

[New contact and assessment arrangements for CAMHS referrals in the BCP area](#)

A new referral and assessment process for young people struggling with mental health issues is being introduced in the Bournemouth Christchurch Poole (BCP) Council area.

From 14 September, all referrals from social care or schools' staff should be made to the new CAMHS Gateway service, not to 'core CAMHS'.

The Gateway service has been designed to help nip low-level problems in the bud, while also freeing up other CAMHS staff to see people with a moderate/severe diagnosis more quickly and reduce waiting times.

Professionals may either complete the [online referral form](#) and email a copy to dhc.camhsgateway.east@nhs.net or alternatively send the information required in the referral form in letter format to the same address. Referral criteria for the service will remain the same.

For the first time, 16 to 18-year-olds will also be able to self-refer without needing to go through a health or social care professional.

All referrals will be assessed by the CAMHS Gateway staff and, where appropriate, young people with a milder diagnosis will be supported by a new 'brief intervention' team. Those with more serious issues will be transferred to the regular CAMHS teams for more specialised, intensive treatment.

Referral arrangements in the rest of Dorset will remain the same for now, but Dorset HealthCare (which runs CAMHS) plans to roll out the Gateway service there in 2021.

More information about Core Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services can be found at:

https://proceduresonline.com/trixcms1/media/1206/c_camhs_referral_guidance.pdf