

Healthcare Safety Investigation Branch (HSIB): Provision of care for children and young people when accessing specialist gender dysphoria services

About: HSIB report (NI-000845) published April 2022 investigates the waiting times and support available for children and young people accessing specialised gender dysphoria services and how this impacts on patient safety.

Clinical summary & Findings

Reference case: After 18 months waiting to see Gender Identity Development Services (GIDS), a child was transitioned to the adult waiting list at 17 ½ years old, incurring a further 22 month wait. He died by suicide prior to seeing GIDS.

- There is a significant increase in demand for GIDS with a 24 month wait for children to access GIDS
- CAMHS & voluntary sector provide interim care but there is a lack of capacity, capability and specialist skills

HSIB Recommendations

- NHSE to review and develop service specifications for gender dysphoria services
- Identify the relevant voluntary and charitable sector organisation who support such patients and facilitate information sharing between them and professional support services
- Improve transfer of care, management and risk assessment of adolescents who transition to adult services

Key Themes

- Logistical problems around care transition affect provision of care.
- Lack of proactive risk assessment of health of those on waiting lists
- Lack of capacity within the workforce to meet demand
- Barriers to information sharing across NHS and out to external support organisations

Local Improvement suggestions from this report:

- Identify the services/supporting organisations in your locality that can support patients with gender identity concerns awaiting appointments & share these
- Provide education on caring for patients with gender dysphoria to your team
- Evaluate and improve the transition process across waiting lists & review referral triage process

For full information visit
www.hsib.org.uk/investigations-and-reports/provision-of-care-for-children-and-young-people-when-accessing-specialist-gender-dysphoria-services/
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