

Mental Health Services 2012

Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services

HSE AREA	South Kildare
EXECUTIVE CATCHMENT AREA	Dublin Mid-Leinster
COUNTIES	Athy, Newbridge, Kildare Town, Castledermot, Monesterevin
POPULATION UNDER 18 YEARS	Not available on day of Inspection.
NUMBER OF TEAMS	One
APPROVED CENTRES	Linn Dara
DATE OF INSPECTION	22 May 2012

Summary

- The South Kildare Child and Adolescent Mental Health Service (CAMHS) was located in an old Victorian house in a central location in Athy. It was the only service in this building.
- It provided a very comprehensive service to the children and adolescents in their catchment area, presenting with moderate to severe mental health disorders.
- There was a high standard of team work and clinical governance in place.
- Individual care plans and service user involvement initiatives were good.
- The service would benefit from improved access to child and adolescent in-patient beds, day hospital facilities and to occupational therapy and dietician services.
- There were 47 children on the waiting list.

Description

Service description

The South Kildare CAMHS service provided services for children up to the age of 17 years in the following areas-

- Attention deficit disorder assessment, for children with moderate to severe concentration difficulties.
- Moderate to severe eating disorders.
- Moderate to severe anxiety disorders.
- Moderate to severe depression.
- Moderate to severe post-traumatic stress disorder and obsessive-compulsive disorder.
- Complex autistic spectrum disorder assessment and intervention.
- Other disorders, when co-morbid with serious mental health disorder, such as substance misuse, conduct disorder and enuresis/encopresis.

Outline of Local Business Plan 2012

Not available on day of inspection.

Developments 2012

The service ran a number of parent support groups in the following areas:

- Attention deficit disorder
- Autistic spectrum disorder
- Anxiety disorders

The service had also recently started a group for children transitioning from Primary to Secondary school.

Quality improvements and initiatives

The service now had a staff member dedicated to the implementation of the CAPA (Corrective Action/Preventative Action) quality assurance system.

The team had been involved in a number of in-service training days to include; child protection training, cognitive behaviour training, ADOS (Autistic Diagnostic Observation Schedule) and STORM training (Management of suicide and self-harm).

Service user and carer input to service

Service users (children and their parents/carers) were involved in their care plans from day one.

A service user information leaflet was under development.

Staffing levels

Child and Adolescent teams

CAMHS team report

SECTOR NAME	South Kildare
POPULATION UNDER 18	Not available on day of inspection.

STAFFING	2012 WTE
Consultant psychiatrist	1
NCHD (including specialist registrar)	1
DON	0
ADON	0
CNMs	0
Nurses on CAMHS community mental health team	1
Dedicated team coordinator	0
Psychologist	1
Social worker	1(2x 0.5)
Social care	0
Occupational therapist	0
Speech and language therapist	1
Family therapist	0
Play therapist	0
Childcare leader	1
Other –	0
Clerical staff	1

FACILITIES	2012 NUMBER	SHARED WITH ANOTHER TEAM (YES/NO)
Sector Headquarters	1	No
Outpatients	1	0
Day Hospital	0	0
Other	0	0
Approved Centre Admission Unit	1	Yes

Other aspects

Access to in-patient services

The allocated approved centre for in-patient beds was Linn Dara, Co Dublin. On occasion there were no beds available and in the past funding had been obtained for access to private beds in St John of God Hospital or Willow Grove in St Patricks Hospital

Referrals and Waiting Times

CATEGORY	
Children assessed in 2011 – List number	173
Source of Referrals(e.g., GPs, Disability Services, probation etc)	GPs, Parent, Community services, General Hospital.
Length of time on Waiting List for initial assessment	1-3 months
Length of time on waiting list for therapies	Not available on day of inspection.
Length of time on waiting list for in-patient bed	Not available on day of inspection.

Additional Comment and Information on waiting lists and time frames

Outpatient: 47 children currently on waiting list.

In-patient: Not available on day of inspection.

Good practice initiatives

- There was a good system of professional supervision provided for all disciplines from within the extended catchment area of CAMHS services.
- There were weekly team meetings held on site.
- There was a good range of in-house training provided for across the three CAMHS teams in the extended catchment area.

Challenges for Team/Service

- In-patient beds were difficult to access in Linn Dara and it was reported that it was very far away for parents.
- The problems presenting to the CAMHS team were becoming more complex
- The team will have to move from their current building later in 2012.
- Access to occupational therapy and dietician was very difficult and there were long waiting times.
- There was a lack of community services for young people.
- There was increasing pressure on administration.
- There was inadequate access to day hospital facilities for children and adolescents.

Recommendations

1. There should be improved access to child and adolescent in-patient beds.
2. There should be improved access to occupational therapy and dietician.
3. There should be access to a day hospital service.