



CAMHS Outcomes Research Consortium (CORC)
Information for prospective members last updated
January 2008

For most recent info go to www.corc.uk.net

What is CORC?

The CAMHS Outcome Research Consortium (CORC) is a collaboration between child and adolescent mental health services (CAMHS) providers across the UK with the aim of instituting a common model of routine outcome evaluation and analysing the data derived.

CORC started in 2002 as a collaboration between practitioners and managers from five founding services (Bedfordshire and Luton, Leeds, Enfield, Barnet and Haringey, Tavistock and Portman and Hertfordshire). With support from the National CAMHS Support Service (NCSS) and facilitation from the National Institute of Mental Health England (NIMHE), CORC opened to wider membership in April 2004.

Over half of all services in England are now members with members also in Scotland, Wales and, most recently, Norway.

Aims of CORC:

- To develop and support the dissemination of a model of routine evaluation of outcome that can be used across a range of services.
- To help put in place systems to allow the data obtained to inform service providers, commissioners and users and other relevant stakeholders within each all member sites.
- To collate the data from all CORC members (appropriately anonymised), in order that this can be analysed centrally and the results shared with service area.

- To collaborate in using outcome information to inform and develop good practice

Underlying vision

It was recognised from the outset that is a complex and ambitious endeavour and that all available measures and approaches are limited and flawed in one way or another, and that our knowledge in this area is in its infancy. The approach and measures currently adopted have been chosen as best meeting our aims but CORC is committed to learning from the experience and adapting our approach in the light of our growing experience and emerging understanding.

Joining CORC

CORC welcomes members from the statutory and voluntary sectors. The first year's annual subscription cost for all staff within a service to become members of CORC is £5000; cost for continuing members is £3000 p.a. Reduced rates are available for voluntary sector providers. If you would to join CORC please contact corc@annafreud.org.uk

What members should expect to receive from the Consortium

- Membership of a network of other CAMHS service providers who will be working on similar implementation issues, with whom problems and solutions can be shared. A **website and email discussion group** have been developed to aid members' communications. Member representatives meet twice a year at **members' forum** to review progress and share ideas and the small CORC central team seeks to help facilitate networking and collaboration across the consortium to the mutual benefit of all members.
- Support from the **CORC Central Team**, whose role is to advise and support members on all issues of implementation including technical issues relating to the setting up and management of systems for routine evaluation of outcome in services and to create outcome reports for member services based on their services data and those of all CORC members, drawing where possible on community and other relevant samples.

- Access to materials and input from the CORC central team, including pre-prepared **PowerPoint presentations** etc to aid the introduction of outcome evaluation in member sites, a newly developed **Toolkit** which provides all that is needed to practically implement CORC, two editions of the **CORC handbook** and a free **CORC_ YouthinMind outcomes measures database** which allows members to score key questionnaires and produce reports on outcomes for individual children and families.

- Access to protocols and tools for routine evaluation of outcome in line with Department of Health guidance and in preparation for what may be required in future mapping exercises. This will include **updates in relation to minimum data set developments**; access to appropriate questionnaires, and suggestions as to how to analyse and share data collected.

- Access to the **latest academic advances** in this area. The following act as academic advisors to the Consortium: Dr Tamsin Ford (Institute of Psychiatry and also member of CORC committee). Professor Robert Goodman (Institute of Psychiatry); Steve Pilling (Centre for Outcome Research and Effectiveness); Professor Peter Fonagy (University College London); Professor Gyles Glover (Durham University), Dr Albert Persaud (Lead for Black and Ethnic Minority Issues National Institute of Mental Health), Professor Simon Gowers (Liverpool University).

- Access to **the latest policy thinking** in this area. The academic and policy group also has input from; Dr Morris Zwi (Senior CAMHS policy advisor DoH). Simon Pearson (NIMHE), Bob Foster (National CAMHS Support Service Director), Richard Bartholomew (DFES head of research and development)

- The opportunity to **influence and inform national developments** in this area. CORC is represented on a number of bodies related to outcome development and peer review, and frequently consulted on national and regional initiatives.

- The provision of an **Service level Outcomes Report** which is provided on receipt of member's data and allows members to compare outcomes in their

service with those of CORC members in general (using aggregated norms) and with community norms where possible.

What members should expect to contribute to the Consortium?

- To provide nominated representatives who will be in a position to speak for their membership grouping at CORC meetings and to agree one to vote as necessary.
- To share data (once collected and anonymised) for common analysis.
- To share ideas, experiences and developments with other members to help us learn from each other.
- To pay annual membership subscriptions in order to fund the infrastructure to support the continuing collaboration

What is happening in CORC in 2008?

Current agreed CORC measures and data fields:

- **Strengths and Difficulties Questionnaire (SDQ)**
Completed by referred children aged 11-16 and parents of children aged 3-16 before first meeting and at 6 months after first appointment
- **Children's Global Assessment Scale (C-GAS)**
Completed by clinicians for all age groups after first meeting and 6 months later
- **Commission for Health Improvement (CHI) experience of service questionnaire (ESQ)**
Completed by all users aged 9 and over at 6 months after first appointment

We will also collect data from the following measures:

- **Health of the Nation Outcome Scales for Children and Adolescents (HoNOSCA)**
Completed by all users for all age groups at assessment and 6 months after first appointment / case closure.
- **Goal Based Outcomes**
Completed by parents / carers of children and young people aged 11-16 at assessment and at 6 months after first appointment.
- **Consultation Questionnaire**
Completed by non-CAMHS professionals who have sought information from CAMHS about child mental health. The questionnaire is based on satisfaction with the service and confidence of dealing with child mental health issues.
- **Teacher Strengths and Difficulties Questionnaire (SDQ)**
Completed by the teacher of referred children aged 3-16 before first meeting and at 6 months after first appointment.

A common set of data fields (the CORC required dataset) has been agreed to be collected by all member services. This is a subset of the **National CAMHS Dataset** which has recently been published and has been disseminated to all CAMHS.

Dissemination of a national dataset

- The National CAMHS Dataset (NDS) is for use by all CAMH services and is recommended for use by all CORC members.
- It represents best practice presented in a matrix model to be capable of adaptation to the needs of different services at different times.
- CORC have agreed to make the current version freely available to members and to oversee the ongoing review of the National CAMHS Dataset

Development of a CORC required dataset

It has been agreed that all member services will collect information on a subset of the national CAMHS Dataset which has been identified as necessary for the evaluation of outcomes- this is available on the members' area of the website.

CORC/ Youth*in*Mind Outcomes Measures Database

An "outcomes measures database" developed by Youth*in*Mind to allow CORC members to score the recommended measures and create reports based on these scores, has been made available for free to all members via the website.

Handbook and Toolkit

CORC has summarised its approach and progress to date, including a rationale for the approach currently being suggested and printed it in a handbook – versions 1 and 2 of which are available on the website and hard copies are available free to members. (Version 2, CORC 2007: Rising to the Challenge has recently been published.)

CORC have published a Toolkit which is a practical resource for all who wish to implement CORC.

CORC website www.corc.uk.net

- A CORC website has been established which contains all basic information about CORC.
- The site has a password protected members' forum which includes a discussion forum to help members learn from each other and to share emerging thoughts and good practice.
- **CORC Think Tanks** are looking at developing outcomes where standard measures are inappropriate.

CORC Members

- 1) 5 Boroughs Partnership NHS Trust
- 2) Anna Freud Centre
- 3) Association for Child Psychotherapists
- 4) Barnet, Enfield & Haringey Mental Health NHS Trust
- 5) Bedfordshire & Luton Community NHS Trust
- 6) Berkshire Primary Care Trust
- 7) Birmingham Children's NHS Trust
- 8) Bolton Hospital NHS Trust
- 9) Bradford District Care Trust
- 10) Bristol CAMHS
- 11) Bromley PCT
- 12) Cambridgeshire & Peterborough Mental Health Partnership NHS Trust
- 13) Camden PCT
- 14) Cardiff & Vale, Pontypridd & Rhonda, & Swansea NHS Trusts
- 15) CCATS Coastal Child & Adolescent Therapeutic Service
- 16) Central Manchester and Manchester Children's Hospital NHS Trust
- 17) Chesterfield Royal Hospital NHS Foundation Trust
- 18) Cornwall Partnership NHS Trust
- 19) Coventry and Warwickshire Partnership Trust
- 20) Croydon Social Services & Croydon PCT
- 21) Cumbria Partnership NHS Trust
- 22) Derbyshire Mental Health Services NHS Trust
- 23) Doncaster & Bassetlaw Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust
- 24) East Lancashire CAMHS

- 25) East London & City Mental Health NHS Trust
- 26) Fife CAMHS
- 27) Gloucestershire Partnership NHS Trust
- 28) Greater Glasgow NHS Boards Yorkhill Division
- 29) Hackney Children's Social Care
- 30) Hampshire County Council Social Services
- 31) Herefordshire Primary Care Trust
- 32) Hertfordshire Partnership NHS Trust
- 33) Hull and East Riding Community NHS Trust
- 34) Humber Mental Health Teaching NHS Trust
- 35) Kent Partnership
- 36) Leeds CAMHS
- 37) Lincolnshire Partnership Trust
- 38) Milton Keynes Specialist CAMHS
- 39) Newcastle, North Tyneside and Northumberland Mental Health NHS Trust
- 40) North Essex Mental Health Partnership NHS Trust (CAMHS)
- 41) North West Cluster
- 42) North West Somerset
- 43) Nottinghamshire County Teaching PCT
- 44) Nottinghamshire Healthcare NHS Trust (CAMHS)
- 45) Oxfordshire County Council
- 46) The Place2Be
- 47) Plymouth Hospitals NHS Trust
- 48) Royal Liverpool Children's Trust (Alder Hey)
- 49) Sheffield Children's NHS Trust
- 50) Shropshire County PCT & Telford & Wrekin PCT

- 51) Solihull Child Psychology
- 52) South Essex
- 53) South West London & St George's Mental Health NHS Trust
- 54) Suffolk CAMHS
- 55) Surrey CAMHS Strategy
- 56) Swindon & Marlborough NHS Trust
- 57) Tees, Esk and Wear Valleys NHS Trust
- 58) Telford & Wrekin PCT
- 59) Trafford NHS Trust
- 60) Walsall Teaching Primary Care Trust
- 61) West London Mental Health NHS Trust
- 62) West Norway
- 63) Wolverhampton CAMHS

CORC Committee

The committee is responsible for the management of the consortium and is the ultimate decision-making body within the consortium. Current members of the committee are:

Dr Miranda Wolpert, CORC Chair (Consultant Clinical Psychologist Bedfordshire and Luton NHS Trust and CAMHS Fellow for NIMHE/Young Minds)

Dr Ashley Wyatt, CORC Vice-Chair (CAMHS service manager, Leeds)

Dr Tamsin Ford (CORC Research Co-ordinator) (Consultant Psychiatrist, Institute of Psychiatry)

Alison Towndrow (CAMHS Administrator, Enfield)

Dr Duncan Law (Consultant Clinical Psychologist, CAMHS service manager, CAMHS, Hertfordshire)

David Goodban (Co-opted) (CAMHS Regional Development Worker)

Dr Evette Girgis (Child and Adolescent Consultant Psychiatrist, CAMHS, Sheffield)

Dr Julie Elliott (Head of Child Clinical Psychology, Kent)

CORC Academic and Policy Consultants Group

This group provides access to the latest research and policy developments in the area of outcome evaluation in order to most usefully guide members in the light of the latest research and to ensure all activity links with national policy imperatives.

Stephen Pilling (Centre for Outcome Research and Effectiveness)

Professor Peter Fonagy (University College London)

Professor Gyles Glover (Durham University)

Dr Albert Persaud (National Institute of Mental Health- England).

Dr Bob Jezzard (Department of Health)

Bob Foster (National CAMHS Support Service)

Professor Robert Goodman (Institute of Psychiatry)

Simon Pearson (National Institute of Mental Health- England)

Dr Richard Bartholomew (Department for Education and Skills)

CORC Research Group

The CORC Research group provides the facility to examine research issues related to CORC including the development of the CORC report, the CORC protocol, interpretation of data, new developments, and any research proposals that members or others may put forward which may support the work that CORC members are undertaking.

The membership of the research group is taken from the committee, the policy and consultants group and the CORC membership. Any member representative or implementer who is particularly interested in a research aspect of CORC is welcome to the research group meetings (with the proviso that they have some understanding of the particular issues involved).

CORC Implementers

Implementers are the people who are involved in the day-to-day implementation and running of CORC. The list of current members of this network is on the website and the central team are supporting this group by keeping and adding to this list. Members are encouraged to ensure that their implementers join this community. Please email CORC central team their contact details and they will then be added to the distribution list.

CORC central team

The CORC central team can draw on a wide range of experience, and expertise between them, as well as having built up a number of links with a range of national organisations including the Department of Health and the Department for Education and Skills, the National Outcome Implementation Group, the Implementation Board for

CAMHS, the CAMHS Information Group, NCSS, UCL, EBPU, CORE, CAMHS mapping, Connecting for Health, NIMHE, Young Minds.

The CORC team provides a range of support for the collection, analysis and reporting of data as well as general support for members.

Dr Miranda Wolpert, the CORC director and chair of the CORC committee, steers the strategic direction of CORC.

Emma Trustam, CORC Research Co-ordinator, organises the central team and provides a central point of contact for those involved in the day to day implementation of CORC and manages the collection, analysis and reporting of data.

Jenna Bradley, CORC Research Assistant works alongside Emma & Sophie as a central point of contact for those involved in the implementation of CORC, aiding in the management of the collection, analysis and reporting of data.

Sophie Wee, CORC Research Assistant works alongside Emma & Jenna as a central point of contact for those involved in the implementation of CORC, aiding in the management of the collection, analysis and reporting of data.

Dr Sevasti-Melissa Nolas works part time on CORC in a research fellow role. Part of her role in CORC is to look at ways in which CORC as a 'learning collaborative' can be strengthened to promote improvements in clinical practice through measurement and evaluation.

Amy Flint works part time for CORC in an administrator role and manages the members' finances.