

Working in tier 4 CAMHS?

An evidence synthesis of risk identification, assessment and management for young people using tier 4 inpatient CAMHS

(The RiSC study)

Dr Ben Hannigan,
School of Healthcare Sciences,
Cardiff University

Deborah Edwards,
School of Healthcare Sciences,
Cardiff University

Nicola Evans,
School of Healthcare Sciences,
Cardiff University

Elizabeth Gillen,
Information Services,
Cardiff University

Professor Steven Pryjmachuk,
School of Nursing, Midwifery
and Social Work,
University of Manchester

Dr Gemma Trainor,
Greater Manchester West
Mental Health NHS Foundation
Trust

Dr Mirella Longo,
Faculty of Life Sciences and
Education, University of South
Wales

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Can you help us with our evidence synthesis?

In this two-phase project we are bringing evidence together on the identification, assessment and management of 'risk' for young people (aged 11-18) moving through tier 4 in-patient CAMHS, and establishing what is known about the cost effectiveness to the NHS of different approaches. From scoping the literature in phase 1 we have found that much of the existing research is concerned with clinical risks, particularly self-harm and suicide.

To determine a focus for the second, in-depth, phase of our project we have conducted a consultation exercise involving young people, carers, NHS managers, practitioners and voluntary sector workers. Some of the things young people have told us are: 'people who have been in units for years risk [...] not being able to cope when getting out'; 'missing out on education you can't get qualifications'; 'it isolates the family [...]. They are seen as not suitable to look after their child'.

Guided by this consultation we are now searching for evidence relating to the less obvious risks for young people moving into, through and out of inpatient mental health services. Examples of these less obvious risks are:

- being removed from 'normal' life
- losing out educationally
- falling behind in psychological and social development
- being exposed to, and learning, unhealthy behaviour
- being stigmatised and discriminated against
- losing previous identities, social contacts and friendships
- being isolated within families

In addition to searching for published research and related materials we are also requesting copies of policies, service specifications and other local documents which CAMHS inpatient units across the UK (both in, and out of, the NHS) are currently using to inform the identification, assessment and management of less obvious risks of this type.

Are you able to help? If you or your colleagues have any information which you think may be relevant then we want to hear from you. Documents, and general enquiries about this project, can be sent to:

Deborah Edwards (RiSC Project Manager):

School of Healthcare Sciences, College of Biomedical & Life Sciences, Cardiff University, Eastgate House, 35-43 Newport Road, Cardiff, CF24 0AB.,
Tel: 029 20917810,
Email:edwardsdj@cardiff.ac.uk

Thank you for your interest.
We look forward to
hearing from you.