

18 November 2022

## **Support For Children Who Are Suicidal**

I would like to find out the following information about the services that you are commissioned to deliver in Belfast to people under the age of 18 who are experiencing emotional distress and/or who are at risk of attempting suicide:

- Inclusion/exclusion criteria
- How the service is accessed, i.e. open access, self-referral, third party referral
- Channels of support, e.g. telephone, email, text, webchat, face-to-face, and types of location if face-to-face
- Opening hours/availability
- Type of support provided, i.e. structured therapeutic counselling, peer support, helpline
- If support is provided to parents or carers
- Length of support offered
- If the support is provided by paid employees, freelance/contract staff, volunteers.
- Intended outcomes for the service
- Number of people under 18 that can be supported i) at any one time and/or ii) in any given twelve month period
- Where relevant, number of people under 18 that have been referred to the service in the most recent reporting period (quarter or year)
- Number of people under 18 supported in the most recent reporting period (quarter or year)

For each service, I would also like to request a copy of their:

- Safeguarding policy
- Confidentiality policy
- Position statement on self-determination, decision making and choice

I should prefer to receive these in electronic format at this email address, however, I am happy to receive them by post if that is more convenient.

It would be helpful if you were to provide any brief notes which might be necessary to understand the context of the information provided, although I recognise that you are not obliged to do this.

Attached is the link to the CAMHS care pathway that will provide most of the information that you have requested.

[CAMHS-Pathway.pdf \(familysupportni.gov.uk\)](https://www.familysupportni.gov.uk/CAMHS-Pathway.pdf)

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CAMHS Crisis Assessment & Intervention Team provides a 24/7 service to Belfast and South Eastern Health and Social Care Trusts. Working hours: 8am – 21.00 with an on call service from 21.00 to 08.00. All crisis assessments are face to face.

Provision of mental state assessment with aim of crisis stabilisation and offer an intensive home treatment service.

Support is provided to parents and carers.

The length of support offered is based on individual assessment of need and or until the period of crisis is stabilised.

Support is provided by the BHSCT employees but have access to community and voluntary partner agencies.

The overall intended outcome is to prevent admission to Beechcroft mental health inpatient service and/or signposting to the most appropriate service for ongoing therapeutic intervention.

The table below captures the number of referrals, those accepted and the average caseload from April 2022- October 2022

It is important to note that for the referrals not accepted they are signposted to partner agencies in the community and voluntary sector with the agreement with the referring agent, young person and family/carer.

| CAIT FOI     | April | May | June | July | August | September | October |
|--------------|-------|-----|------|------|--------|-----------|---------|
| Received     | 107   | 108 | 71   | 67   | 70     | 103       | 108     |
| Accepted     | 101   | 105 | 70   | 65   | 70     | 101       | 106     |
| Caseload     | 67    | 76  | 72   | 73   | 56     | 56        | 62      |
| Av. Caseload | 66    |     |      |      |        |           |         |

I attach the link to the Regional safeguarding process for children and young people and the confidentially procedure for the BHSCT

<https://www.health-ni.gov.uk/publications/co-operating-safeguard-children-and-young-people-northern-ireland>

[https://bhsct.sharepoint.com/sites/Policies/\\_layouts/15/viewer.aspx?sourcedoc={4f6489f2-3a76-4f2a-8e84-86194f0af4ac}](https://bhsct.sharepoint.com/sites/Policies/_layouts/15/viewer.aspx?sourcedoc={4f6489f2-3a76-4f2a-8e84-86194f0af4ac})

The CAMHS service does not have a separate position statement on self-determination, decision making and choice, these principles are inherent within the pathway.