



COLLEGE CENTRE FOR QUALITY IMPROVEMENT

Quality Improvement Network for Multi-Agency CAMHS (QINMAC)



QINMAC Learning Disability Network - Benefits of membership

QINMAC is a network of 'Tier 2 and 3' child and adolescent mental health services (CAMHS) run by a project team based at the Royal College of Psychiatrists' Research and Training Unit. QINMAC's Learning Disability network facilitates quality improvement and development in mental health services for young people with learning disabilities, via a supportive peer review network. This professionally-led network enables the sharing of best practice between services and supports frontline staff in delivering comprehensive CAMHS. Members receive the following products and services:

1. Service standards

The QINMAC team develops and updates service standards for Learning Disability CAMHS (LD CAMHS), in consultation with Learning Disability CAMH professionals. The standards follow a care pathway, referring to links with primary care and other tiers and agencies. The standards cover aspects of policy including the *National Service Frameworks*, the Department of Health's *Standards for Better Health and Valuing People*. The standards are designed to complement Do Once and Share's *Mental Health Services for Children with Learning Disabilities: A National Care Pathway*.

2. A detailed team evaluation and report

Each team completes a self-review and then receives a one-day peer-review, where other LD CAMH practitioners visit the service. Data are collected via interviews and a local report is written, detailing how the team meets the service standards. The report encompasses the views of the team, the peer-reviewers and local staff from a range of agencies. The standards are mapped onto the Department of Health's *Standards for Better Health* and the *Healthcare Standards for Wales*. This means that services can use local reports to demonstrate compliance with these national standards.

3. An organised visit to another Learning Disability CAMH service

A small number of staff from your service will be invited to peer-review other LD CAMH teams, supported on site by an experienced lead reviewer. This is an important benefit of QINMAC membership. Staff learn valuable lessons from observing practice elsewhere and from engaging in frank discussion about problems and exploring potential solutions. Teams also learn about the standards and their rationale by using them to evaluate other services.

4. Report of aggregated findings

Aggregated data from all participating teams are summarised in a national report, which allows members to benchmark their team against others. The report also provides a helpful list of 'experts' to contact for advice on specific issues.

5. QINMAC newsletter

The newsletter provides members with CAMHS policy news, a project update and contributions from members.

6. E-mail discussion group

This is a free service open to all QINMAC members. The discussion group currently has around 100 members and is a speedy way to access the experience and knowledge of individuals from a range of disciplines. The list can also be used to advertise relevant events, publications and job vacancies.

7. Annual forum

Members present summaries of problems and progress in their team and share lessons learned. Members also feed back their views on the audit process and influence the future direction of the network. Members will be the first to hear the aggregated results from the peer-reviews.

8. Certificate of participation

On completion of the annual cycle, each member will receive a certificate of participation. The certificate, awarded by the Royal College of Psychiatrists, confirms that service staff are committed to ongoing evaluation and quality improvement, and striving to meet best practice standards.

Scope and perspective

The QINMAC Learning Disability initiative is concerned with the quality of mental health services provided to young people with learning disabilities. Learning Disability CAMH teams will be evaluated against the QINMAC Learning Disability standards. Part of QINMAC's focus will be on the extent to which LD CAMHS work to facilitate multi-agency communication and co-operation when young people require the provisions of other services.

Funding

QINMAC is a **not-for-profit initiative**. The network is part-funded by the Department of Health and membership fees provide the remainder of the funding required to run the network. From 2009 onwards, the network will be fully-funded by membership fees.

Who should join?

Membership is at team level. Mental health services for young people with learning disabilities are located within a variety of service models. We expect that a Learning Disability CAMH 'team' will generally provide learning disability and mental health provision through an integrated CAMH service; through specialist Learning Disability CAMHS teams; or through targeted Learning Disability teams providing mental health services.

Membership options and costs

Annual membership costs are **£2500 per team** + VAT for the first team, which must receive a self- and peer-review. Additional teams within the same service can opt to participate in further self- and peer-reviews at the same rate, or to complete a **self-review only** at a cost of **£600 per team** + VAT. Thus, where there are several CAMH or LD CAMH teams within a Trust, some services choose to 'rotate' the peer review amongst the teams each year, in order to reduce costs. Members who pay in advance for 3 year membership receive a **10% discount**.

Examples:

- One team receiving a self- and peer-review would pay £2500 + VAT
- Two teams receiving a self- and peer-review would pay £5000 + VAT
- One team receiving a self- and peer-review and 3 further teams receiving a self-review only would pay £4300 + VAT (£2500, plus 3 x £600)

What QINMAC members have said about participating in the CAMHS network:

"It was a thoroughly enjoyable process, meeting with colleagues in a similar area of work, and identifying strengths and weaknesses in our current service"

"Bringing in partner agencies was really good and very positive for us"

"(The self-review) provided an excellent tool to evaluate our current performance across a range of standards. It gave a very practical and realistic view of strengths and areas for improvement, but also a comprehensive document to demonstrate progress against NSF and Standards for Better Health"

"The team found it to be a very helpful process to reflect on policy and practice issues. It was further helpful as a team building exercise"

For more information, go to www.qinmac.org.uk or contact Otilie Dugmore, Programme Manager:
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