



West Coast District Health Board

Te Poari Hauora a Rohe o Tai Poutini

Corporate Office
High Street, Greymouth 7840

Telephone 03 769-7400
Fax 03 769-7791

25 September 2018

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RE Official information request WCDHB 9191

We refer to your email dated 14 August 2018 requesting the following information under the Official Information Act regarding child mental health. Specifically:

1. How many staff are currently at CAMHS?

There is a budgeted FTE of 9.2 including non-clinical and support staff. We have 6 staff (approximately 4.9 fte) qualified to work with children and their families. It is noted that the reduction in FTE to previously reported figures is due to organisational restructuring and management alignment of staff which required changes in cost centres to be made. This has no clinical impact on service delivery by CAMHS.

a. What is the ideal staffing level?

We are currently working on the model of future mental health services which includes CAMHS, which will take into consideration the correct skill mix of the team to deliver the services required as opposed to an ideal staffing level.

2. How many child psychologists does the DHB employ?

There is one child psychologist employed by the West Coast DHB.

a. How many should it employ, ideally?

Again skill mix of the team and service demand will dictate the need. The DHB have external resources that can be utilised when the needs demand.

3. What efforts have been made to recruit?

Over approximately a 10 month period the West Coast DHB has proactively sought to recruit to the CAMHS team and this remains ongoing, utilising a wide range of internet and media options. In doing so a number of appointments have been made with further interviews to be conducted.

4. How many children are waiting to be seen?

There are currently 35 children waiting to be seen. It's noted that all referrals receive an initial triage process to identify the level of acuity and hence the urgency with which each child needs to be seen. This process will have been applied to those currently waiting.

5. Are any parenting courses on offer at the moment?

CAMHS have not delivered parenting courses for some years. Parenting courses on the West coast are delivered by both Pact & Homebuilders which CAMHS refer into as appropriate on a case by case basis. Both services accept direct self-referrals as well.

6. How many occupational therapists, able to work with children, are employed by the DHB?

There are currently two Occupational Therapists, specifically for children, employed by the West Coast DHB.

a. Again, what is the idea staffing level?

As indicated previously we are currently working on the model of future mental health services which includes CAMHS, which will take into consideration the correct skill mix of the team to deliver the services required as opposed to an ideal staffing level.

7. Are plans being made to move CAMHS under the more general mental health service?

The work on the model for future mental health services also includes the CAMHS service as well. It will be seeking to achieve a balance between maintaining CAMHS speciality expertise and support whilst offering a more efficient and locally integrated and responsive service to the children and families that need it.

8. Are there any physios able to work with children?

Currently all West Cost DHB physiotherapists are being upskilled to work with children as part of overall service development.

a. Again, what is the idea level?

As previously indicated we are currently working on the model of future mental health services which includes camhs, which will take into consideration the correct skill mix of the team to deliver the services required as opposed to an ideal staffing level.

In respect of physiotherapy all referrals for children for physiotherapy services are being met and with the upskilling programme referred to previously its anticipated this will remain the case in the future.

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 ten working days after your receipt of this response.

Yours sincerely



Carolyn Gullery
Executive Director
Planning, Funding & Decision Support