at the Scrutiny Committee. The Council's Head of Safeguarding and the Primary Care Trust's (PCT) Children's Health Commissioning Officer were in attendance at the Panel's meeting. A further meeting was arranged on 3 December 2012 with NTW Children and Young People Services, the new provider of CAMHS in Sunderland, to discuss their approach and progress in reducing waiting times.
- 2.3 It was agreed following discussions with Panel Members and the Scrutiny Committee that progress would be monitored and officers invited back to the Children's Services Scrutiny Panel at an appropriate juncture. Subsequently a meeting was held on 20 May 2013 to outline progress and developments in relation to the CAMHS service now provided by NTW Children and Young People Services.

**3. CAMHS Service - Update**

- 3.1 The Children's Services Scrutiny Panel met with representatives from the Local Authority, CCG (Clinical Commissioning Group) and NTW (Northumberland Tyne and Wear Trust) on 17 December 2013. The purpose of the meeting was to monitor the developments and improvements that are clearly being made to the service, and provide Members with an opportunity to discuss the measures, procedures and future initiatives that will continue to address the initial concerns raised.
- 3.2 The Panel has already acknowledged the robust monitoring arrangements that have been developed and integrated into the new service contract specifications. The series of KPI's (over 100 based around choice, outcomes, access, waiting times and clinical supervision processes), monthly monitoring meetings and performance data all ensuring that the new service is transparent and accountable.

- 3.3 The situation inherited by NTW, as the new service provider, has been well documented and it was the excessive waiting times that had initially prompted the commissioning to the Children's Services Scrutiny Panel. It was reported, to the panel, that by October 2013 there were 22 people waiting longer than 18 weeks for an assessment compared with 253 people in October 2012. This was highlighted as a significant improvement and it was expected that this 18 week wait would be eliminated altogether by December 2013, and that by the end of March 2014 people would wait no longer than 12 weeks. It was also noted that approximately 20% of people are seen within 4 weeks.
- 3.4 DNA's (Did Not Attend) remain an issue for the service and was reported as a continuing pressure on service resources. It was noted that the DNA rate was currently running at 26%. The service provides a choice appointments system to allow for greater flexibility in the initial assessment phase including evening appointments, home visits etc. NTW continues to monitor the situation to further reduce the DNA rates.

- 3.5 The service is structured across Sunderland into tiers of support as follows:

Tier 1 - Mainstream universal services which are available to all children, young people and their families through schools, primary health care, social work etc.

Tier 2 (Community CAMHS) – Targeted CAMHS service with the aim of providing a range of assessment and short interventions for children with moderate mental health needs.

Tier 3 – providing both direct and indirect services for children, young people and their families with complex, severe or persistent mental health needs.

Tier 4 – providing support to children, young people and their families who require intensive home treatment services.

It was reported that the Tier 2 (Community CAMHS) waiting times are now at five weeks through the re-prioritisation of staff resources to deal with the backlog of referrals.

## **4. Conclusion**

- 4.1 The Children's Services Scrutiny Panel, as commissioned by the Scrutiny Committee, have robustly monitored and challenged officers and partners around the waiting times for access to child and adolescent mental health services. This has taken place over a period of 15 months and it has been demonstrated that a number of practices and measures have been put in place to not only tackle the waiting lists but also to ensure that targets are met and service performance is enhanced.
- 4.2 Members of the Children's Services Scrutiny Panel acknowledged the improvement and progress made by NTW and the commitment to continued improvement through the initiation of CQUIN target incentives. The CCG, NTW and Local Authority have worked together to ensure that the newly designed service is fit for purpose and robust enough to ensure a consistent level of performance.

## **5. Recommendations**

5.1 That the Scrutiny Committee, following detailed investigation by the Children's Services Scrutiny Panel, considers that future monitoring of the CAMHS services be on an annual basis by the Scrutiny Committee.

## 6. Glossary of Terms

<b>CAMHS</b>	Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services
<b>CAPA</b>	Choice and Partnership Approach
<b>CCG</b>	Clinical Commissioning Group
<b>CQUIN</b>	Commissioning for Quality and Innovation
<b>DNA</b>	Did Not Attend
<b>KPI</b>	Key Performance Indicator
<b>NTW</b>	North of Tyne and Wear Foundation Trust
<b>PCT</b>	Primary Care Trust

## Background Papers

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