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**Referral Pathway for Looked After Children and C-CAMHS**

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***A child or young person should be referred urgently if there is a reported sudden onset of symptoms, causing substantial distress or there is a high risk of harm. Call the C-CAMHS Duty Worker on the same day of the consultation and seek advice about immediate risk management*.**

**This could include:**

* **Severe eating difficulties & extreme weight loss – persistent refusal of food/vomiting.**
* **Psychosis – hearing distressing voices.**
* **Significant, enduring & pervasive mood change.**
* **Suicidality – plan to harm/clear intention.**
* **Significant physical medical risk, please seek medical advice via GP or A&E e.g. Overdose.**

**Please contact the relevant duty worker on the numbers below if concerned:**

**Poole: 01202 584600**

Poole Health Community Clinic

Shaftsbury Road

Poole BH15 2NT

08.30am - 5.00pm, Monday to Friday

**East Dorset and Purbeck : 01202 605882 / 605883**

Delphwood

Ashdown Close

Poole BH17 8WG

08.30am – 5.00pm, Monday to Friday

**North Dorset: 01258 394149**

Blandford Community Hospital

Betty Highwood Unit, Milldown Road

Blandford DT11 7DD  
08.30am – 5.00pm, Monday to Friday

**Weymouth and Portland: 01305 762810**

Chalbury (East Entrance),

Weymouth Community Hospital, 3 Melcombe Avenue, Weymouth DT4 7TB  
08.30am - 5.00pm, Monday to Friday

**West Dorset: 01305 255705**

Dorchester Children's Centre

Damers Road

Dorchester DT1 2LB  
08.30am - 5.00pm, Monday to Friday

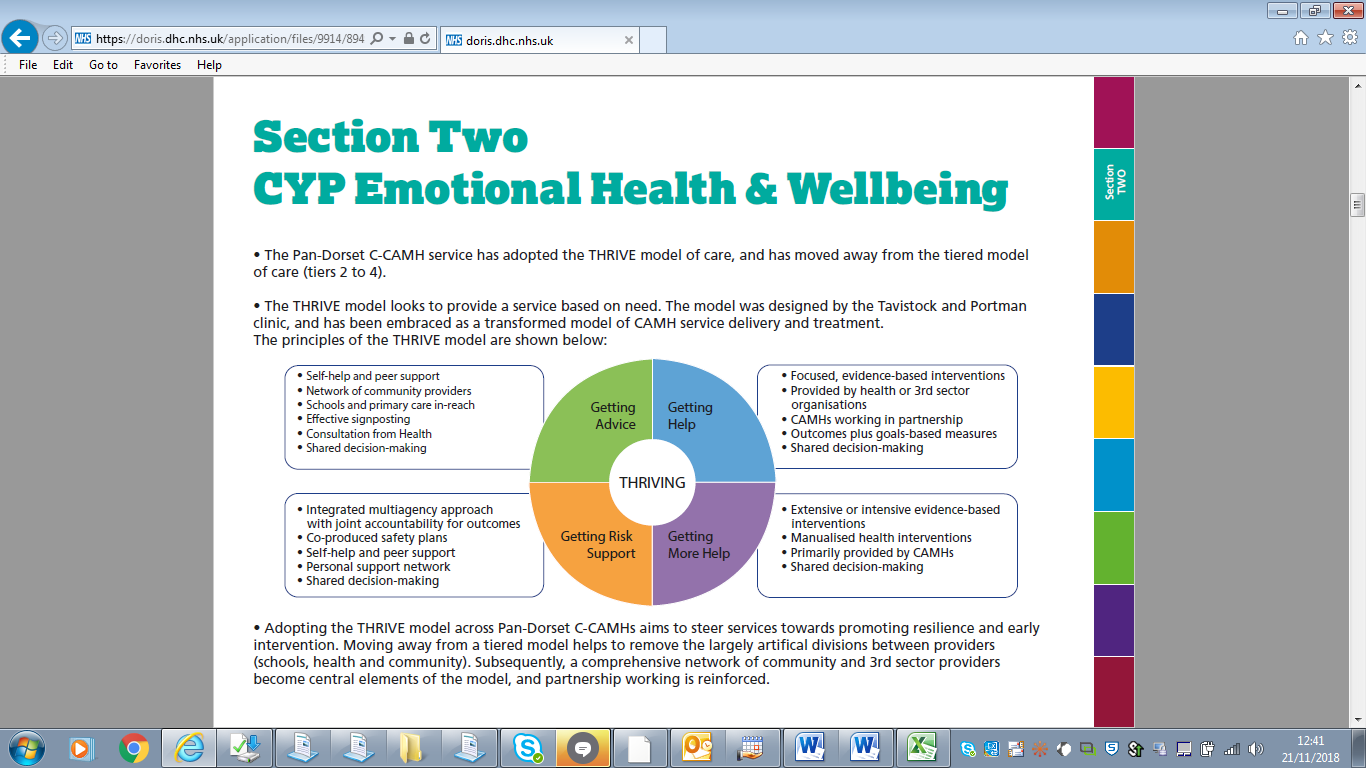
**Bournemouth & Christchurch: 01202 646300**

Shelley Clinic

22 Tower Road, Boscombe

Bournemouth BH1 4LB

08:30am – 5.00pm, Monday to Friday



**Additional Emotional Support Pathway if child does not meet the threshold for C-CAMHS service**

**Rationale for the Pathway**

The aim of this pathway is to simplify the referral process by ensuring that only the child’s Social Worker or Social Work Team Manager can refer into C-CAMHS for Looked After Children. This ensures that all concerns about a child are shared and discussed with the Social Worker who has full oversight andlikelihood of parental responsibility of the child. When considering whether to make a referral, the Social Worker should discuss this with the LAC Psychologists or CAMHS Social Worker to ensure that the referral is appropriate. By providing a robust referral within an established professional framework it is hoped that children will gain access to C-CAMHS in a timely manner and there will be less referrals that do not meet the threshold for a service. It must be noted however that a child’s relationship with the service is paramount and by ensuring that referrals are appropriate and timely, children will hopefully have a more positive understanding and experience of C-CAMHS.

Please note: GPs & teaching staff please redirect foster carers to allocated Social Worker for referral into C-CAMHS as the clinic will not accept referrals from these agencies for Looked After Children

The C-CAMHS team will allocate an assessment appointment based on need judged by:

The level of need is assessed against each of these areas as shown below.

When making a referral, the Pan-Dorset C-CAMH Service expects that:

* The referrer has met the child.
* The referrer has made some assessment of the child/young person’s motivation to engage in a therapeutic service.
* First-line interventions e.g. support from school, community-based parenting support (i.e. from School, Surestart Centres, health visiting) have been tried and the difficulties remain unchanged and/or have worsened.

In the majority of cases the choice about whether to accept an appointment to be seen in C-CAMHS lies solely with the child/young person. In cases where there is considerable risk, or the CYP lacks capacity (e.g. experiencing psychosis) decision-making may need to be deferred to appropriate adults. Support and provision may be delivered indirectly in such cases if the CYP is unable, or unwilling to engage but stabilisation is crucial.

We will always make every effort to encourage children and young people to meet with a member of the C-CAMHS team, and we are mindful that they may feel anxious about this. If, despite our efforts, the child/young person says they do not want help from C-CAMHS, we will respect this.

Additional support can be offered to parents/carers, and to the wider system, e.g. schools, if that is felt useful as an indirect way of supporting the child/young person.

**Additional Guidance for consultations with Psychologist/LAC SWs**

Copies of key documents need to be shared during the consultation to facilitate the decision making process, such as: the annual health assessments, the Strengths and Difficulties Questionnaire (including any other psychometrics), any formal psychological assessment and, if appropriate the EHCP.