**Guidance for Social Workers - Children Looked After (CLA) Placed Out of Borough Requiring Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services**

Introduction

If a Swindon Child Looked After is placed outside the boundaries of Swindon Borough Council Swindon Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) is responsible for paying for any Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS). Many CAMHS will not accept a referral before funding has been agreed.

For new referrals the CCG will initially fund an assessment. A copy of this assessment will need to be sent to the Designated Nurse for CLA. If therapy is recommended, then outcomes and costs will need to be included before the CCG will agree to funding therapy. This is made clear in the funding letter sent to the OOB CAMHS.

A child placed OOB requires a referral to CAMHS

* The Social Worker contacts Designated Nurse for CLA with reasons for referral. The Designated Nurse for CLA will be able to help find the appropriate CAMHS service
* The Social Worker completes the referral form and sends to OOB CAMHS
* Designated Nurse for CLA will get funding agreement from CCG and send funding agreement to OOB CAMHS

A child is open to a CAMHS service and moves to another area and still requires CAMHS

* The Social Worker will ask the current CAMHS to refer the child to the CAMHS in the new area
* The Social Worker will contact Designated Nurse for CLA who will arrange for a funding agreement letter to the new CAMHS

An OOB CAMHS service refuses to except referrals for children placed in therapeutic placements

* The Social Worker needs to inform the Designated Nurse for CLA to discuss how the mental health needs can be met, this may include the CCG funding an independent provider, but this must be agreed by the CCG before arranging any assessment or therapy with an independent provider.

Requests for other assessments or therapies required that cannot be completed by local CAMHS service

The Social needs to attend the Care Panel with the request. If the request is agreed the request will need to go to the Multi-agency Funding Panel – contact Mark Green Service Manager for dates and paperwork for the Multi-agency Funding Panel.

Contact Details

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