**Who are Children in Care CAMHS?**

The Clinic Lead/Service Manager is Sue Cruickshank. There are teams located with the Community CAMHS hubs in the South, East and West. Each multi-disciplinary team consists of therapists and social workers. Clinical leadership for each team is provided by a senior grade therapist. The therapy components of the team range from systemic Family Therapists, Child and Adolescent Psychotherapists and Clinical Psychologists, who provide a range of interventions. There is also a Primary Mental Health Worker for asylum seeking children and young people.

The model is built on a caseload of approximately 20-30 cases per whole time equivalent, and this will include a mix of clinical (direct) work with children, and consultation to professionals. All staff have a recognised professional qualification and registration, regular clinical and management supervision, and on-going professional development.

**What do we contribute towards, and expect CIC CAMHS to do?**

The service provided by Sussex Partnership Foundation Trust is for Kent Children in Care, including asylum seeking children and children being placed for adoption. The service is a tier 3 specialist mental health service. The aim of the service is to achieve the best possible mental health outcomes for those children and young people.

The service offers a range of enhanced therapeutic approaches to support the child, their foster carer, and the professional team around the child to promote permanence and placement stability.

Also to promote a greater understanding amongst children and young people, their parents, their foster carers, their adopters, their social workers, and others, of the needs of children in care in the areas of emotional health and attachment.

**What does this mean to you?**

Children and young people up to the age of 18 can be referred for:

* Mental health assessments (a CAMHS or a multi-disciplinary) assessment (but not a Psychiatric Assessment);
* A range of evidence-based short, medium and longer term treatment programmes – direct work with children and young people.

In addition the service provides:

* Group work with foster carers and/or adoptive parents;
* Consultation, advice and training to the child’s professional network which includes foster carers;
* Opportunities for social workers to discuss concerns and dilemmas regarding the emotional and psychological issues of the children and young people they work with, through a variety of consultation surgeries in area locations.
* Performance information including the number of referrals, waiting times, and outcomes.

**How does it work?**

Referrals must be made using the agreed referral form and sent from a KCC Egress email account to ChildrenInCareTeamCAMHS@nhs.net.

You should discuss potential referrals with your link CIC CAMHS staff member for each hub area first:

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **West & NW** | **Swale** | **East** | **South** |
| 01622 356930 | 01634 26630 | 01227 597055 | 01303 717233 |
| Wayne Bennett/Dr Angela Stevens | Bob Lomas/Dr Elizabeth Proctor | Peter Boyes/Dr Latif  | Bonny Andrews/Dr Tanya Crawford  |

Health professionals, foster carers, and others cannot refer children themselves, but they can and should discuss their concerns and potential referrals with you.

The referral information you send must always include a summary of the care plan or pathway plan. Work starts with a meeting between you and the allocated CIC CAMHS member of staff, the carer, and the child or young person when appropriate. So be sure to make yourself available for this meeting if you make a referral.

It must be recognised that not all children and young people referred to the CIC CAMHS service will require treatment; the assessment will explain that. Also, some young people will be unwilling or unable to engage in assessment or treatment at the time of the referrals. In these circumstances, interventions/ strategies will be offered to you and the network as appropriate.

Goals for the intervention and/or treatment goals will be agreed with you and the network, and the child/young person. They will be focussed on working towards permanency.

**It is important to note that children in care will have access to the full range of treatments available within the mainstream CAMHS. Where a child needs intervention from the mainstream service the CIC service will ensure this is facilitated in a timely way and will retain oversight of the case.**

All treatment will be offered in a way that optimises the young person’s engagement with the service. The service will adopt a team around the child approach and work in close partnership with you and the professional network. The aim is to contribute mental health expertise, to facilitate the best possible outcomes for children in care and support the LA’s corporate parenting functions.

CIC CAMHS staff will regularly work from SCS locality offices, and attend team meetings to discuss specific cases or any issues, and to provide consultation and training. Support for care leavers will focus primarily on advice and consultation to staff in the Care Leavers Service to support them in their work.

**What you need to do**

At the point of referral, make sure that you, the carers, and any other invitees make every effort to attend the appointment time offered for the important first meeting, bringing the child or young person with you if this is appropriate/asked for. Notify CIC CAMHS of any significant changes in the child/young person’s circumstances e.g. change of placement.

**Last word**

The last 3 months performance monitoring reports show a team caseload of about 400. 50 referrals each month. 65% waiting less than 4 weeks for an assessment. Average waiting time = 2 weeks. 96% waiting less than 8 weeks for treatment.

Use the part of the service that welcomes consultation for advice and training to the child’s professional network which includes foster carers.

TEL: 01227 597055.

Invite CIC CAMHS to support groups, reviews, case discussions, etc.

Contact Sue Cruickshank if there is a problem with the service .

**Susan.Cruickshank@sussexpartnership.nhs.uk**

**Geoff Gurney, Interim Assistant Director Corporate Parenting, August 2015**

**Email me if you found this procedure in a nutshell helpful.**