

Funding for regional development of CAMHS services at Tier 2 level enables further support to Family Support Hubs

The regional EBD subgroup's action plan for 2011-2014 identified the need to include a primary mental health representative within local Family Support Hubs in each outcomes group area. The Health and Social Care Board (HSCB) has provided additional investment to all the Trusts to develop CAMHS provision and implement the Stepped Care model for the service in line with the new Departmental guidance; one of the priority areas of the investment is to establish Primary Mental Health Teams. This development includes agreement that a Primary Mental Health (PMH) worker will link in with the Family Support Hubs. It is intended that Trusts will implement the model used by the Southern HSC Trust where these links are already established and working well.

This means that children and young people with emotional difficulties should be able to get help and support in their local community at an earlier point before problems become worse or more difficult and require a more specialist response. Primary mental health staff are also able to provide advice and consultation directly to other hub members and enhance knowledge and understanding in and responding to children and young people presenting with emotional, behavioural and mental health difficulties. As a result of these developments demand to more specialist services may reduce, or may enable earlier access at the most appropriate level, which benefits the child or young person concerned and the service.

The EBD subgroup anticipates that the full implementation of these arrangements will be in place by March 2014.

Action	Progress
<i>Family Support Hubs</i> <i>Ensure the involvement of primary mental health within the family support hubs</i>	✓