

Reopening of the ADHD Service

A Re:Minds Q&A

When will the service reopen?

The ADHD assessment service will reopen in May 2021.

Why did the ADHD service close?

The service closed partly because of Covid as staff had to work in other areas where there was more need. The service also wanted to make sure those people on the waiting list got the help they needed as soon as possible.

What happened while it was closed?

Services from across the city came together to look at what is available for to support families whose children have ADHD and how to make the assessment process better. ADHD assessments were also carried out for 285 children and young people.

How do I get an ADHD assessment now?

To get an assessment your child needs to show that they have symptoms of ADHD which are negatively affecting their life. You also need to have tried to get support before asking CAMHS for an assessment

When a referral form is sent in, there needs to be as much information as possible about the reasons for your referral and how it affects your child's life. If you are not sure whether to refer to CAMHS you can look at their referral criteria which can be found online.

Once CAMHS have the referral it will be reviewed by the Single Point of Access (SPA) team. They will speak to you to make sure they fully understand why you have referred your child and what else you have tried before doing this. They will then make a decision about what to do next. It might be suggesting other things to try, or they may think an ADHD assessment is needed. If your child is accepted for an ADHD assessment it is currently taking about 9 weeks to get to the initial assessment stage.

What has happened to the waiting lists?

The ADHD waiting list has gone from three years to one year. Although, because so many assessments were carried out there is now a waiting list for a medication review. The service is doing everything it can to make this waiting list as short as possible.

The need for CAMHS support has increased by 50% and children most in need are still seen first. For example, if your child had an eating disorder, was trying to commit suicide, or going into psychosis, they be given priority. There has been an increase over the last year in this kind of need so waiting lists are increasing again.

Where else can I find help?

Re:Minds have a list on the advice section of their website that will tell you about all the different services which might be able to help across the city.

Re:Minds also have a number of ADHD videos on their YouTube channel which CAMHS have created with them.

CAMHS hold a monthly ADHD advice clinic where you can talk to a specialist clinician privately about any issues around ADHD, you can contact Re:Minds for more information on this.

