Dear Ms Grahame

Re Health and Sport Committee Inquiry into Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services

Thank you for your email of 9/4/09, in which you sought pieces of information about the implementation of the 2005 Framework, ‘The Mental Health of Children and Young People: A Framework for Promotion, Prevention and Care’. In Dumfries and Galloway we took a joint approach to responding to this Framework and therefore this response is also a joint one.

As your committee will be aware, the framework is complex, covering primary, secondary and tertiary levels of care in both acute and community sections of the Health Service, various sections of the Education Department, Social Work Services and community and voluntary agencies. We tried to encompass all of these in our approach to implementation, and the attached plan focuses on those priority issues identified by an extensive local consultation process and does not cover all the elements described in the Framework.

Our local implementation plan ‘Children and Young People’s Mental Health and Wellbeing in Dumfries and Galloway (May 2006) is attached, along with a summary document and an Action Plan Update as at April 2009.

The Dumfries and Galloway response to your specific questions is provided below:

What targets have been set for the implementation of the framework?

These are identified in Appendix B in the NHS 5-year Commissioning Plan (Attached). In addition, the NHS Board refers to SIGN Guideline 98 (Assessment Diagnosis and Clinical Interventions for Children and Young People with Autistic Spectrum Disorders) and SIGN Guideline 52 (A Framework for the Assessment and Management of Attention Deficit and Hyperkinetic Disorders (ADHD) in Children and Young People)
Are there any risks associated with those targets, either in relation to hindering achievement of the target or in terms of potential consequences for the organisation.

Attached is a 2009 Action Plan update which may help to illustrate the multi agency issues for your Committee. The NHS risks are identified in the 5-year Commissioning Plan.

To what extent has staffing need been estimated in relation to delivering the plan and what the outcome was of any such assessment.

The Board requested a 5-year Commissioning Plan, which was compiled to deliver relevant actions arising from assessment of local Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services against aspects of the 2005 Framework.

In response to this commissioning report, the Board has recently agreed to the funding of:

Two additional Primary Mental Health Workers, thus creating a post with this specific remit within each Local Health Partnership, working to enhance skills in Tier 1 and to filter referrals to CAMHS, as well as providing direct short term support for certain young people and their families. These two additional posts are funded in the first instance on a temporary basis for eighteen months.

- Mental Health Worker Band 6 (mid point) with on costs: £35022 x 2 = £70,044

Secondly, the Board has agreed on a recurring basis to fund two additional PA’s of Consultant Child and Adolescent Psychiatry, partly to assist with the long waiting times for Communication Disorder Assessment Service and to strengthen the psychiatry input into the four locality CAMHS Teams.

- 2 PA’s Child and Adolescent Psychiatry = £24,829

Thirdly, the Board has agreed to invest on a recurring basis to provide Clinical Psychology for Children and Young People with Learning Disability. One particular benefit of this resource would be around assessing and offering advice on the management of young people with learning disabilities with behavioural problems. There will be a mapping exercise to determine the model and operational framework within which this resource can deliver best outcomes for this client group.

- Band 8c 0.6 wte at mid point with on costs. or
- Bank 8A 1.0 wte at mid point with on costs.

Despite the above, there are still areas within the 5 year Commissioning Plan which need to be addressed as highlighted below:

- Provision of services to the Independent sector
- Community Mental Health Workers for Children and Young People with Learning Difficulties.
- Clinical Psychology
- Permanent increase in the core workforce (presently no out of hours provision)
- Dedicated ADHD clinics
- Administrative staff and integrated accommodation.

The Board has agreed that the recent allocation of £63,800 from the Children’s Specialist Services Delivery Plan will be allocated recurrently, to address the challenges faced by Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services.
How many whole time equivalents at the generic, multi-disciplinary level per 100,000 of population have been agreed?

Dumfries and Galloway NHS Board is working to ultimately reach the target of 20 whole time equivalents per 100,000 (which for our population of 150,000 would equate to a staff of 30 wte).

With the recent agreed uplift in CAMHS staffing (including current child clinical psychology staff in the Directorate of Clinical Psychology), this equates to 24 wte, with a small amount of additional staffing being funded as a result of the £63,800 CAMHS National Delivery Implementation Funding and agreement to develop clinical psychology for children with learning disabilities.

We look forward to the output from the work of the Committee.

Yours sincerely

John Burns
Chief Executive
NHS Dumfries and Galloway

Phil Jones
Chief Executive
Dumfries and Galloway Council

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1. ‘Children and Young People’s Mental Health and Wellbeing in Dumfries & Galloway’ (2006) and Summary document
2. Action Plan Update April 2009
3. 5-year Commissioning Plan