



Southern Health  
and Social Care Trust

## **A Protocol between Acute Directorate and CAMHS for the Assessment of Children and Adolescents with Mental Health Presentations**

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**Directorate Responsible:** Acute Services Directorate & Children & Young  
People's Services Directorate

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## Children & Young People's Directorate Protocol Checklist & Version Control Sheet

<b>1</b>	<b>Name of Protocol:</b>	A Protocol between Acute Directorate and CAMHS for the Assessment of Children and Adolescents with Mental Health Presentations.		
<b>2</b>	<b>Purpose of Protocol:</b>	The aims of this Protocol are to ensure health and social care staff in the Acute Directorate, are informed about how to access mental health services for children and adolescents up to the age of 18 years. In addition the Protocol outlines their professional responsibilities to staff both within the Acute Directorate and the Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services.		
<b>3</b>	<b>Replaces:</b>	Assessment of Children and Adolescents Referred Following Deliberate Self Harm; Principles. Sept 2007		
<b>4</b>	<b>Applicable to which staff:</b>	Medical, nursing and social work staff within Acute Directorate hospital facilities in the SHSCT. Also professionals providing the Child and Adolescent Mental Health Service		
<b>5</b>	<b>Name &amp; Title of Author:</b>	Ruth Donaldson Head of Acute Hospital Social Work Dr Anna McGovern Consultant Child and Adolescent Psychiatrist Ms Shirley Dennison Senior Mental Health Practitioner Mr Seamus O'Reilly Lead Consultant Emergency Department		
<b>6</b>	<b>Equality Screened by: Note any issues:</b>	N/A		
<b>7</b>	<b>Proposals for dissemination:</b>	Ratification of current practice. Following approval Protocol will be available on the SHSCT Intranet.		
<b>8</b>	<b>Proposals for implementation:</b>	Ratification of current practice		
<b>9</b>	<b>Training Implications:</b>	Ratification of current practice		
<b>10</b>	<b>Date Protocol submitted to Procedures Committee:</b>	28 September 2011		
<b>11</b>	<b>Outcome:</b>	Approved		Comment:
		Approved/Minor amendments		
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<b>14</b>	<b>Date approved at Statutory Monitoring Committee (Social Work only)</b>	N/A		
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## **1. Introduction**

This Protocol is to provide an accepted code of behaviour for medical, nursing and social work staff when children and young people present to Acute Directorate hospital facilities in the Southern Health and Social Care Trust (SHSCT), in need of mental health assessment. The Protocol also outlines an accepted code of behaviour for the Child and Adolescent Mental Health Service. The Protocol is for children and young people up to the age of 18 years.

## **2. Purpose and Aims**

The aims of this Protocol are to ensure health and social care staff in the Acute Directorate, are informed about how to access mental health services for children and adolescents up to the age of 18 years. In addition the Protocol outlines to staff both within the Acute Directorate and the Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services their professional responsibilities.

## **3. Scope of the Protocol**

This Protocol is for use by medical, nursing and social work staff working in Acute Directorate hospital facilities in the SHSCT and for the Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services. It applies to children and adolescents (under 18) attending Acute Directorate hospitals.

## **4. Legislative Compliance**

This Protocol should be read in conjunction in:

- ACPC Regional Child Protection Policy and Procedures (2005, amended and added to in 2008)
- Co-operating to Safeguard Children 2003
- Children Order (NI) 1995
- Mental Health Order (NI) 1986
- 0-18 Guidance for All Doctors GMC October 2007
- Self Harm: The Short-term Physical and Psychological Management and Secondary Prevention of Self Harm in Primary and Secondary Care. NICE July 2004

## **5. Assessment of Children and Adolescents with Mental Health Presentations**

**5.1** In the Southern Health and Social Care Trust (SHSCT) Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS) provides services to children and young people up to their 18<sup>th</sup> birthday

**5.2** Children and young people who attend Armagh Community Hospital, Mullinure and South Tyrone Minor Injuries Unit with deliberate self-harm or mental health presentation will be automatically referred and directed to Craigavon Area Hospital or Daisy Hill Hospital.

**5.3** Normally children and young people attending Emergency Departments following deliberate self-harm or mental health presentations should be admitted for a short period to an appropriate ward suitable to the needs of children and young people. Where there is no medical or surgical reason for the child or young person to be observed in hospital, and there is a responsible adult (parent/relative/carer) involved a hospital Senior Doctor (Staff Grade or above) may consider discharge to the care of the responsible adult (parent/relative/carer). A referral to CAMHS will be agreed prior to discharge and CAMHS will follow up on referral next day. Referrals to CAMHS should be

telephoned directly (or telephone messaged) and emailed to [camhs.teams@southerntrust.hscni.net](mailto:camhs.teams@southerntrust.hscni.net). See Appendix 1 for the Emergency Liaison Request Form for CAMHS.

**5.4** A mental health risk assessment by a CAMHS practitioner must be offered in every case. All children and young people presenting with symptoms indicating mental illness for example psychotic mood disorder, suicidal ideation, psychosocial distress or non-fatal self harm suicide ideation should be referred to the locality CAMHS for assessment.

**5.5** The Hospital Social Work Department should also be informed of all children and young people up to their 18<sup>th</sup> birthday presenting with mental health presentations.

**5.6 IN OFFICE HOURS** Patients who are referred to CAMHS will be assessed when they are medically fit for discharge either as an inpatient or at a CAMHS team. A CAMHS Practitioner is on call (WEEKDAYS 09.00–17:00). CAMHS teams must be contacted by 12:00. Telephone advice can be sought from CAMHS teams after 12:00. Any child or young person presenting after this time and referred to CAMHS will be assessed the next day. Where there is no medical or surgical reason for the child or young person to be observed in hospital, a hospital Senior Doctor (Staff Grade or above) may consider discharge to the care of a responsible adult (parent/relative/carer). A referral to CAMHS will be agreed prior to discharge and CAMHS will follow up on referral next day.

**5.7 OUT OF OFFICE HOURS** During weekends and Public Holidays a CAMHS Practitioner will be available to receive referrals and complete a mental health risk assessment for children and young people who have been admitted to Emergency Department or a Medical/Surgical/Paediatric Ward and deemed medically fit for discharge. The CAMHS Practitioner will be on duty between the following hours:

<b>Saturday</b>	09.00 - 13.30 hours
<b>Sunday</b>	09.00 - 12.00 hours
<b>Public Holidays</b>	09.00 - 12.00 hours

The CAMHS Practitioner on the rota will contact the Emergency Department, Bed Manager and Paediatric Ward at the start of their duty to ascertain if any children or young people have been admitted to hospital. Any child or young person presenting after these times will be assessed the next day.

Where there is no medical or surgical reason for the child or young person to be observed in hospital, a hospital Senior Doctor (Staff Grade or above) may consider discharge to the care of a responsible adult (parent/relative/carer). A referral to CAMHS will be agreed prior to discharge and CAMHS will follow up on referral next day.

Referrals to CAMHS should be telephoned directly (or telephone messaged) and emailed to [camhs.teams@southerntrust.hscni.net](mailto:camhs.teams@southerntrust.hscni.net).

During out of hours the Regional Emergency Social Work service 028 9507 9999 must be informed of all children and young people up to their 18<sup>th</sup> birthday presenting with mental health presentations. The Regional Emergency Social Work service can assist if a hospital Senior Doctor (Staff Grade or above) does not consider there to be a responsible adult available.

**5.8** It is important when seeing any young person below the age of 18yrs to consider who has parental responsibility. Parental agreement is required in cases of those under 16 years and assessments should include an interview with the parents or guardians. The CAMHS

practitioner should ensure that the referring medical or surgical staff has informed the child or young person's parents that a mental health assessment has been requested. If parents refuse a mental health assessment the parents should be advised that the ensuing needs of the child or young person, for protection from harm are their responsibility. Should a hospital Senior Doctor (Staff Grade or above) decide there may safeguarding issues they should seek advice from the Hospital Social Work Department or the Regional Emergency Social Work service will decide on the appropriateness of a referral to community social services.

- 5.9** Young people over 16 years can refuse an assessment when deemed competent by a hospital Senior Doctor (Staff Grade or above). If advice is required this can be sought from on-call psychiatry and escalated as appropriate and if, after being fully informed about the nature of the assessment being offered, they continue to refuse this should be clearly documented in patient notes and witnessed by another member of staff (noting issues such as advice, capacity, risks)
- 5.10** Powers under the Mental Health Order to detain for assessment should only be used if it is considered that the child or young person is suffering from a mental disorder or disability and as a result of that is a risk to themselves or others. Appropriate advice should be sought from CAMHS, and in their absence, the on-call senior psychiatrist.
- 5.11** The CAMHS practitioner will record the outcome of their assessment in the clinical notes and arrange follow up appointments. If community Social Services involvement is considered necessary the CAMHS practitioner will further record their intent to contact the appropriate social work team, and advise the Hospital Social Worker of this intention. Everyone involved has a responsibility to respond to the care and safeguarding needs of children and young people. Agreement should then be made as to which practitioner will complete a UNOCINI Referral. CAMHS will also follow up with a letter to the referring hospital Senior Doctor / hospital Consultant which will be copied to the appropriate General Practitioner.
- 5.12** If a child/young person fails to attend follow up appointments with CAMHS, the referring hospital Senior Doctor / hospital Consultant as well as their GP (and any significant others) will be informed by letter of the child/young person's non-attendance at CAMHS and subsequent plan.

## **6. Equality Statement**

The Protocol does not require to be equality screened as it is a protocol between groups of staff and defines actions which are in accordance with legislation, policies and procedures.

## **CAMHS LOCALITY TEAMS**

### **TELEPHONE CONTACTS**

**IN HOURS 9am – 5pm (Refer to locality CAMHS Team by 12noon)**

(If there is no reply from one number then contact one of the other numbers)

CRAIGAVON & BANBRIDGE  
Bocombra Lodge  
2 Old Lurgan Road  
PORTADOWN BT63 5SG

**Tel: 028 38 392112**  
Email: [camhs.teams@southerntrust.hscni.net](mailto:camhs.teams@southerntrust.hscni.net)

ARMAGH & DUNGANNON  
South Tyrone Hospital  
Carland Road  
DUNGANNON BT71 4AU

**Tel: 028 87 713494**  
Email: [camhs.teams@southerntrust.hscni.net](mailto:camhs.teams@southerntrust.hscni.net)

NEWRY & MOURNE  
Needham House  
NEWRY BT35 8EQ

**Tel: 028 30 835400**  
Email: [camhs.teams@southerntrust.hscni.net](mailto:camhs.teams@southerntrust.hscni.net)

### **OUT OF HOURS (Weekends and Bank Holidays)**

A rota is available in each of the Emergency Departments of CAH and DHH providing details and contact numbers for the Out of Hours CAMHS Practitioners.

## HOSPITAL LIAISON CAMHS (In-Hours & Out of Hours)

### Referral Care Pathway for children and young people (0-18yrs)

Craigavon Area Hospital & Daisy Hill Hospital

Child or young person attends Emergency Department requiring a mental health assessment

Yes

Medical screen completed by Emergency Department staff  
Refer to hospital social worker in hours or Regional Emergency social work service out of hours

Yes

Are they medically fit for discharge & assessment by the CAMHS Practitioner?

No

Admit to appropriate ward

Medically fit "for discharge & assessment by CAMHS practitioner"

Yes

Yes

Appropriate consent for assessment  
Under 16yrs seek parental consent

No

Under 16yrs consult Hospital or OOH's Social Worker  
Over 16yrs seek advice from Psychiatry

**Refer to CAMHS**  
(Depending on time of referral – see below)

**Monday to Friday**  
9am – 5pm

**Refer to locality CAMHS Team by 12noon**

Telephone advice can be sought from locality CAMHS Teams after 12noon

**Saturday 9am – 1:30pm**  
**Sunday 9am – 12midday**  
**Bank Hols 9am – 12midday**

Refer to Hospital Liaison CAMHS Practitioner

**At All Other Times**

- Admit pending assessment
- If appropriate discharge can be decided by hospital Senior Doctor (Staff Grade or above)
- Regional Emergency Social Work service to be informed
- Refer to CAMHS by email, phone for next working day assessment



**The role of Adult Mental Health Services in relation to children and adolescents who present at Acute Hospital/ Emergency Department with mental health presentations in the absence of CAMHS.**

Adult mental health services are for people aged 18years and over. The mental health needs of children and adolescents are resourced and managed by the Child and Adolescent Mental Health Service (CAMHS). Children and adolescents who present to the Emergency Department with mental health presentations should have their care pathway managed in line with the SHSCT Protocol between Acute and CAMHS for the Assessment of Children and Adolescents with Mental Health Presentations (April 2011).

In the Out of Hours period, in the absence of CAMHS Liaison the Adult Liaison service can provide advice to Acute staff in relation to adolescents who present at Acute hospital/Emergency Department.

Adult mental health services do not routinely get involved in the management of children or adolescents who present at Acute hospital/Emergency Department. An exception to this would be if there is evidence of a significant psychotic presentation, which is not attributable to an organic cause. If it is felt that admission to an adult psychiatric in-patient facility is required, the Acute/EMERGENCY DEPARTMENT Consultant should contact the on-call Consultant Psychiatrist to discuss the case. If admission is agreed by the on-call Consultant Psychiatrist he/she will then ask the liaison staff to carry out a pre admission assessment. This should only happen in exceptional circumstances. Each admission of an adolescent to an adult in-patient facility is regarded as a Serious Adverse Incident and the RQIA must be notified if this happens. Consultant Psychiatrists on the on-call rota also provide supervision to the CAMHS liaison staff in the out of hours period.

(22nd March 2011 provided by Dr J Minay Consultant Liaison Psychiatrist & Adrian Corrigan Unscheduled Care Coordinator, Adult Mental Health Services) - Updated 2013