Children need to form stable, warm and strong attachments in infancy: early years support to vulnerable families is cost-effective. Early identification can include vulnerable communities, and parents with difficulties, including those with few supports or with mental health problems themselves.

**b. what obstacles there are in identifying children and adolescents with mental health problems and how they might be overcome**

Services coming into contact with children are not as aware as they might be about the areas of vulnerability in the early years, or the identification of high risk factors and signs of early problems. Services dealing with children are generally stretched and need problems to be at a high level before intervention takes place. Mental health promotion is not always seen as a priority, although it is probably closely related to the work being done.

**c. what action is being taken to facilitate early intervention and what else can be done**

A shift of focus to early intervention in infancy and antenatal work would help: as would early identification of children in the beginning of mental health problems. More school and community support and information would help families to deal with children who are becoming ill and act as prevention of more serious illness [i.e. implementation of the Framework of Promotion Prevention and Care, with funding and capacity building in the general children’s workforce]

**d. how access to services and ongoing support can be improved**

The model of CAMHS workers in schools has a lot to offer but needs to be supported and funded to an adequate level. Special account needs to be taken of rural issues, especially access to tier 3 and 4 services: taking the service to the community works.
e. what problems there are around transition from CAMHS to adult mental health services and how a smoother transition may be achieved.

Shared responsibility for 16-18 year olds? More collaboration and discussion? Probably needs work also on shared values and models of care and support, which appear to be different.

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