

Child and Adolescent Mental Health Service

Project Specification

Background

Improving mental health and wellbeing is a major public health challenge. In part, this is because the underlying issues tend to be complex and people's needs can be different. Evidence suggests that mental health problems in childhood and adolescence have a significant impact on physical health, education and on the ability to find and sustain employment.

The Government of Jersey has stated in the Government Plan 2022-25 that *'the physical, emotional, and mental health of the Island's children and young people remain of the highest priority.'*

The Child and Adolescent Mental Health Service (CAMHS) is a specialist mental health service for children and young people (up to the age of 18) and their families.

CAMHS provides a range of services including assessment, diagnosis and treatment for children and young people experiencing:

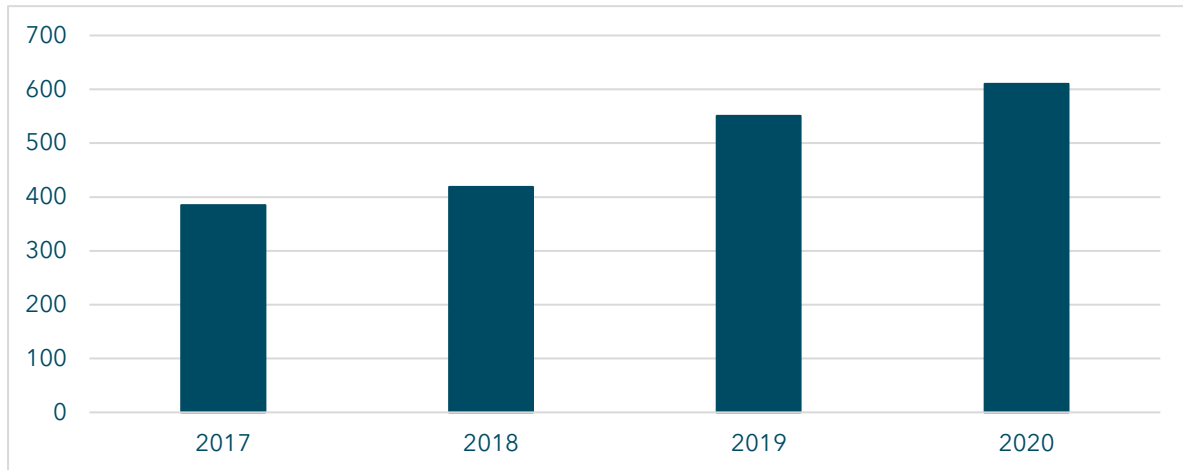
- emotional difficulties
- behavioural difficulties
- relationship difficulties; and
- developmental difficulties

CAMHS also provides specialist community-based services for issues and illnesses such as psychosis and eating disorders. I understand that service activity reports indicate an increase in the complexity of care required from CAMHS.

Services include individual therapy, family therapy, parent counselling and group therapy (where children, young people or carers with similar difficulties are seen together in groups).

The number of referrals to CAMHS has risen over recent years as shown in Exhibit 1. There continues to be a high level of demand for CAMHS.

Exhibit 1: Number of accepted CAMHS referrals



Source: Government of Jersey

The Government Plan 2022-25 includes planned investment of over £8 million for CAMHS redesign. This investment is intended to support the ongoing implementation of a new model of community-focussed services. The Government's aim is also to make sure that, for those experiencing both acute and/or long-term mental ill-health episodes or conditions, there is appropriate on-Island in-patient care designed into the Jersey Care Model and Our Hospital.

The Functions of the Comptroller and Auditor General (C&AG)

Article 11 of the Comptroller and Auditor General (Jersey) Law 2014 requires the C&AG to:

- provide the States with independent assurance that the public finances of Jersey are being regulated, controlled, supervised and accounted for in accordance with the Public Finances (Jersey) Law 2005;
- consider and report to the States on:
 - the effectiveness of internal controls of the States, States funded bodies and funds;
 - the economy, efficiency and effectiveness in the way the States, States funded bodies and funds use their resources; and
 - the general corporate governance arrangements of the States, States funded bodies and funds; and

- make recommendations to bring about improvement where improvement is needed.

Objectives of this review

The review will evaluate:

- overall governance arrangements for CAMHS, including consideration of:
 - how recommendations made in the C&AG Report *Governance Arrangements for Health and Social Care - Follow up (2021)* that are relevant to CAMHS are being monitored and implemented
 - whether responsibilities and accountabilities are clearly set out and agreed, including in transition services between CAMHS and adult mental health services
 - how the oversight of performance information drives improvement; and
 - how performance improvement is being overseen
- service design including consideration of:
 - the range of services offered
 - how the range of services has been designed to meet known and anticipated need
 - the design of transition services between CAMHS and adult mental health services
 - how learning from previous reviews has helped to shape the range of services offered; and
 - the engagement of multi-agency partners in the design of services
- referrals management including consideration of:
 - who can make referrals
 - how pathways from all referrers are set out and communicated; and
 - how criteria for referral acceptance are agreed and implemented
- service delivery: how does the service as delivered:
 - compare with the service as designed and with best practice; and

- maximise the use of available resources
- service resourcing: how do resourcing decisions:
 - work across States of Jersey departments; and
 - ensure a joined-up service for children, young people and their family and carers
- the effectiveness of commissioning and partnership arrangements, including consideration of:
 - how decisions are made on which services to commission, which services are provided by Government and which services are provided in partnership with third sector organisations
 - how the commissioning of services compares to best practice; and
 - how partnership arrangements compare to best practice
- performance management and oversight, including consideration of:
 - how the services are monitored and reported
 - whether the targets and measures being monitored are designed to ensure better outcomes for children and young people
 - the current and planned performance against key indicators
 - how performance and targets compare with best practice
 - how services are benchmarked; and
 - how partnership performance indicators are measured, managed and monitored.

Scope

The review will consider all aspects of CAMHS provision including services delivered by partners both on and off Island.

Approach

The review will commence with an initial documentation request. The findings of the document review will be followed up by interviews with key officers and with other stakeholders.

The review will commence in February 2022.

The detailed work will be undertaken by affiliates engaged by the C&AG.



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