



Mental Health Reform

Promoting Improved Mental Health Services

Fifth Annual Child and Adolescent Mental Health Service (CAMHS) Report 2012-2013

Highlights

Demand

- The demand on child and adolescent mental health services (CAMHS) is increasing. Between October 2012 and September 2013 the number of referrals accepted increased by 21% on the previous year. At the end of September 2013, 2,541 children and adolescents were waiting to be seen, an increase of 24% compared to the end of September 2012
- 50% of children and young people were seen within one month of referral and 71% were seen within three months. However, 5% of children and young people waited between six months and a year to be seen and 4% waited more than a year for a first appointment
- 1.49% of the population of under 18 year olds are attending CAMHS

Inpatient admission

- At the end of September 2013, the number of admissions of children and adolescents to adult inpatient units in 2013 was 68, or 22% of all child and adolescent admissions. In 2012, the number of children and adolescents admitted to adult inpatient mental health units was 109, or 25% of all admissions
- 31% of children and adolescents admitted to adult units between January 2013 and September 2013 were eventually moved to child and adolescent units
- Of the 68 children and adolescents admitted to adult units, 53% were 17 year olds, 40% were 16 year olds, 3% were 15 year olds and 4% were 14 year olds
- 48% of admissions of children and adolescents to adult units between January and September 2013 were in HSE West
- There were 11 involuntary admissions of children and adolescents between January and September 2013, seven to child and adolescent units and four to adult units
- There are 60 inpatient beds available for children and adolescents nationally

Staffing

- Sixty-six of the 107 multidisciplinary CAMHS teams recommended in the Government's policy *A Vision for Change* are at least partially in place. This is made up of 60 community teams, three liaison service teams and three day service teams
- There were 70 (15%) more posts in CAMHS teams at the end of September 2013 than at the end of September 2012. However, at 531.76 Whole Time Equivalents, the total number of staff in place at the end of September 2013 was only 44.6% of the staffing level recommended in *A Vision for Change*

- At the end of September 2013, the average number of posts on Community CAMHS teams was 8.86 (7.52 of which were clinical). A *Vision for Change* recommends Community CAMHS teams have 13 staff members (11 clinical staff and two administrative support staff)
- Most of the new staff were in the fields of occupational therapy, social care, speech and language therapy and nursing. This reflects a strengthening of the disciplinary mix in teams

November 2012 Audit of CAMHS

- 18% of children and adolescents attending CAMHS in November 2012 were in contact with or in the care of social services. A further 5.65% had previous contact with social services
- Children and young people referred to CAMHS were most often experiencing difficulties such as ADHD and anxiety
- Deliberate self-harm / suicidal ideation was recorded as a reason for referral in 25% of new cases seen in November 2012 which represents a 3% reduction on 2011
- 50.4% of children and adolescents attending CAMHS were receiving treatment for over one year, with 20.5% being in treatment greater than three years
- 16.9% of children and young people attending CAMHS were aged 16/17 years, a slight increase on 2011, and 1.6% were over 18 years
- Between November 2011 and November 2012 there was an increase in the number of CAMHS teams accepting referrals of young people up to and including those 17 years of age from 14 (25%) to 19 (33%)