

# Presentation & discussion notes

---

## The East London Experience

- Jan Pearson, Associate Director for Safeguarding Children, ELCMHT
  - Gill Williams, Practice Development Manager, Newham
  - Rosemary Loshak, Co-ordinator for Children in Families with Mental Illness, Tower Hamlets
- 

## Presentation notes

### About the East London and The City Mental Health Trust

- Formed in April 2000
- Three London boroughs + the city
- Three Primary Care Trusts (PCTs)
- Four social services departments.

### East London and The City Mental Health Trust service directorates

- City and Hackney Locality Adult and Older People's Services
- Newham Locality Adult and Older People's Services
- Tower Hamlets Locality Adult and Older People's Services
- Forensic Services (regional)
- CAMHS and Specialist Services.

### East London and The City Mental Health Trust corporate departments

- Training and Development
- Nursing and Quality
- Medical
- Assurance – clinical audit, risk etc.
- Plus finance, IT, HR, estates, etc.

### East London and The City Mental Health Trust

- Specialist staff
- Child protection committee
- Safeguarding Children action plan
- Assurance framework
- Training.

### Specialist staff in the East London area

- Lead director for Safeguarding Children – Director of Nursing
- Associate director for Safeguarding Children
- Named nurses/doctors for child protection
- Practice development manager – Newham Social Services Department
- Co-ordinator for Families with Mental Illness – Tower Hamlets Social Services Department
- Children in Need Team senior practitioners, Newham Social Services Department
- Perinatal workers.

### **Influencing policy and practice in adult mental health services**

- Care planning approach
- Record keeping
- Children visiting patients in hospital
- Incident policy and procedures
- Risk management policy.

### **Incorporating child welfare into CPA**

- Assessment
- Record keeping
- Care Planning
- Pre-birth Planning
- Risk Assessments/Child Safety Planning
- Discharge Planning

### **Staff development**

- Safe recruitment practice (CRB)
- Personal development planning and appraisal
- Supervision
- Training.

### **Jan Pearson, Associate Director for Safeguarding Children**

- Jan talked about the development of the East London Trust from an amalgamation of three primary care trusts and four borough social service departments.
- Since the formation of the trust four years ago, one of the priorities in mental health had been the need to formulate corporate responses to child protection issues and to establish integrated services for dealing with the needs of children and parents.
- Some progress had been made to ensure that pre-natal, child-care and other services were available and formed part of the care plan approach for people experiencing mental health problems.
- It was recognised that staff training needed to include building awareness of the needs of families.

### **Gill Williams, Practice Development Manager**

- Gill spoke of the concern in the trust about risk and child protection procedures which had arisen, at least in part, as a result of a series of homicides and a number of serious incidents resulting in injury to babies or children.
- In one of the boroughs, Newham, 60 per cent of the population were from ethnic minorities and 110 languages were spoken.
- There was a high level of social deprivation and a high psychiatric morbidity in the borough.
- In order to address some of the child protection concerns, three senior practitioner posts had been created in an attempt to address some of the training needs in the Children in Need teams.
- These practitioners spent one day per week with the Community Mental Health Teams, providing advice, training and guidance to staff.

- In order to achieve this level of input, there had been a capping of caseloads – although this had not resulted in a dilution of service, since the seniors practitioners posts were additional.

### **Rosemary Loshak, Coordinator for children in families with mental illness**

- Rosemary talked about the tri-partite structure within which the role of Coordinator for children in families with mental illness was developed in Tower Hamlets, having originated in child and adult mental health services, been funded from the children and families department of social services and managed within the adult services of the integrated trust.
- The aims of the service were that it should involve early intervention, be preventative and supportive, develop a family perspective and involve integrated working across traditional boundaries.
- The role of the coordinator was to ensure that there was regular consultation with the community mental health teams, that joint visits were used to assess needs, that child-in-need reviews occurred and that staff training included the impact of parental mental illness on children.

---

## **Workshop discussion**

- Participants discussed the context of socio-economic disadvantage, the high proportion of people from black and minority ethnic groups and the history of serious incidents.
- A worker in a community mental health team felt that the Climbié case had provoked anxiety amongst workers, along with recognition of the need for agencies to work closely together on child welfare issues.
- One of the group, a psychiatrist, expressed his concern that many of his patients, labelled as having severe personality disorder, were women who had been multiply abused and, in his view, should not be seen as having a mental illness, but were rather victims of intolerable life situations.
- He expressed concern that there was no black and minority ethnic lead in the Trust.
- Presenters and participants considered how the model Rosemary outlined might deal with the stigma surrounding mental illness as a result of perceptions of dangerousness.
- The group agreed that it was important to develop a family perspective in order to avoid the need to resort to child protection procedures.
- Protocols like those being promoted by SCIE were important so that teams from the range of disciplines involved could develop supportive and proactive responses.