

CHALLENGES AND SOLUTIONS TO RUNNING CAMHS DURING COVID-19

Challenges

The number of young people waiting for ND assessment has increased. There are more requests for these assessments



Solutions

We have been able to get a small number of assessments during lockdown, however been unable to work at full capacity due to Covid restrictions and staff sickness. We have been given more money to recruit extra staff to work on cleaning the waiting list. The plan is to start this work in April 2021.

Challenges

An increase in demand on the service to see young people with an eating disorder



Solutions

We have been given more money to support children and young people with an eating disorder. We are recruiting currently which will enable us to have a dedicated eating disorder team from April 2021.

Challenges

Not all schools have Mental Health Support Team time, due to limited funding



Solutions

We have been successful in the request for additional funding and created a new team who will be starting training in January 2021.

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Challenges

Offering face to face appointments



Solutions

We have put Covid safe practice in place to enable us to continue to offer face to face appointments for first appointment, physical monitoring for eating disorders and medication reviews as required, young people in crisis and some follow ups. Extra cleaning, social distancing and PPE are in place to support this.

Challenges

What is on offer if we cannot do face to face



Solutions

We continue to offer telephone calls, complete assessments and medication reviews over the phone and offer video appointments for families and young people, as an alternative to a phone call.

Challenges

Sickness and Vacancies are created by new funding opportunities



Solutions

The teams are working together across the service to support each other with staff who have Covid sickness or routine winter sickness, joining up teams has enabled us to continue to deliver a service. We also continue to achieveably recruit to the vacancies.

Challenges

The increased number of young people presenting with a mental health crisis in the emergency department at QA



Solutions

Extra funding has been made available to expand the CAMHS Liaison team who offer mental health assessments to young people who present in the emergency department. The new staff will be able to start in April 2021.