

Multi–agency Self Harm Protocol and Pathway

On behalf of the CAMHS Partnership I am delighted to be able to support the launch of the Multi–agency Self Harm Protocol. This is a protocol aimed at all agencies working with children and young people where self harm is identified as an issue.

It has been developed in the context of a broader programme of training about children and young people’s mental health across the city, where self harm has been raised as a concern and an area where more information is required. It is widely recognised that self harm is a serious public issue probably affecting two young people in every secondary school class room. The local needs mapping exercise which underpinned the protocol suggests prevalence rates that mirror the national picture.

The protocol and pathway has been developed in a broad multi–agency group including clinicians who are dealing with self harm on a daily basis. It has also been through an extensive period of consultation, including children and young people, to finalise a document which aims to be clear and positive. It aims to improve the quality of support, advice and guidance offered by staff to children and young people and a clearer understanding of the care pathway to follow.

The protocol and pathway will be made available to all professionals in Derby who are working with children and young people. There will also be training for targeted groups of staff working with secondary age young people during June 2009. This will be provided through staff in specialist services within the Derbyshire Mental Health Trust

The protocol can be found as a PDF version with this article and hard copies are available upon request. For further information on the protocol please contact:

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