

READING BOROUGH COUNCIL

HEALTH & WELLBEING BOARD

17 JULY 2015

PETITION in accordance with Standing Order 36.

Lead Petitioner: Paul Farmer

Petition wording:

- “1. Without any local NHS community Child & Adolescent Mental Health (CAMH) services/staff being commissioned at weekends (even emergency services/staff) Berkshire’s young folk with mental health issues (and their families) are still being left to face all crises alone.
2. Without any local specialist NHS CAMH services/staff being commissioned, Berkshire’s under 16 year old victims of sexual abuse/rape (despite a confirmed increase of 40% in reported UK cases in 2014 - The professional body for policing) and their families are still being left to face the many (and long-term) mental health traumas associated with child/adolescent sexual abuse/rape alone (it has recently been officially acknowledged that over 75% of all adult mental health problems first surface during childhood or adolescence and 25% as a direct result of childhood or adolescent sexual abuse or rape - the Independent Mental Health Task Force Study 2014/15).
3. Also only 78 full time equivalent community NHS CAMH staff are still being commissioned for Berkshire (the same level as year end March 2000!!!) - despite acknowledged increases in demand each year since 2000!

So, please sign our petition for:

- a) Expert NHS Support at weekends for Berkshire’s young folk with mental health problems, and for the ever rising numbers of victims of childhood/adolescent sexual abuse/rape in Berkshire; and for
- b) More NHS community staff/services for Berkshire’s young folk with mental health problems in general and help try to take away their fear and isolation and help try to increase the commissioning of NHS services/staff which support them across Berkshire.

Further notes/points:

The National Institute for Health and Care Excellence (in Jan 15) estimated that:

- a) £44m a year could be saved by supporting young folk with mental health problems as soon as they surface - thereby preventing adult mental health problems and/or psychiatric hospitalisation!
- b) That 1 in 20 A&E cases were caused by mental health cases - the majority of which surfaced during the individual’s childhood or adolescence!
- c) The Princes Trust (in 2015) has revealed that 1 in 9 of the UK’s young folk are emotionally or sexually abused at home and as a result twice as likely as their peers to suffer mental health problems.”