

CHILD AND ADOLESCENT MENTAL HEALTH MULTI-AGENCY TRAINING AND DEVELOPMENT PROJECT

A Multi-agency Training and Development Project Focusing on Service Providers Working with Children and Young People to Enable Them to Effectively Meet the Mental Health Needs of the Young People They Work With.

AIM OF THE PROJECT:

That service providers at all levels, who deal with children and adolescents, are taking responsibility for caring for children and adolescents' emotional well-being and are able to do so in an optimal and relevant way, appropriate to their level and role.

THE PLAN:

To look at ways in which people can get to their optimum level of capability to deal with issues of children's and adolescents' emotional well-being. This needs to be done through training and development in issues related to child and adolescent mental health / well-being that is integrated across a variety of levels and disciplines.

PROJECT SCOPE:

The project is focused on Kent and Medway, addressing the education, training & development needs in:

- Specialist NHS CAMHS,
- Primary and secondary NHS staff involved in the care of children and young people and their families,
- Education,
- Social Services (including foster carers),
- Youth and Community / Youth Offender Teams,
- Drug & Alcohol workers
- Non-statutory providers.

The project will also work in partnership with existing training providers at all levels including higher education institutions.

Five Components of the Project:

1. Development of a tool for reflecting on the competencies needed by the workforce in order to work effectively with children and with adolescents around issues of mental health.
2. Identify current training and education needs across the service sectors, including non-statutory and voluntary groups
3. Identify the current training and education provision and access. Explore gaps in provision.
4. To consider and recommend innovative training and development approaches in order to effect implementation
5. Ensure implementation strategies and plans fully take account of participation, engagement and access to training.

The project will initiate early collaborative training programmes in response to priority needs.

Benefits of the project:

- A workforce skilled to deliver the National and Local Agenda – mental health promotion, early identification and intervention of problems, quicker treatment for clients, more accessible and streamlined specialist services
- Reduction in training costs, travelling costs and clinical time away from service
- Accessible contact between provider services and educational establishments for support and feedback on progress
- Local recognition and understanding of level of skill obtained
- Less divide between professionals – common understanding and shared base skills
- Professional networking