



27 April 2017

Information Rights & Compliance Team
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Our Ref: FOI 2548

Thank you for your request concerning our Children and Adolescents Mental Health Services (CAMHS).

Your request has been considered and processed in accordance with the requirements of the Freedom of Information (FOI) Act 2000.

1. Do you deliver Children and Adolescents Mental Health Services (CAMHS)?

Yes, we deliver a range of CAMHS Services across Tiers 2-4.

2. Do your CAMHS workers routinely collect information on the background circumstances of children and young people presenting with mental health services in particular with regard to exposure to intense, unresolved and frequent parental conflict (violent and non-violent) or experience of the breakdown of their parents' relationship, and if so, how?

Yes, clinicians complete a comprehensive initial assessment which incorporates all these aspects as relevant.

3. When and if negative family circumstances such as parental conflict and relationship breakdown are considered to be implicated in their children's mental health problems, are parents a) seen by the services treating the child or young person and/or b) routinely referred to other services such as Relate?

Yes, where it is appropriate.

Systemic Family Therapy will be offered to the family as a whole. Whilst CAMHS will not provide treatment directly for the parents in conflict, we will signpost to Relate, to the generic Tier 2 CAMHS service for parenting workshops, and other local services that may meet their needs.

We would also consider a safeguarding referral and include children's services where we are concerned about safety of the child or young person.

Where mental health issues are identified with the parents, we would refer the parents to our adult services as appropriate.

We also work closely with Carers in Herts who provide support for parent carers and run groups and individual sessions across the county.

4. If the answer to either part of 3 is yes, how many parents have been seen in CAMHS or referred to other services in the last year?

We do not offer direct treatment to parents within CAMHS and to provide you with this data would exceed the appropriate cost limit of £450¹.

For example in 2016 there were 3,585 referrals to CAMHS. It would mean manually going through every referral to establish if a family was offered any form of intervention. It is estimated that it would take approximately 3 minutes to read and extract this data i.e. 179 hours @ £25ph = £4,481.

Should you require further clarification or like to discuss payment, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Please find enclosed an information sheet regarding copyright protection and the Trust's complaints procedure in the event that you are not satisfied with the response.

Yours sincerely

Sue Smith

**Sue Smith
FOI/DPA Officer**

Enc: Copyright Protection and Complaints Procedure Information Leaflet.

If you would like to complete a short survey in relation to your Freedom of Information request please scan the QR code below or click [here](#).



¹ Section 12 of the Freedom of Information Act allows public authorities to refuse to answer requests for information if the cost of complying would exceed the 'appropriate limit' prescribed in the Fees Regulations.