



*Richmond House
79 Whitehall
London
SW1A 2NS
Tel: 020 7210 5334
Fax: 020 7210 5824*

To: SHA Chief Executives
PCT Chief Executives

cc: SHA Directors of Performance
Chief Executives of NHS Trusts
Chief Executives of NHS Foundation Trusts
Local Authority Chief Executives
Directors of Social Services

Gateway Number 4672

11 March 2005

Dear everyone

DELIVERING A COMPREHENSIVE CHILD AND ADOLESCENT MENTAL HEALTH SERVICE BY 2006

The SR2002 PSA target requires implementation of a comprehensive child and adolescent mental health service (CAMHS) by December 2006. For LDPs we have been using year-on-year increases in inputs and activity as proxies for measuring whether a comprehensive CAMH service is in place. These measures are clearly not ideal but were the best available when the PSA target was originally set.

Following the publication of the Children's NSF we are now in a position to introduce new measures, which will provide a better reflection of performance against this target.

The purpose of this note is to update you on how we propose to measure delivery of this PSA target going forward, and to set out how this information will be used by the Department in engaging with SHAs.

We propose to introduce new monitoring of three key elements that should be present as part of a comprehensive CAMH service. These are:

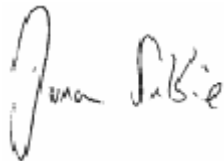
- 24 hours, 7 days a week cover
- Services for children and young people with learning disabilities
- Services for 16 and 17 year olds

Detailed definitions will be drawn from the service models set out in the NSF, and we will be working with you to develop these into appropriate monitoring guidance. In the period between now and the end of 2006, we will use information on these three proxies for the purpose of reporting nationally on progress towards meeting the PSA target.

Please be reassured that this does not mean that we will be re-opening the 2003/04 – 2005/06 LDPs for CAMHS, which have already been signed off. The commitments in the LDPs for increased spend, activity and workforce will be monitored up until the end of 2005/06. The additional monitoring information is intended to support the Department and SHAs as part of the performance management process, to ensure that the investment and resources identified in local plans are achieving the necessary improvement in the services identified. Where this is not deemed to be the case from the intelligence gathered, remedial action will be taken.

As a comprehensive CAMH service is an existing commitment to be maintained once the target has been delivered in December 2006, this will feed into the Healthcare Commission's performance rating of NHS bodies. However, the Healthcare Commission has agreed not to use these new measures for the purpose of the 2005/06 assessment but will consider them for use in 2006/07.

Best wishes

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Duncan Selbie', written in a cursive style.

Duncan Selbie
Director of Programmes and Performance