



September 22nd, 2015

Improved mental health service for young people

Children and young people in Gateshead are benefiting from an improved NHS emotional wellbeing service.

South Tyneside NHS Foundation Trust's Child and Adolescent Mental Health Service (CAMHS) team has expanded and has moved to specially adapted new premises in Leam Lane.

The staff, who work with four to 18-year-olds experiencing mild to moderate emotional, behavioural and psychological difficulties, and their families, were previously based at Blaydon Primary Care Centre. They now work in their own self-contained building next to Grassbanks Health Centre and are able to offer more therapies due to a successful bid for funding from the national Children and Young People's Improving Access to Psychological Therapies project.

Clinical Business Manager Mandy Bowler said: "The extra funding and the move have allowed us to really enhance the CAMHS service. The new base is near to schools and other children's services; it is on a bus route, making it more easily accessible and it has been purposefully designed to be child-friendly, from the furniture to the décor. We now have three dedicated therapeutic rooms, where we can provide activities to help engage children, and there is space for group and one-to-one sessions and staff training."

Local primary schoolchildren and young service users were invited to enter a competition to name the therapeutic rooms and the winning names, revealed at a drop-in event for professionals working in children's services to show them the new facility, were 'Friendship', 'Oasis' and 'Tree'.

ends

Pictured above: Outside their new premises, left to right, Clinical Business Manager Mandy Bowler, Clinical Lead Lesley Gammell, Safe Care Lead Lisa Mundel and Head of the Gateshead Child and Adolescent Mental Health Service Carl Sketchley

Issued on behalf of South Tyneside NHS Foundation Trust by Kay Jordan

For press enquiries on this release, contact 0191 404 1128 or email kay.jordan@stft.nhs.uk