

Child and Adolescent Mental Health Review – Information sheet

Having good mental health enables children, young people and adults to make the most of their opportunities in life.

But around one in ten children and young people will experience behavioural, emotional and mental health problems at some point in their lives. The government is keen that children and young people can get high quality services when they need them and this has been a priority for a few years now.

An independent review has been established by the Department for Children, Schools and Families and the Department of Health to examine recent progress towards improving services, and to make practical recommendations to further improve the commissioning and delivery of services. The review is looking at what is working well and what could work better across a range of services for well-being and mental health.

The review process includes:

- A review of reports and other written material about children's emotional wellbeing and mental health and associated services;
- A 'call for evidence' – asking people from across organisations, groups and the general public to offer positive examples and information about what works;
- Focus groups with children and young people, and parents and carers, about what is good and what could be better;
- Visits to local services to give practitioners and others an opportunity to voice their opinions about how we can improve services;
- Participation of children and young people in the review process through a reference group of interested young people and a virtual network of children and young people specialising in these issues.

The review team will make practical recommendations to Ministers about what improvements could be made for the future.

Work on the review is taking place in Spring and Summer 2008, with the results expected in the autumn.

For more information and to respond to the national 'call for evidence', please go online to: www.dcsf.gov.uk/CAMHSreview/

If you would like to speak to someone in more detail about the review please contact Ayesha Janjua at the Office for Public Management on 0207 239 7876 or email ajanjua@opm.co.uk