

CAMHS Partnership self assessment matrix 2005-6

Briefing paper

Background

The National CAMHS Support Service (NCSS)¹, led by National CAMHS Implementation Lead, Bob Foster, became operational in 2003. In April 2003 the consultation document for the *National Service Framework for Children, Young People and Maternity Services* (NSF) was launched under the heading of the *Getting the right start: The National Service Framework for Children, Young People and Maternity services – Emerging Findings*. The emerging findings were taken as a good indication of the standards that would finally emerge in the NSF, to assist services and organisations in delivering a comprehensive CAMHS.

The vehicle through which a comprehensive CAMHS would be delivered were the local CAMHS partnerships, multi-agency groups comprising at a minimum commissioners and providers from health, social care and education. Some partnerships grew out of previously established groups, whilst others had to be formed from scratch.

It became clear that in order for a comprehensive CAMHS to be delivered across the country and achieved by 2006, the work of the NCSS regional development workers (RDW) would need to focus on strengthening and supporting the CAMHS partnerships. As a result a partnership facilitation programme was developed and implemented in all the regions and the first self assessment matrix was developed.

Development of the first self assessment matrix (2003-4)

The first matrix was produced by the NCSS as a tool that could operationalise the standards and indicators in the NSF emerging findings. It was developed for use by local CAMHS partnerships in self-assessment of their capacity to deliver a comprehensive CAMH service and to inform the continuing development of their local multi-agency strategies for CAMHS.

It was also used as a tool by which RDWs could work with Strategic Health Authorities (SHA) and Social Services Inspectorate (SSI) to evaluate the quality of current CAMHS strategies and Local Development Plans (LDP) and assessment progress, risk and priorities across the SHA area.

Use and take-up in 2003-4

All CAMHS partnerships across England were encouraged to complete a self assessment matrix to assist them in reviewing and evaluating their progress towards a comprehensive CAMHS. Most partnerships used the matrix in some form, although RDWs chose to assist and implement in a number of diverse ways, according to local context and working relationships. Where the matrix had been completed in full, the results were anonymised and collated to identify common themes across the country.²

Changes made to the matrix 2005-6

Feedback gathered by the regional development workers was used to try and retain the useful and helpful aspects of the previous matrix and omit or change those factors that had been experienced as less helpful or clear. The specific changes have been listed at the front of the matrix document itself. Generally, the major change is that the content of the tool is now based upon the two key policy drivers for CAMHS; the NSF, published in September 2004 and *Every Child Matters: Next Steps* (March 2004). Moreover, the previous matrix was paper based and the revised 2005-6 version will also be available on the web.

Organisations involved

This work has been in collaboration between NCSS and the Health and Social Care Advisory Service (HASCAS).³

¹ Website: <http://www.camhs.org.uk>

² The report of these findings is available at <http://www.camhs.org.uk/documents%2FSelf%20assessment%20national%20analysis%20%2D%20Executive%20summary%2Epdf>

³ Website: <http://www.hascas.org.uk> or email y.anderson@hascas.org