

Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS) – CHO 6

2017 Inspection Report

Community Healthcare Organisation:
CHO 6

Inspection Team:
Dr Susan Finnerty

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Dr Susan Finnerty MCRN009711

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Introduction

In 2017, the Inspector of Mental Health Services sought information from each Community Healthcare Organisation (CHO) about Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS) in their area. Information was collected by questionnaire on 15 September 2017 and a meeting held with the Executive Clinical Directors, and Head of Mental Health for the CHO.

Description

Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS) in CHO 6 and part of CHO 7 were provided for the HSE by the Lucena Clinic which was part of the St John of God Community Mental Health Services. Lucena Clinic had seven full CAMHS teams and two half-teams on five different sites. In-patient services were provided at Linn Dara, Cherry Orchard or the Adolescent In-patient Unit in St Vincent's Hospital, Fairview. There was a day hospital in Orwell Road but this had been closed due to staffing difficulties. The staffing levels for CAMHS at the Lucena services was 48% of what is recommended in *A Vision for Change*. Thirty-seven percent of the population of this CHO is under 18 years.

CHO 6 Profile	
Total population	426,170
Population under 18	159,288
CAMHS funding	€10,004,351
Per capita funding for under 18's	€63
Number of CAMHS Teams	9 (including 2 x 0.5 teams)

Staffing

CHO 6 CAMHS Staffing Profile	Number (WTE*)	<i>A Vision for Change</i> recommendations	% <i>A Vision for Change</i> recommendations in place
Consultant Psychiatrist	8	8	100%
Doctor in training	9	8	113%
Psychologist	8.6	16	54%
Occupational Therapist	5.4	8	68%
Social worker	8	16	50%
Social care staff	3	8	36%
Nursing staff	14.1	16	88%
Speech and language	6.5	8	81%
Total	62.6	88	71%

*WTE: Whole Time Equivalent

CHO 6 CAMHS Vacancies (posts approved but not filled)	Number
Consultant Psychiatrist	0
Doctor in training	1
Psychologist	0
Occupational Therapist	1
Social worker	2
Social care staff	0
Nursing staff	0
Speech and language	0

Waiting times

CHO 6 CAMHS Waiting times – From time of referral to first assessment	
Emergency	Same day
Urgent	1 day
Non-urgent	12 weeks

CHO 6 CAMHS Waiting times – From first assessment to follow-up appointment	
Emergency	As required
Urgent	3 weeks
Non-urgent	3 weeks

Access to care and treatment

There was no direct access to beds in CHO 6 CAMHS.

CHO 6 Access to in-patient CAMHS facilities	
Linn Dara	22 beds
St Joseph's Adolescent Mental Health Unit, St Vincent's Hospital	12 beds
Children admitted to adult mental health units in 2017	1
Children treated abroad for mental illness in 2017	1

CHO 6 CAMHS Access	
CAMHS out of hours cover provided to emergency departments	No
CAMHS team input if child admitted to adult unit	Yes
Provision of CAMHS to 17 year olds	Yes

Young people and family involvement

- The CHO 6 Mental Health Engagement Lead facilitated a regular carer forum for CAMHS. Feedback from the forum was provided to the local CAMHS management team and Area Management Team.
- Members of the Service Reform Fund group were working with Advancing Recovery Ireland (ARI) to form forums for young people attending CAMHS.
- Members of the multi-disciplinary team joined family members to attend a joint Wellness Recovery Action Plan (WRAP) training programme.

Quality initiatives

- The Lucena CAMHS were active participants in the Service Reform Fund. Funding had been obtained to implement recovery focused services.
- The Lucena CAMHS facilitated a number of programmes to assist young people to actively integrate with their peer groups and within their local communities.
- Three community mental health nurses had become the first Registered Nurse Prescribers of Methylphenidate (medication used in ADHD) in Ireland. This would assist in providing a more rapid and comprehensive service for children with ADHD.
- The Lucena CAMHS was working with the CHO 6 management team to relocate community CAMHS teams to primary care centres within designated primary care networks.

Challenges

- The lack of staffing resources had an impact on waiting times and the ability to provide urgent care to children and young people in crisis.
- There had been an increase in referrals of young people with Autistic Spectrum Disorder (ASD) who do not meet the criteria for moderate to severe mental health difficulties.

Conclusion

With 71% of staffing recommended by *A Vision for Change*, CAMHS in CHO 6 struggled to provide a comprehensive service to young people with mental illness. Despite this, average waiting times for assessment and treatment were relatively short, some areas achieved over 90% of new cases seen within three months. Dun Laoghaire, with a population of 42,902 young people, had the longest waiting times with the maximum waiting time for non-urgent cases at 12 weeks. There was good involvement of young people in the service and forums for both young people and carers were a welcome development.