

13 October 2023

CAMHS and Functional Neurological Disorder, plus Functional Dystonia

- 1) Are CAMHS commissioned to provide services too, or work with children and young people who have a diagnosis or working diagnosis of Functional Neurological Disorder?**

The CAMHS Care Pathway outlines the services CAMHS provide in NI and can be accessed at: [CAMHS-Pathway.pdf \(familysupportni.gov.uk\)](https://www.familysupportni.gov.uk/CAMHS-Pathway.pdf). CAMHS are commissioned to provide services for children and young people who meet the following:

- 1 (Basic threshold) A child/ young person has or is suspected to have a mental disorder or other condition that results in persistent symptoms of psychological stress and
2. (Complexity and severity threshold) (at least one of the following exists) -
An associated serious and persistent impairment of their day to day functioning or
An associated risk that the child/young person may cause serious harm to themselves or others.

CAMHS work in partnership with other services, for example, Neurology, Health Psychology and Paediatrics in cases where young people have complex and co-morbid conditions such as Functional Neurological Disorders to ensure joined up and holistic assessment and treatment.

- 2) Are CAMHS commissioned to or provide services or work with children or young people with a diagnosis or working diagnosis of Functional Dystonia?**

As Above.

- 3) Have CAMHS received any training specific to Functional Neurological Disorder (if so please include dates , type of training and trust areas of participants)?**

In Child and Adolescent Psychiatry, Functional Neurological Disorder is a core component of professional training for Psychiatrists. It is covered in the Royal College of Psychiatrists curriculum, which is at the centre of psychiatric training. There is no specific training available in NI for other CAMHS staff at

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present. Regional CAMHS Clinical psychology consultants are exploring how their training in this area might be enhanced. CAMHS Clinical Psychologists liaise with Paediatric Psychology and Adult Psychology to consult on such cases when required.

- 4) Have CAMHS received any training specific to Functional Dystonia and the correct current treatment approaches (if so please include dates, type of training and trust areas of participants)?**

No

- 5) Has specific training been received /provided to all staff with frontline interactions with children and young people with Tourette's Syndrome in Northern Ireland?**

Some, but not all CAMHS frontline staff, have received training on working psychologically with young people presenting with Tics and Tourette's. They will then work with these children and young people or supervise and advise other staff to do so.