

## Participation: What will it involve?

Participating wards will test the draft audit tool and determine the most effective ways of collecting data.

In January all participating wards will receive a self-review pack for completion by April 2009.

When completing the 'Self-Review Tool' wards are asked to provide a:

**1. Baseline score (January 09)** – We recommend that you review the criteria in January when the ward staff first look at the criteria in consultation with the multidisciplinary team. The purpose is to assess how the ward's current practice compares to the criteria. This is important as it will provide a base from which to measure and show the changes your ward will have made by 2010. This process will also familiarise staff with key standards and generate ideas about how best to achieve the changes required.

**2. Change score (March 09)** – We recommend that the ward team meet again to report on a) any changes your ward was able to make and b) your plans for implementing the changes required by April 2010.

**Young people and carer's views** will be sought via a questionnaire based on the Self-Review criteria. This will be available for participating wards in January.

This process provides a framework for reflecting on service provision.

## Who should participate?

Adult mental health wards designated by their Trust for the admission of young people with an overriding or atypical need. We are aiming to recruit ward/s in two Trusts per region in England.

*When deciding to participate it is vital that frontline staff are consulted and that there is active support from managers and commissioners.*

## How do we participate?

To express your interest in participating in the pilot programme **please send the details below to [aoherlihy@cru.rcpsych.ac.uk](mailto:aoherlihy@cru.rcpsych.ac.uk)**

**AIMS Member: Yes \_\_\_\_\_; No \_\_\_\_\_ (✓)**

**TRUST NAME:** \_\_\_\_\_

**WARD NAME:** \_\_\_\_\_

**WARD ADDRESS:** \_\_\_\_\_

**WARD POSTCODE:** \_\_\_\_\_

**CONTACT TITLE:** \_\_\_\_\_

**CONTACT FIRST NAME:** \_\_\_\_\_

**CONTACT SURNAME:** \_\_\_\_\_

**JOB TITLE:** \_\_\_\_\_

**TEL:** \_\_\_\_\_

**EMAIL:** \_\_\_\_\_

## What happens next?

Once your place on the pilot is confirmed we will email the pilot self-review pack in January, with a return date in April 2009. The pilot runs from December 2008 to May 2009.

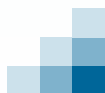
For those wards not participating in the pilot we will inform you of the pilot findings, the revisions made to the pilot tool, and our plans for the implementation phase in 2009.

### CONTACT DETAILS

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Royal College of Psychiatrists'  
Centre for Quality Improvement



# Safe & Appropriate Care for Young People on Adult Mental Health Wards

## Pilot Programme

National Institute for  
Mental Health in England

## Background - Why is this important for adult mental health wards?

Section 31 of the 2007 amendments to the 1983 Mental Health Act (MHA), requires hospital managers to ensure that under 18 year olds are admitted to an environment suitable for their age (subject to their need). This applies to both detained and informal patients. The amendment allows for admission to an adult ward if the need is either:

**Overriding:** when a young person needs immediate admission for their safety or that of others. This acknowledges that, although an inpatient CAMHS unit is normally the preferred environment for a person under age 18, there will be occasions when a bed or other CAMHS alternative (e.g. intensive outreach) is not available. The revised Code of Practice (2008) states that if a young person is admitted in a crisis it should be for the briefest time possible.

**Atypical:** when, even if a CAMHS bed was available, an adult ward is the most appropriate clinical placement. For example, a young person nearly 18 who has left school and is being treated by the Early Intervention Psychosis team, which has beds on the ward to which the young person will be admitted. However, even in these circumstances there is still an obligation to ensure that safeguards are in place for an under 18 year old in line with their status as a minor.

To give providers and commissioners time to plan for change, Section 31 comes into force in **April 2010**.

A consultation by NIMHE for the Children and Young People's Programme identified the need for an audit tool to support adult services in making the changes required. NIMHE commissioned the Royal College of Psychiatrists' Centre for Quality Improvement (CCQI) to develop an audit tool to support adult wards assessment of their suitability to provide safe and appropriate care for under 18s, no matter how brief their stay.

## Background continued:

Its purpose is to:

1. Assess how well adult wards meet the needs of under 18s who are admitted;
2. Identify where change is necessary;
3. Provide a tool to support services to meet the target before April 2010.

## Methods

- **Review of the literature and standards (July-September 2008)**

Including the amended MHA and Code of Practice, recent 11 Million reports, the standards applied by Accreditation for Acute inpatient Mental Health Services' (AIMS) Standards and the Quality Network for Inpatient CAMHS (QNIC).

- **One-day stakeholder workshop (25 September 2008)**

This involved 44 delegates who represented:

- ◇ Inpatient CAMHS;
- ◇ Community CAMHS;
- ◇ Adult inpatient services;
- ◇ Commissioners of CAMHS and AMH;
- ◇ Mental Health Act implementation managers;
- ◇ Young people and carers;
- ◇ Mental Health Act lawyer;
- ◇ Mental health advocates;
- ◇ CAMHS policy and strategy including Healthcare Commission; Rethink; National Patient Safety Agency.

## Methods continued:

- **Project reference group (23 October 2008)**  
Reviewed the workshop findings and agreed amendments to the audit tool.
- **Consensus rating (November 2008)** By interested stakeholders, workshop delegates and project reference group members. This graded criteria into those that are essential to ensuring the safety of young people, those that are clear markers of good practice, and those that are more aspirational indicating excellent practice.
- **Pilot (December 2008 – April 2009)** (see below) and **final revision of audit tool (May 2009)**
- **Implementation phase begins (June 2009)**

## Benefits of participating in the pilot

- **Service evaluation audit tool** - participation allows services to identify areas for change and improvements, and demonstrate progress against quality standards and criteria.
- **Support to undertake a self-review.**
- **A customised report** that recognises areas of achievement and suggests ideas for improvement and action points arising from the review.
- **A report of aggregated findings** - the aggregated data from participating wards will be used to examine wards' state of readiness for the amendment, identify trends, and allow for services to benchmark and compare their activity and performance with all other wards. The data reported will be anonymised and no ward or Trust will be identified.
- **Participation in an e-mail discussion group** that provides access to the experience and knowledge of CAMHS and AMH professionals from a range of disciplines.