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Improving young people's transition from UK child and adolescent mental health services (CAMHS) to adult mental health services – The service user perspective

Cathy Street and Amanda Tuffrey Great Involvement Future Thinking (GIFT) Partnership, UK

Transitional care refers to the co-ordination and continuity of care between different health services and is a process wherein there is planning and preparation for a person leaving one service and being received by another. Transition can happen at any age, however, within the mental health field, a significant transition point is when young people need to move from services for children and young people to adult services because they have reached the upper age limit of CAMHS. Poor transitional care has been of much concern during the past decade in England and has been a major theme in national government health service reviews and plans to transform services. Despite policies that set out good practice, such as planning, involving young people and their families in decision-making, sharing information and offering periods of parallel joined-up care by CAMHS and adult services, the reality is often very far from this. Young people's perspectives will be explored in this presentation which will describe various recent research studies and other activities that aim to improve the experience of transition and to address the barriers young people often report in successfully making this service move.

Biography

Cathy Street is a founding member of the GIFT Partnership which supports the inovlvement of children and young people in mental health services transformation. GIFT was commissioned by NHS England from 2012-15 to support participation in the Children and Young People's Improving Access to Psychological Therapies (CYP IAPT) Programme; part of this focused on improving transiton from CAMHS.

Amanda Tuffrey is one of GIFT's Young Advisors. With experience of transition from CAMHS, as well as working with GIFT, she was involved in various NICE Guidelines, including the 2016 guidelines on transition for young people using health or social care services.

cathy.street1@btinternet.com

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