

Year Three report for the Centre for Adolescent Medicien Expert Management Group

The Centre for Adolescent Medicine has completed an outstandingly successful 3 year project. The creativity, enthusiasm and productivity and dedication of the team is clearly demonstrated in the many accomplishments made by the team over the last three years. The impact of the project is established by the decision of the hospital to incorporate adolescent medicine into the title of the renamed Department of Paediatrics and Adolescent medicine and to provide a further 3 years funding for core services. The administration of the hospital clearly must be congratulated for their courage to support this visionary innovation

The Centre for Adolescent Medicine has established itself through Clinical work, Staff training, Social education and Research. The achievements in each area have been benchmarked against international quality criteria and were presented to the expert monitoring group (EMG) on 10.11.11. The involvement of the young users in the development of CAM and the team building process within CAM provide excellent examples for others who want to engage in this important area.

Clinical work

A large number of exciting clinical projects have been established. The team have worked closely with the service for Cystic Fibrosis and have been expanding their contact with the rheumatology team. Examples of clinical developments include young people offered opportunities to meet on their own with a written policy and guideline. The HR BERG is fully accessible and a range of leaflets explaining services to young people are being developed. Many of these are available in different languages used by the local community. The CAM have established safe suitable age appropriate clinical and waiting environments for young people though their work with the CF/rheumatology teams.

Staff training

A large number of training opportunities have been created by the CAM project. A key initiative has been the development of the 'unge ambassador' network. 23 nurses have completed training with an additional 20-25 planned for 2012. Courses for doctors, nurses and allied health professionals have been run throughout the hospital. These include on ward training sessions, half day and full day workshops and conferences. Evaluation of training opportunitites show increased confidence in participants' abilities to communicate and work effectively with young people.

Social education

The work on social education exceeds the expectations of the **You're welcome** criteria and is a gold standard example of how to provide social educational support for young people. The work of the volunteers in HRBERG was rewarded by a prize from the Danish Youth Red Cross in 2009

Research

The CAM are developing a series of research projects. Currently these are evaluation and audit studies using a mixture of qualitative and quantitative methodologies. The members of the EMG encourage the CAM to consider submitting proposals for specific topic based research grants to explore in greater detail the impact of the programme and offer to support the development and submission of these applications. The CAM are encouraged to expand their connections with academic/research centres in order to further support the development of an evidence base for their work.

Conclusions

The EMG discussed the 8 specific **You're welcome** areas self assessed by the CAM team. The EMG agreed that many of the criteria designated as 'getting there' by the team had been underscored and could in the opinion of the EMG be considered to have met the **You're welcome** criteria. The EMG felt the lower scoring was a reflection of the CAM commitment to extremely high standards and a determination to provide the highest possible level of care for young people attending the hospital.

The question is whether the team are rating their performance across the whole hospital including areas that they have not yet targeted for input or in areas where they have been involved. If they were to only consider the latter the attainment of the **You're welcome** standard would have been significantly higher.

The EMG wanted to acknowledge the enormous dedication of the team and high level of productivity over the last 12 months since the last EMG meeting. The 16th meeting of the International Association of Adolescent Health was described as '*the best European conference ever*' by Professor Russell Viner, President of the IAAH European branch. The team also held a well attended and successfully evaluated meeting on 11.11.11 to celebrate the first three years.

The EMG noted it had been an honour to have been involved in participating in the development of the first 3 years of the CAM. The achievements are outstanding and have created an enormous benefit for the young people attending the hospital. The CAM was described as a shining example not just at a national level but at an international level and the EMG encourage the CAM to consider disseminating their achievements to the wider international community through conference presentations and to continue to publish in peer reviewed journals.

Despite the official role of the EMG ending all members of the EMG professed a profound wish to be allowed to continue to collaborate with and support the CAM in future years.

Our sincere congratulations go to all of the members and volunteers who have enabled the CAM to achieve so much in such a short time

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