

Forensic Community Mental Health Team

Service Information Leaflet



Introduction

We hope this leaflet will provide you with information that you need about the range of services which the Forensic Community Mental Health Team provide and the rationale for the services.

What is the Forensic Community Mental Health Team?

The Forensic Community Mental Health Team (FCMHT) is a community mental health service based at St. Nicholas Hospital, Newcastle-upon-Tyne.

The team consist of a Team Manager, Clinical Lead, Community Psychiatric Nurses (CPN's), Psychiatrists, a Social Worker, and Assistant Practitioners. The Service also has access to the services of forensic Psychology.

Why we have a Forensic CMHT?

The purpose of the team is to contribute to reducing the risk to others posed by individuals who suffer from mental illness. This includes those who have been assessed as posing a significant risk of harm or those who are thought to do so and require further assessment of their risk.

The team seeks to optimise the mental health of individuals and improve their quality of life. It does this by providing ongoing psychiatric assessment, formulation and treatment and working to influence potential risk factors as well as through the provision of psychological, social and physical care needs.

The FCMHT also provides a care pathway for offenders with mental illness in line with Government policy.

What services does the FCMHT provide?

Forensic Liaison Clinics

The FCMHT provides advice and recommendations following discussion with the referring team about the referral.

Assessment

An assessment is directly undertaken with the service user and with further information gathered from the team via the FCMHT referral form and often further discussion with involved professionals, carers and other agencies. Whilst the assessment is being undertaken the care will continue to be managed by the local service. During this time the FCMHT will attend meetings where appropriate and when available. The referrer is provided with a written report including a structured assessment of risk and recommendations for future management.

Joint Working

The aim of this is to provide further assessment or support to local clinical teams to manage individuals with a history of serious offending (violent or sexual) while mentally disordered. This will be more relevant with individuals deemed to present a higher risk and or having complex needs. Local providers will, under care co-ordination, remain responsible for the service user's day to day care management, but a member or members of the FCMHT will work closely with them. Once a service user's risk is assessed as having satisfactorily reduced, the local service will continue to provide input assuming this is necessary. Prior to joint working, a care plan will need to be agreed by the FCMHT and the care co-ordinator outlining the purpose of the FCMHT's involvement, how it will be delivered, how it will be

measured, the proposed length of involvement and when it will be reviewed (usually CPA meetings).

Care Co-ordination

This is predominantly provided for those patients discharged from medium or low secure services who have a mental illness and related significant risk of harm to others requiring specialist forensic risk assessment and management.

What agencies do we work closely with?

We attend Multi Agency Public Protection Arrangements (MAPPA) meetings to discuss cases that we are involved with providing advice on risk management.

We complete regular up-dates for the Ministry of Justice such as quarterly reports and liaising with them about changes in respect of those patients on conditional discharges under section 41 of the Mental Health Act.

We work with all elements of the Criminal Justice system. We have strong links to other parts of the forensic service. This includes Westbridge, supported accommodation which is a community rehabilitation resource with a dedicated part of the FCMHT working into it in partnership with Tyne Housing; the Criminal Justice Liaison and Diversion Team, who work into police stations and the courts and inpatient forensic services based at St Nicholas Hospital, Newcastle upon Tyne (medium and low secure beds).

How to refer?

Referrals are through a single point of referral. Referrals are discussed as a team every week.

We have a full referral document for joint working and care co-ordination referrals; along with a smaller referral document which is to request attendance at a liaison clinic.

Please telephone the service on 0191 246 7273. Alternatively you can contact us via email on NTAWNT.CommunityForensic@nhs.net

If you would like advice from the team to determine whether a referral is appropriate please contact us on 0191 2467273.

What if I have a comment, suggestion, compliment or complaint about the service?

If you want to make a comment, suggestion, compliment or complaint you can talk to the people directly involved in your care or you can complete a feedback form.

- Feedback forms are available from Trust staff
- Complaints Department Tel: 0191 245 6672
- You can complete a feedback form electronically by visiting the Trust Website www.ntw.nhs.uk (click on the 'Contact Us' tab)

Contact details

Forensic Community Mental Health Team

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Telephone: 0191 2467273

Office Hours: Monday to Friday 9am – 5pm

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www.ntw.nhs.uk

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