

Dear CAMHS lead,

Re Department of Health Outcomes Project in CAMHS

The Department of Health (DH) is undertaking a one year research project to see if the collation of outcome data from child mental health services (CAMHS) focusing on the parent and child Strength and Difficulty Questionnaire (SDQ) change scores can be used to understand service provision and support service development. The project will run from October 2009- September 2010. We have commissioned the CAMHS Outcomes Research Consortium (CORC) to undertake this work on our behalf and to liaise with us on this important initiative. This letter is going to all CAMHS leads across England to invite participation in this project.

**What is involved**

1) Participating services will **send parent and child SDQ** data to the CORC central team twice during the course of the year (at 6 monthly intervals of a year).

- This will be early April 2010 and early October 2010.
- *For CORC members this will be agreed in consultation with the CORC central team and where possible to fit with your existing reporting period*

2) The data will be collated by the CORC central team and you will receive a report within **6 weeks of data being signed off by the service as correct (Please see attached 7 steps)**

The report will show outcome data based on the following:

**Impact of service on child's difficulties (taken from the parent perspective)**

- Added Value Score (based on parent SDQ)

**Change in difficulties from the service users' perspective**

- Parent and Child Problem Improvement (taken from the parent and child SDQ)

***Please note CORC members will in addition receive:***

- *Satisfaction with the service from perspective of service users (CHI ESQ)*
- *Change in difficulties from the practitioners' perspective (CGAS or HoNOSCA)*
- *Change in difficulties from joint perspective of practitioner, child and family (Goals based outcomes)*

3) A copy of this report (which includes the name of the service) will be sent to the Department of Health.

The report will be used to look at the use of measures to understand service provision. The DH is committed that any data collected will not be used for performance management purposes.

### **Further information**

4) Attached are two information sheets from CORC to help anyone who is interested in taking part.

- 7 steps for cleaning, sending and checking data

This document outlines the process for managing the data preparation and submission

- Frequently answered questions about the DH Outcomes Project

This document includes more detailed information on what is involved in participation in this project

In addition CORC have created a DH Outcomes project page on their website where everything you need to get started can be found (go to [www.corc.uk.net](http://www.corc.uk.net))

### **What to do next if you want to take part**

5) If you would like to take part in this initiative you need to email CORC by 1<sup>st</sup> October 2009. Please note there is capacity for up to 20 services to take part in this research project.

Please email Emma Trustam, Research Coordinator for CORC who is leading on this project at: [outcomesdh@annafreud.org](mailto:outcomesdh@annafreud.org) and she or one of her team will get back to you with further details after 1<sup>st</sup> October

If you have any queries please do not hesitate to get in touch with me, my contact details are below

Yours faithfully

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