RDaSH wins contract to improve children’s mental health services

Rotherham Doncaster and South Humber NHS Foundation Trust (RDaSH) is to play a key role in transforming mental health services for children and young people in Rotherham, Doncaster and Scunthorpe.

A team comprising psychologists, social workers and nurses from RDaSH children and young people’s mental health services (CAMHS), working in partnership with Northumbria University and Tees, Esk and Wear Valley NHS Foundation Trust, have secured contracts to deliver training in evidence based psychological therapies for children in all the partners’ localities. The training will cover a range of mental health problems experienced by children, including behavioural difficulties, anxiety and depression,.

This forms part of the NHS programme, Children and Young People’s Improving Access to Psychological Therapies (C-IAPT). The three-year Department of Health contract is worth £2.45 million in the first year, £500,000 of which has been awarded to RDaSH and its partners for 2012/13. The contract will begin in November.

A range of training courses have been developed to help services which work with children and young people to modernise the way they work to achieve improved mental health outcomes. The courses centre around improving access to evidence-based psychological treatments for children, young people and their families by increasing and widening access to cognitive behavioural therapy services and specialist parenting interventions.

The training will be organised over a large geographical patch encompassing Yorkshire and Humberside, County Durham, Teesside, Redcar and Cleveland.

Paul Burstow, Department of Health Minister for Care Services, announced RDaSH’s successful application at the first C-IAPT conference in London earlier today.

Assistant director for RDaSH CAMHS Karen Etheridge said: “We are very pleased about our success following a challenging timeframe and bid process.”

She added: “The major difference the partnership will make will be increased participation of children and young people in service delivery and the introduction of self-referral.

“This partnership will see evidence-based practice partnerships with children and families and better access to RDaSH CAMHS services.”

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