

Adult Autism & ADHD Assessment & Diagnostic Service Focus Group
Wednesday 5 May 2020, 5.30pm – 7pm

Staff present	
Sheila Fletcher	Commissioning Specialist, Vale of York CCG
Kate Birkett	Contracting and Commissioning Officer, North Yorkshire CCG
Victoria Binks	Head of Engagement, Vale of York CCG
Bridget Read	Engagement Manager, North Yorkshire CCG
Jane Marchant	Engagement and Administration Officer, North Yorkshire CCG
Members present:	
HG	Patient Rep
PL	Patient Rep
RT	Patient Rep

Introductions were given around the group.

Sheila Fletcher gave a presentation on the Adult Autism and ADHD Assessment and Diagnostic Service to the group.

The aim of the sessions are to carry out effective engagement on the development of a clear pathway, working in partnership with adults with autism/ADHD and their families/carers.

The present provider for Adult Autism & ADHD Assessment and Diagnostic Service is The Retreat which is based in York and the service responded very well during COVID pandemic. However currently demand is greater than service can allow – current waits 24 months. Waiting lists will reduce to approx. 9 months by April 22.

Additional funding agreed last year, which is non recurrent funding to tackle long waits.

We have a high-quality service – the satisfaction and feedback is very good.

There is now a clear commissioning intention for a new service model that would better meet the needs of service users and potentially offer better value for money. The CCGs will continue the service with the current provider and extend the contract for a further year to 2022.

The procurement of a lead provider to deliver an adult autism and ADHD assessment and diagnosis is taking place and the new contract of the will start from 1 April 2022. Please see slides for full information on the presentation.

Group Discussion

Comment 1: Given the long waiting list down to 9 months by April 22 is it possible for there to be a flexible approach to be short tracked and get support on Autism issues sooner?

Response: SF responded that if you are on the waiting list at the Retreat then clinical staff will be aware of the patient's medical history and complex needs. In the new service would like to have case management and support.

Comment 2: What support will TEWV still give when the new contract comes into place from April 22.

Response: SF responded that TEWV will still support Community Mental Health Teams – if complex support is required then this can be done on basis of an individual request through their GP. Is working with TEWV on how to address these gaps in the service.

SF advised that herself and KB will look at services in attendee's area to see what support services are available to help. They will follow this up.

Comment 3: Resolving of personal relationships prove to be very difficult could Family Mediation Services be included in the new Services being offered to patients.

Response: SF to contact RT via email outside of the meeting.

Comment 4: Teenagers diagnosed with mental health issues appear to have communication problems which in turn affects their ability to function and impacts on their education.

Response: SF reported that patients with Mental Health issues can mask their condition and have other co-morbidities. York University do refer students with these issues. However, there are a lot of 'tools' online to help patients, which can be accessed through local GPs.

Comment 5: Autism is a spectrum and therefore the range of the impact of autism is enormous. Autism creates unique individuals.

Response: SF commented that diagnosis is improving, and hopefully this will help to support individuals earlier.

Comment 6: The introduction of a care co-ordinator for patients with complex needs would enhance the service. There are times when a patient struggles and has no carer.

Response: SF commented that a Complex Needs Service would be beneficial. Discussions are taking place with Community Mental Health services in York.

Next Steps: SF reported that this is the final focus group and the survey is now closed. There will be an evaluation of all the feedback, drafting of the service specification. A report will go to North Yorkshire and Vale of York CCGs which will include an engagement report. Invitation to tender will go live from 7 June 21 and will close September 2021. Contract will be awarded and the new service commence on 1 April 2022. All those present will be sent a copy of the feedback report.

SF thanked everyone for attending today and sharing their experiences.

Key themes:

- Needs to be support beyond GP
- More support while waiting for a diagnosis, and signposting of groups and help available
- Increase awareness to help clinicians with diagnosis, as it can be masked by other conditions
- Difficulties for children in transition, and moving to adulthood
- Greater recognition of autism within the health and care sector
- Case management for complex cases