

Children, Families and Maternity e-bulletin

January 2014
Edition 78

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Maternity

The Maternal Mental Health Alliance publishes report: *Specialist Mental Health Midwives: What they do and why they matter*

Specialist Mental Health Midwives (SMHMs) have a crucial role in effective perinatal mental health care. However, there is no consistency in their roles, training or skills and many maternity services do not have SMHMs.

On 12 November, the Maternal Mental Health Alliance published *Specialist Mental Health Midwives: What they do and why they matter*, to coincide with Dr Daniel Poulter's announcement that under new plans, national training body Health Education England (HEE) will make sure there is enough training in perinatal mental health so there are specialist staff available for each and every birthing unit by 2017. The document is intended as a resource for maternity managers and commissioners looking to introduce or strengthen the SMHM role in their local services.

The report can be found by clicking [here](#)

For further information click [here](#)

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Healthy Child Programme (HCP) and Early Years

Information Sharing in the Foundation Years

The Government commissioned Jean Gross to lead a group of early years and health professionals to explore on-going barriers to information sharing in the foundation years and to identify examples of good practice. Their report, which can be found [here](#), was published in November 2013 at the same time as the Government response, which can be found [here](#).

The report emphasizes that effective and appropriate information sharing is vital to support successful integrated working across health and local authority services. Local commissioners and practitioners are urged to consider the examples of good practice highlighted in the annex to the report, click [here](#), available on the 4Children website, click [here](#).

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Children and Young People's Health Benchmarking Tool

The Benchmarking Tool, developed by the Child and Maternal (CHiMat) Health Intelligence Network, presents a selection of indicators that are most relevant to the health and wellbeing of children and young people in an easily accessible way to support local decision making. The Child and Maternal Health Intelligence Network was established in response to the recommendations of the Children and Young People's Health Outcome Forum: an independent group of experts from local government, the NHS and charities advising the Government on improving services and outcomes for children and young people. The Benchmarking Tool brings together and builds upon health outcome data from the Public Health Outcomes Framework (PHOF) and the NHS Outcomes Framework (NHSOF).

Indicators relating to children and young people already published within these frameworks have been included in the initial release. As the Outcomes Frameworks are updated, the changes will be reflected in the Benchmarking Tool. The Outcomes Forum also recommended a number of important additional indicators and increased detail for some existing indicators. Supplementary information will be added as relevant data becomes available. A development schedule will be published shortly. Data will be made available at both local authority and clinical commissioning group level where possible. Development of additional indicators will be considered as part of the formal refresh processes for the NHS OF and PHOF.

The Children and Young People's Benchmarking Tool will inform local discussions and encourage improvements in services and health outcomes for children and young people.

For more information click [here](#)

Youth Forum

The Department of Health, NHS England and Public Health England have been working jointly to establish a diverse group of young people to come together as a Forum and use their own perspectives and experiences of healthcare service to provide advice and offer opinions on healthcare policies and how they work in practice.

Twenty young people have now been recruited, we have had over 180 applications in total, and we are delighted with the tremendous interest shown and quality of applications. The young people elected by peer review from across England will work with the Department, NHS England and Public Health England to challenge us on the services we are designing and delivering for and with children and young people. The British Youth Council have been supporting the NHS in establishing the Forum which will be officially launched on the 3rd March at NHS Expo. An NHS England Facebook page has also gone live. Key areas of concern being highlighted by young people relate to Mental Health, Transition to adult services and understanding what

the NHS Constitution means to them. For further information click [here](#) and for information on the NHS Expo click [here](#)

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Vulnerable Children

Evaluation Report for the Child and Adolescent Harmful Behaviour Service

A new report has been published which evaluates a new Child and Adolescent Harmful Behaviour Service (CAHBS) for young people where there are concerns relating to sexually harmful behaviours. The evaluation, commissioned by DH, included analysis of the CAHBS activity database and interviews with key stakeholders, including staff making referrals to the service, senior managers and the families and carers of service users.

The evaluation concluded that the CAHBS service makes a positive contribution in a specialist area of work and is valued by professionals, parents and carers. For further information click [here](#)

Health Working Group report on Child Sexual Exploitation: Improving the outcomes for children by promoting effective engagement of health services and staff

Health professionals working with children and families have a responsibility to help tackle child sexual exploitation.

This report makes recommendations to improve the health and wellbeing of children and young people who experienced this form of child abuse, through identification and support and to help with prevention for those at risk.

By working through partnerships to implementing the recommendations, health practitioners can protect children and help those who are victims of this abhorrent crime with recovery.

Click [here](#) for the report and [here](#) for videos.

For further information click [here](#)

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III Children and Children with Disabilities

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Children and Young People's Mental Health and Emotional Wellbeing

HeadStart Investment Programme

HeadStart is a £75m investment programme launched by the Big Lottery Fund to provide early intervention in adolescent mental health and build mental health resilience amongst young people across England.

The HeadStart website features a new survey results that reveal 45 per cent of children aged 10-14 have been unable to sleep because of stress or worry. Please click [here](#) for further information including the press release and ways you could help spread the word.

Mental Health Action Plan - Closing the Gap: Priorities for essential change in mental health

On 20 January the Deputy Prime Minister launched the Mental Health Action Plan *Closing the gap: Priorities for essential change in mental health*. This document supports the mental health strategy *No health without mental health* which was published in 2011 and aims to bridge the gap between the long-term ambition and short-term action and seeks to show how changes in local service planning and delivery make a difference to the lives of people with mental health problems.

There are 25 actions, including one on schools being supported to identify mental health problems sooner and one about ending the cliff-edge of lost support as children and young people with mental illness reach the age of 18.

For a copy of the action plan click [here](#) If you need further information click [here](#)

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Conferences and Events

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Sources of Information

Unless otherwise stated, guidance referred to in the bulletin has not been commissioned or endorsed by the Department of Health - it is evidence that organisations and professionals may find helpful in improving practice. The National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence is the Department's provider of accredited evidence and guidance, which can be found on the Institute's website at www.nice.org.uk

Department of Health Publications

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1) Title

- 2) Text up to 100 words with main message to start, followed by relevant key messages
- 3) Web link/s to relevant web page/s - **please ensure the links work**
- 4) Main contact point/source

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