**BaNES CAMHS pressures – BSW system briefing**

1. **Current Pressures**

The BaNES Getting Help Team (CAMHS) is currently experiencing considerable service pressure. This is due to vacancies in a small team (over 45%) and increasing complexity (20% increase in ED referrals, 10% increase in liaison and 10% increase in urgent and emergency referrals compared to last year).

1. **Recovery Plan**

A service recovery plan will be in place, forecast to last approximately 3 – 6 months. The focus will be on re-building capacity and addressing the backlog. Actions include:

* Trying to recruit temporary staff (including bank staff and agency)
* Offering additional hours to existing staff / former employees
* An enhanced focus on recruitment to substantive posts, including recruitment fairs and flexible job creation
* Temporarily ceasing school consultation to secondary schools (x 2 hours per month)
* Limiting liaison interventions to x 2 staff members per day only (in line with contractual requirements)
* Not carrying out planned work past 6pm
* Infant Mental Health Cases being supported by the In-Reach team

1. **Risk management**

* A harm minimisation plan is in place to ensure clinical safety. All cases will be risk stratified and all rated ‘green’ will be contacted to alert them that they will be waiting longer than usual.
* Clear information will be provided about how to contact us to alert us of a change in need.
* All green waiters will also be provided with advice and guidance, signposting and self-care information.

1. **Key messages for the system**

* We are continuing to accept referrals in BaNES. If you have a concern about a child or young person, please contact us as usual.
* Children and young people with urgent and emergency mental health needs will continue to be seen promptly in line with our usual practice.
* We will continue to prioritise early intervention for children and young people presenting with eating disorders.
* Waits will be longer than usual for low-risk children and young people.
* It would be helpful to work with partners to look at how we can jointly meet the needs of children and young people with low levels of need during this period.
* There are useful self-help resources on our website which can be found here: [Child and Adolescent Mental Health Service My wellbeing | Child and Adolescent Mental Health Service (oxfordhealth.nhs.uk)](https://www.oxfordhealth.nhs.uk/camhs/wellbeing/)