

# DEVELOPING A COLLABORATIVE STRATEGY FOR THE PROVISION OF HIGHER EDUCATION RELATING TO CHILD AND ADOLESCENT MENTAL HEALTH ACROSS KENT AND MEDWAY



## WHAT IS THIS PROJECT?

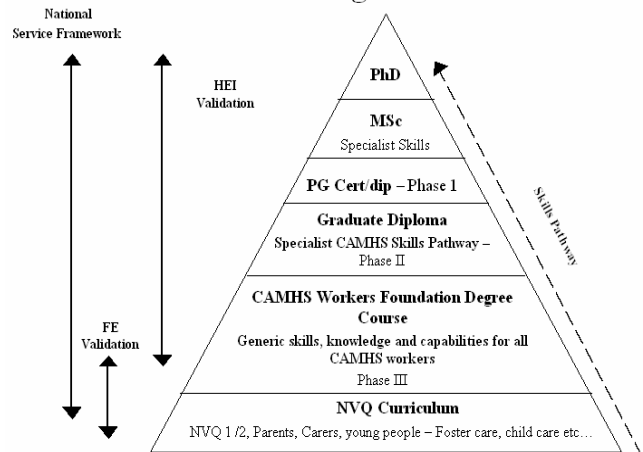
This stream of the project is seeking to encourage and facilitate strategic thinking and planning in relation to education and training at various levels, including both pre-registration and post-qualification education and training across the health and social care sectors in the Kent and Medway region.

## WHY ARE WE DOING THIS?

In order to truly develop a work force that can deliver the National Service Framework for Children and provide services outlined in papers such as Every Child Matters we need to create innovative new arrangements between Higher Education Institutions, work force planners, commissioners and the statutory training bodies. This process provides an opportunity to align training with local workforce needs and service provision needs; increase the development opportunities for all staff; and develop innovative learning processes that maximise skill development and transfer to practice.

Kent and Medway need a locally developed skills escalator built on national frameworks and examples to inform how available training resources are made use of and inform the assessment of gaps in training. It would appear that in terms of current training not all disciplines currently attain an appropriate level of competence in child and adolescent mental health within their pre-qualifying training.

## Child and Adolescent Education and Training Escalator



This implies a need for the establishment of a progressive training continuum, underpinned by occupational standards, that can assure the competence of all disciplines within a multidisciplinary context. These competencies can be reflected in single discipline curricular but they imply the development of shared learning and common pathways between the disciplines and greater exposure of the disciplines to each other at all levels of training. These core skills will hopefully establish a framework and reference point for training which will ensure the relevance of staff skills to service needs (for more details on the development of a core set of capabilities please contact us at the details overleaf).

(This skills escalator has been adapted from models presented by Nixon, 2003 and Griffiths, 2004. For more information on these models please contact us at the details below)

## WHAT HAVE WE BEEN DOING?

Through a process of workshops and consultations with the three Higher Education Institutions that service Kent and Medway (Canterbury Christ Church University College, Greenwich University and the University of Kent at Canterbury), workforce planners and service and training commissioners a series of proposals for a strategy for joint provision of education and training relating to child and adolescent mental health and well-being were developed:

**Proposal 1:** Joint working between higher education institutions (HEIs), commissioners and workforce planners (WDC)

**Proposal 2:** A Kent and Medway agency or group should be established to ensure the bench-marking of and co-ordinating of post-qualifying multi-disciplinary training in child and adolescent mental health

**Proposal 3:** Develop a set of core capabilities/competencies for those working with children and adolescents across sectors and specialisms

**Proposal 4:** Development of a locally built skills escalator

**Proposal 5:** The rolling out of pilot training projects

**Proposal 6:** A system of kite or bench-marking child and adolescent mental health training needs to be developed

**Proposal 7:** Ensure the education and training offered reflects the service needs

**Proposal 8:** Adjust training models to increase access to training and arrangements for career transfer

**Proposal 9:** Integrate training with the service environment

**Proposal 10:** Develop a joint accreditation and of prior experience and learning process (APEL) and of prior learning (APL)

These proposals are now out for consultation. If you would like to offer comment please contact us on the details below.

## WHERE TO FROM HERE?

### Existing Accredited Training

Now that a framework has been developed we will begin a process of seeing how other training being offered by Further Education Institutions, other training programmes e.g. for Connexions Personal Advisors and with other institutions e.g. Salomons, Caldecott College, training offered by the statutory bodies can be hooked onto this framework to provide clear steps for progressing along the skills escalator.

### Teacher Education and Training

Teacher education and training will be targeted to look at ways in which issues of child and adolescent development and mental health and emotional well-being can be incorporated into their training.

### Accreditation of existing courses

We will also begin a process of exploring what training is being offered on an informal basis and see how this can be accredited and linked to existing training programmes.

Further details about this project and the full reports can be obtained by contacting Alex Hassett at the details on the right

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