

CLAHRC BITE

November 2012

A bite-sized summary of CLAHRC CP research for patients and the public



Young people in care are at increased risk of emotional and behaviour disorders, yet such needs often remain unaddressed.

Who?

Young people in care and foster carers

What?

A new training programme for foster carers

Why?

Young people in care are at increased risk of emotional and behaviour disorders, yet access to support services is poor. If left untreated, these problems can result in breakdown of the placement and other enduring problems. We need to identify these difficulties early to prevent escalation.



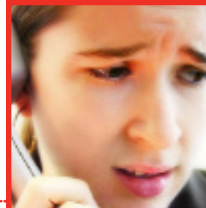
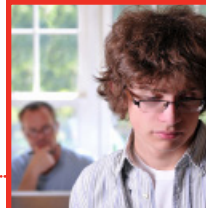
By better identifying the emotional needs of young people entering care, a pilot project by CLAHRC CP and its partners aims to prevent the escalation of problems that arise.

Recent surveys have shown that foster carers want more training, improved support, and improved access to psychological services for the young people in their care.

In collaboration with Cambridgeshire County Council Children and Young People's Service, we are devising emotional wellbeing training to improve identification of problems when young people enter into care.

The project aims to help foster carers identify, monitor and record early signs of emotional problems before they can have a major impact on a young person's life. Early identification can lead to timely and appropriate interventions.

A longer term goal, should the pilot findings be positive, would be to widen access to the emotional wellbeing training to all foster carers.



An explanation of the CLAHRC and its role

The Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Collaboration for Leadership in Applied Health Research and Care (CLAHRC CP) is a partnership between the University of Cambridge, NHS organisations in Cambridgeshire and Peterborough, and Cambridgeshire County Council.

Funded by the National Institute for Health Research, our mission is to undertake high quality applied research to improve health and social care across the East of England.

This bite-sized summary of CLAHRC research is one of a series aimed at fostering collaboration between the academic and service delivery health sectors for the benefit of the health of the population.

Our website

<http://www.clahrc-cp.nihr.ac.uk/>

Useful link

<http://www.clahrc-cp.nihr.ac.uk/research-themes-2/adolescent-sub-theme>

For further information, contact Valerie Dunn who is responsible for the foster carer training project. She is also coordinator for the ROOTS Project, a large community study tracking 14-year olds through adolescence to examine risk factors for common emotional and behavioural problems.

Background research

Dunn, V et al (2011) Transfer of Care at 17 (TC-17) - pilot phase: An investigation of factors which influence two groups of young people facing transitional care at 17

Further reading

Harter, A; Oakley, M (2012) Fostering Aspirations: Reforming the foster care system in England and Wales. Policy Exchange.