

# Specialist Mental Health Learning Disability Service

## Service Development Update

The Child and Adolescent Mental Health Service (CAMHS) are setting up a new service called the Specialist Mental Health Learning Disability Service (Berkshire).

Our plan is to make sure that children and young people with a learning disability who also have a mental health condition can get the help and support they need.

This information sheet will tell you about the early development of this exciting new service.

### What will the service do?

We will aim to:

- provide specialist multi-disciplinary assessment, diagnosis and intervention for children and young people with a learning disability and mental health condition
- provide consultation, training and support to families, education, children's social care and other agencies to enhance their skills to meet the needs of children and young people with mental health conditions and learning disabilities
- provide multi-agency consultation and/or liaison
- participate in ensuring smooth and coordinated transition to adult services as appropriate
- support children and young people with behaviours that challenge associated with a mental health condition and a learning disability



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## Can I access the new service?

This is a newly created service for children and young people who present with mental health and learning disability needs.

The referral guidelines are:

- 5 – 17-year-olds with:
  - an identified emotional, mental health need
  - a diagnosed moderate/severe learning disability or significant impairment of intellectual and social adaptive functioning
  - identified behaviours that challenge associated with a mental health condition or suspected condition as a co-morbidity, e.g., early psychosis, depression, anxiety, OCD
- registered with a GP in Berkshire (this includes Bracknell, Royal Borough of Windsor & Maidenhead, Slough, Wokingham, Reading and West Berkshire)

**These guidelines are a starting point and may change as the service develops.**

## Who decides if we can have a service?

The referrals will be looked at to decide whether the service is right for you and what the level of urgency is by the Senior Clinical Psychologist/Team Lead, Consultant Psychiatrist, and members of staff.

## Will we have a voice in how the service develops?

Yes! We have a group of people that meet regularly to help us develop the service. They are people from education, local authorities, parent/carers, public health, SEND Information and Advice Support Service (IASS), Frimley and Berkshire, Oxford and Buckinghamshire (BOB) Integrated Care Boards. We will also be talking to children and young people with learning disabilities and mental health conditions to find out how we can best support them.

Where possible, we will have young people or parents of children and young people with a learning disability on our interview panels to make sure we recruit staff that people can relate to and trust.

**If you are interested in joining a consultation group please contact Allison Bradshaw (contact details on page 3).**

## Where will the team be based?

Current thinking is that the team will be based in Reading, but will have 'touchdown points' across Berkshire to make sure that, where possible, access can be local for families.



## What will the team look like?

There will be about six new posts.

The leadership posts are a Senior Clinical Psychologist/Team Lead and a Consultant Psychiatrist. We have recruited the Senior Clinical Psychologist/Team Lead and are currently advertising for a Consultant Psychiatrist.

There will also be nursing, behaviour specialist, family worker/assistant psychologist and administration posts, which are being advertised now.

The service will aim to develop clinics in some special schools where there will be a range of different professionals that work together to support children, young people and their families/carers.



## How will you keep me informed of how the service develops?

Our steering group has people from SEND children and young people forums and parent/carer forums. They will keep you updated on our progress. From time to time we will join their meetings to give an update and answer any questions you have.

We will regularly circulate a service development update information sheet like this one.

However, if you are wondering how things are going, please do contact Allison Bradshaw (contact details below).

## Further information

We hope we have answered your questions.

Should you have any further queries, please contact **Allison Bradshaw**, CAMHS Project Manager:

Call: **07773 009 300**

Email: **[allison.bradshaw@berkshire.nhs.uk](mailto:allison.bradshaw@berkshire.nhs.uk)**

