

National Assembly for Wales

Children, Young People and Education Committee

CAM 12

Inquiry into Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS)

Evidence from : Caerphilly

	<p><u>The Committee is interested in hearing about</u></p> <p>The availability of early intervention services for children and adolescents with mental health problems</p>
1.	<p>Comments:</p> <p>Access to these services – particularly Tier/Tier2 has felt very poor in Gwent/ABUHB in the recent past.</p> <p>In the locality where I practice - Caerphilly - I understand there has been a vacant post recently leading to significant delays in assessment and intervention</p>
	<p>Access to community specialist CAMHS at tier 2 and above for children and adolescents with mental health problems, including access to psychological therapies</p>
2.	<p>Comments:</p> <p>Access to these more specialist services has felt very poor in Gwent/ABUHB for some considerable time.</p> <p>There are significant waiting times to see Specialist CAMHS.</p> <p>Referral criteria have recently been developed with responses from primary care and it is hoped this will help to resolve the situation.</p> <p>Access to advice has not always been easy.</p>
	<p>The extent to which CAMHS are embedded within broader health and social care services</p>
3.	<p>Comments:</p> <p>With the advent of the recent mental health measure I would hope that CAMHS has been more embedded in the health services although they have always seemed a very separate service.</p>
	<p>Whether CAMHS is given sufficient priority within broader mental health and social care services, including the allocation of resources to CAMHS</p>
4.	<p>Comments:</p> <p>As a primary care physician I do not feel able to comment on this question but I suspect they are an under resourced service.</p>
	<p>Whether there is significant regional variation in access to CAMHS across Wales</p>
5.	<p>Comments:</p> <p>Not known</p>

	The effectiveness of the arrangements for children and young people with mental health problems who need emergency services
6.	<p>Comments:</p> <p>These arrangements have not been clear and have anecdotally lead to several significant incidents particularly when the patient is in the 16-18 age group.</p> <p>In ABUHB/ Gwent there are now clearer referral guidance and much more clear advice on how to access emergency services.</p>
	The extent to which the current provision of CAMHS is promoting safeguarding, children's rights, and the engagement of children and young people
7.	<p>Comments:</p> <p>Not known</p>
	Any other key issues identified by stakeholders
8.	Comments:

End