

Questions to Board in Public



Date of Board Meeting in Public: Thursday 9 September 2021

The following questions have been submitted to the Board. Details of the questions together with the Trust response are shown below and an official response will be provided to the originator of the question and all copies on Friday 10 September 2021

Questions to the Board	Trust Response
<p>When will the issue of poor IW Ambulance Service response times be robustly resolved for the Isle of Wight community?</p>	<p>The Trust has improved its ambulance response times, particularly in respect of category 1 calls - the most urgent matters, and category 4 calls - previously the area with the most significant waits.</p> <p>To achieve this the Trust has expanded its fleet of ambulances and invested in additional paramedics to support the fleet expansion. Like all other ambulance services, the Trust struggles to recruit to all vacancies, but maintains a rolling programme of recruitment activity to address this, and staffing numbers have been enhanced.</p> <p>Regrettably, however, demand for ambulance services has outstripped the Trust's increased capacity, and although the improvements mentioned above have been delivered, the Trust has not met the required standard. The Trust continues to strive to achieve this, but cannot guarantee compliance by a specified date.</p>
<p>Is early years intervention a critical part of the Trust's mental health and wellbeing strategy?</p>	<p>We have prioritised early years intervention in our mental health strategy. We are aware that the pandemic has had a significant impact on the mental health and wellbeing of children and young people nationally, and we are seeing this reflected in the Isle of Wight. We have therefore worked hard to increase the capacity and capability of services on the island, and we are proud of the services we deliver that provide early intervention. These include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mental Health Support Team – this is a new service designed to provide mental health support to children and young people in schools. The team are currently training and started working in 8 schools under supervision in April 2021. Staff work directly with children and young people in schools who have emerging mental health problems, and also support school leadership teams to develop and deliver mental health and wellbeing strategies that support the whole school community. Currently the service is working in 9 schools, and will launch in January 2022 to all island schools once the team are qualified. This is a collaboration with Youth Trust and Barnados as part of broader strategic partnership working across the mental health pathway to deliver the 'No Wrong Door' mental health and learning disabilities strategy. • Community Child and Adolescent Mental Health Service (CAMHS) – we have developed our capacity to be able to respond quickly to children and young people in mental health crisis. This

has been supported by additional investment from commissioners, and we are also working with the Wessex CAMHS Provider Collaborative to develop our crisis pathways to avoid admission to Tier 4 mainland placements. We achieve low rates of admission as a result of these interventions.

- **Children and Young People's Eating Disorder service** - The team are working closely with paediatrics, schools and primary care to help identify the early signs of eating disorders. The success of this approach is reflected in our low 'urgent' referral rates compared to our mainland colleagues. In addition the service is working closely with commissioners and mainland colleagues to seek to increase capacity following an increase in caseload from 19 to 50 in the last year. Money has been made available to support this and will allow us to offer an enhanced community service to support children and young people and their families in their homes.
- **Early Intervention in Psychosis service** – this team works with people from the age of 14 years who are experiencing their first episode of psychosis. The focus of the team is to provide early intervention, that supports positive engagement with services, and enables young people to continue to function in education or work despite their mental health problems. There is good evidence that this approach results in improved outcomes.