DEAR ALL AFPSIG MEMBERS

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Happy 2017. I hope your festivities refreshed you. I must admit that having had a lovely family break over Christmas, I found it difficult to accept the contrast between our opportunities and those of the young men in prison. Never may I forget how fortunate I am and may I always use my time and skills to further equality of opportunity. Though it has been relatively quiet on the consultation front, many reviews have been published over the last year. The Harris review, Medway Independent Report, Charlie Taylor Review and Prison Reform and Safety White Paper all consider the secure system for young people. This could be exciting times and we need to ensure that our knowledge and experience is shared with those making decisions. What I have read from the reviews is exciting. I do hope that their recommendations will be actioned. Our service evaluation of the secure estate for young people will inform some of these reforms. Thank you all who helped us with this, completing our census questionnaires. There were just over 1300 young people locked up on September 14th 2016 and we received completed census questionnaires on about 1200 of them. We are now analysing the data to be ready to present to NHSE. Youth Justice Liaison and Diversion, Community Forensic CAMHS and Secure Stairs trauma informed care for those detained in secure establishments are all being rolled out.

For the AFPSIG, we have our study day planned for 20th March on Talking 'bout their generation – The time is here - CAMHS Transformation for Young People with Complex Needs. The programme is on the RCPsych website. Please do come.

And, most importantly, I would like to thank Ollie for all the hard work that he has done in his role as financial officer for the AFPSIG. Sadly, his term of office comes to an end in the summer but he will remain on the exec as the Forensic Faculty rep. Please can everyone consider whether they would be able to stand for the above vacant post. This is an elected term. If you have any questions do contact us. And, as always, anyone who wants to be more involved in the AFPSIG exec please contact me.

SECURE STAIRS - AN NHS ENGLAND PROJECT

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SECURE STAIRS is an NHS England project that sits within the Children and Young People’s Mental Health Services Transformation Programme as part of the Health and Justice and Specialised Commissioning Children and Young People’s Mental Health Services Transformation Workstream. The project will use Children and Young People’s Mental Health Transformation funds to support development of a shared framework that facilitates theory driven, evidence based, whole-system approaches to creating change for young people within the Children and Young People’s Secure Estate (CYPSE).
A fundamental principle of the framework is that the environment and the relationships within it (rather than specialist in-reach services) are the primary agents of change for young people within secure settings. The creation and maintenance of a therapeutic milieu is therefore a critical and essential task in its own right and SECURE is an acronym outlining key components of such a milieu.

The second dimension of the framework is supporting establishments to adopt a ‘STAIRS’ approach to creating change - STAIRS approaches are any approaches where clear ‘destination-targets’ are collaboratively identified, formulations collaboratively developed, and whole-system interventions then planned based on those formulations. ‘STAIRS’ approaches also clearly review impacts of interventions on targets, and actively plan with future environments for sustainability.

The SECURE STAIRS project team are working with the 14 English Secure Children’s Homes (SCHs), Rainbows and Medway Secure Training Centres (STC), and the 4 English Young Offender Institutions (YOIs) that hold under 18s, to share examples of good practice in relation to the framework, and also to agree on targeted investment in mental health staffing to support SECURE STAIRS delivery.

For further information regarding SECURE STAIRS please email: england.securestairs@nhs.net

CHANGES TO NHS ENGLAND CLINICAL REFERENCE GROUP (CRG) STRUCTURES

As part of the wider NHS England restructuring processes, in April 2013 a Clinical Reference Group (CRG) for Secure CAMHS was established, alongside a CRG for Tier 4 CAMHS services. The Secure CAMHS CRG provided expert clinical advice to NHSE on a range of issues including development of clinical commissioning policies, service specifications and quality dashboards.

Members of the this CRG included clinicians working in the Adolescent Medium Secure Network, as well as clinicians from low secure CAMHS services, community forensic CAMHS services, and family / carer representatives.

In April 2016 CRG structures were reviewed by NHS England. There was a consolidation of CRGs, resulting in the Secure CAMHS and Tier 4 CRGs merging into a single CAMHS CRG, with reduced membership. It has been agreed that wider consideration of Secure CAMHS is required, and therefore a Secure CAMHS Clinical Advisory Group (CAG) has been formed, maintaining much of the membership and function of the previous Secure CAMHS CRG. Key functions of the CAG include developing and sharing consensus in relation to the care of young people with mental health and neurodevelopmental difficulties who may be, are, or have been placed in secure settings.

The CAMHS CRG and Secure CAMHS CAG sit within a wider NHS England structure regarding the provision and commissioning of Secure CAMHS. Key elements of this structure include the Health and Justice CRG, The current Medium Secure Network, the evolving Low Secure and Community (Outreach) Forensic CAMHS Networks, the Provider-Commissioner Group, and a range of other stakeholders. These interact as outlined in the following diagram (see below).

The CAG is currently lacking representation from the South West, Kent and Medway, East Anglia, and Cumbria. If any Adolescent Forensic Psychiatry Special Interest Group member is interested in joining the CAG then please contact me.