Confidentiality and information sharing

What we discuss at each appointment is normally kept between the people present, and the person who referred you to us. Sometimes professionals will seek the opinions of other CAMHS practitioners. At times it is helpful to talk with other professionals outside the service, such as a Teacher, but we will always get permission first.

Your GP will be kept informed in writing of any agreed CAMHS involvement. If a practitioner has concerns about the safety of a child or young person they are obliged by law to involve other professionals. Whenever possible, the family will be informed beforehand.

If you are a smart phone user you can scan the QR Code for more information on the CAMHS Service or log on to: www.younghealthymindsni.co.uk
What happens at the first appointment?

The first appointment generally takes 1 to 2 hours. It is often with two Practitioners from our team.

Parents or carers are invited to attend with the child or young person. Questions will be asked about present concerns, past events and the child’s general development.

If further appointments are planned they may be shorter than the first.

Appointments

CAMHS are open between the hours of 9.00am and 5.00pm, Monday to Friday.

If your family has any particular needs regarding access to our buildings, interpreters, timing of appointments, or any other issues, we would be pleased to hear from you.

If something requiring urgent advice happens during office hours please contact the Clinic. During out of office hours please contact your GP service or if an emergency, please go to your local Emergency Department.

How many times can you be expected to be seen?

If it is agreed that our service is required, we cannot predict how many times a child or young person and their parents or carers will be seen. This will be a joint decision following discussion between the child or young person, the parents or carers and the Practitioner involved.

If you find you are unable to attend your appointment, please let the Clinic know as soon as possible.

It may be decided our service is not appropriate to help the child/young person.

Consent to Treatment

Before anyone in CAMHS who is looking after your health can assess you, they need your consent. This means they must ask for the child or young person’s and parents or carer’s agreement.

Sometimes children or young people can give consent for themselves, depending on their age and how well they understand. Sometimes parents are asked to give consent on their child or young person’s behalf.

Choosing whether or not to consent needs thinking about and we can provide you with leaflets to help you with this decision.

Attending CAMHS is voluntary.