



West Coast District Health Board

Te Poari Hauora a Rohe o Tai Poutini

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[REDACTED]

RE Official information request WCDHB 9101

I refer to your Official Information Act request seeking the following information from West Coast DHB.

1. How many staff should CAMHS have?

There is a budgeted FTE of 12.5 including non-clinical and support staff. We have seven staff (approximately 5 FTE) qualified to work with Children and families, and we are currently looking for another four staff (Occupational Therapist (OT), Psychology, Social Workers and Nursing).

The West Coast DHB is currently working on the model for future mental health services and this includes CAMHS.

2. How many are actively working currently (seeing patients)?

At present there are four clinicians (two registered nurses and two registered AOD practitioners (clinical scope limited to AOD)) plus we have a registered music therapist dedicated to child and youth with other teams also providing some services to this group. Primary mental health services are working alongside CAMHS to ensure gaps in service provision are minimised.

3. What is the waiting time for an assessment?

The following extract from the national mental health data set (**Table one** below shows that for the 12 months up to 31 Dec 2017 68.6% of non acute referrals were seen within three weeks and 90.4% within eight weeks. It also indicates the trend is moving in a positive direction. Urgent need is generally responded to immediately.

Table one - Mental Health Provider Arm

	<= 3 weeks		<8 weeks	
	Target (%)	Achieved (%)	Agreed target (%)	Achieved (%)
Age 0-19				
Q4 16/17		57.7%		72.5%
Q1 17/18		65.9%		86.3%
Q2	80%	68.6%	95%	90.4%
Q3				
Q4				

Notes: Due to local data management issues the national mental health data set may be under reporting actual performance against targets locally.

4. What is the waiting time for counselling-help?

Specialist mental health services generally deliver a range of focused interventions rather than generic counselling. Once an assessment is completed a treatment plan will be developed with input from the Multi-Disciplinary Team and therapeutic work commences immediately. It typically takes two to three weeks to put care plans in place for GP or self-referral. Same day intervention is implemented for acute cases.

5. What was the waiting time for assessment a year ago?

Wait times for the twelve months to end of July 2017 are shown in the table above.

Taking into account the ongoing data issues that are likely to result in under reporting, this shows that 57.7% of non acute presentations were seen with three weeks and 72.5% within eight weeks in the previous year.

6. What was the waiting time for counselling-help a year ago?

Please refer to question 4 above regarding counselling.

7. Will the move to attract 80 new mental health staff to Canterbury make recruitment here harder?

Canterbury and West Coast Mental Health Services work collaboratively in a number of areas, including opportunities to recruit and share workforce. Canterbury DHB is working with a number of stakeholders to implement the Mental Health Support in Schools Project in a phased way that in part mitigates the risk of stripping workforce from other critical areas. It is hard to make a definitive statement on whether recruitment of staff to the Mental Health Support in Schools Project will impact on recruitment to WCDHB but it is unlikely as both DHBs have separate and specific needs. This will continue to be monitored.

I trust that this satisfies your interest in this matter.

Please note that this response, or an edited version of this response, may be published on the West Coast DHB website.

Yours sincerely



Carolyn Gullery
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Planning, Funding & Decision Support