



THE LINK NEWSLETTER

Issue 6
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Regional Care and Justice Programme

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Welcome!

In this edition of *the Link*, we'll take a look at the new Multi Disciplinary Health and Therapeutic Service, what it will do, and our progress towards implementing this new Service across Lakewood and Woodlands. We would welcome your thoughts and suggestions to name this new Service. If you have the perfect name for the new Service you can share this with us via RegFacilitiesProgrammeTeam@health-ni.gov.uk

It has been a busy few months for the Programme and it is great to be able to update you on the progress we have made on our programme workstreams since the last edition of *the Link*. This edition of the newsletter includes updates on our workstreams on PACE and Remand Admissions; Step Down and Satellite Support; Secure Care Standards; Participation and Engagement and Education and Training.

Woodlands



In this edition we will also tell you about the latest developments on the roll out of the Northern Ireland Framework for Integrated Therapeutic Care (NIFITC), the work of the Interim Multi Agency Panel and programme engagement including the most recent meetings of the Stakeholder Reference Group and the Programme Board.

Lakewood



We hope you find this edition useful in keeping you update to date on the work of the Programme. If you have any queries about the Programme, or suggestions on what you would like included in the next edition of *the Link*, you can contact the Programme Team or view the Programme pages on the [Department of Health](http://www.health-ni.gov.uk) or the [Department of Justice](http://www.justice-ni.gov.uk) websites.

Ronnie Armour and Seán Holland
Senior Responsible Owners
Regional Care and Justice Programme

Focus on...

Health and Therapeutic Services



As we explained in the last edition of [the Link](#) one of the areas of focus is the development of shared health and therapeutic services across Woodlands and Lakewood. There has been significant progress with the therapeutic element of this workstream, which will introduce a new Multi Disciplinary Therapeutic Service (MDS) across the two centres. At a high level, this service will provide trauma-informed care and a formulation-driven, evidence-based, whole system approach to meeting the needs of children and young people in secure care.

The new Multi Disciplinary Service will integrate multi-disciplinary Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS) and Therapeutic Support Services and will;

- enhance current health and therapeutic service provision across Lakewood and Woodlands by sharing resources and developing one model of care;
- implement multi-disciplinary assessment, formulation and intervention based on the needs of the young person;
- implement Healthcare Standards for Secure Care and the principles of the Northern Ireland Framework for Integrated Therapeutic Care (NIFITC);
- provide young people with a comprehensive mental health and neurodisability assessment;
- provide dedicated and timely access to psychiatric and psychological input and professional services through the multi disciplinary service team; and
- provide teams within Lakewood and Woodlands with consultation, advice, supervision and support.

This approach aligns with the 'Healthcare Standards for Children and Young People in Secure Care (2019)', developed jointly by the Royal College of Paediatrics and Child Health, and other relevant Royal Colleges. These standards will be at the heart of the work of the new Multi Disciplinary Service (MDS), supporting the provision of consistent care across both Woodlands and Lakewood.



Focus on...

Health and Therapeutic Services continued...

The multi-disciplinary service will be psychology led, and will initially include psychiatry, systemic therapy, occupational therapy and additional psychology roles, along with specialised mental health/ learning disability nursing input. Over time, the service will be expanded to also provide speech and language therapy and arts/drama therapy. An Interim Service Lead, Dr Ruth Fleck, was appointed to the MDS in March this year and, through a recent recruitment process Dr Fleck has now been appointed to the position on a permanent basis.



Dr Fleck and the Programme Team have mapped the roles within the new service against those already in place in the two centres, and engaged with relevant stakeholders on how the new service should be introduced. Based on this programme of work, new implementation structures for the multi-disciplinary service, and the NIFITC more broadly, have been developed and agreed. This includes the establishment of implementation working groups to develop and progress the detailed plans for putting the MDS in place. These groups will support further engagement with the Woodlands and Lakewood teams, as well as other key stakeholders, as part of the design and implementation of the service. It is currently planned that the new service will be in place before the end of the year. It is also planned to carry out joint training on the NIFITC for staff in both Lakewood and Woodlands during November and December. And as the new Multi Disciplinary Health and Therapeutic Service will be in place soon, we are also seeking your suggestions to name the new service. You can send your suggestions to us via RegFacilitiesProgrammeTeam@health-ni.gov.uk



Introducing the MDS across the two centres will be a key milestone for the Regional Care and Justice Programme, but it is only part of the health and care services being developed. The MDS will be complemented by a shared primary health care service, which will ensure that the physical health needs of young people in Lakewood and Woodlands are met, and work on this element of the workstream is also being progressed.

To date, initial scoping of existing services has been carried out, and some high level proposals have been developed. A dedicated working group is being established and, over the coming months, this group will refine the proposals further and develop detailed plans for implementing the agreed approach. We will keep you updated on this work as it progresses.

Programme Workstream Updates

Education and Training

We previously told you about mapping of the existing learning provision within Woodlands and Lakewood, and discussions on the agreement of high level principles for a common model of education across the two settings. The two facilities both have their individual strengths, and there is much good practice already in place which can be carried forward to the new model (look at the Youth Justice Agency on Twitter to read how Woodlands staff are supporting young people to achieve their Duke of Edinburgh Bronze award, and the Lakewood School account showcases recent success at the OCN Awards).

A shared model of education and training will be developed across Lakewood and Woodlands, which will support young people to learn and achieve to the best of their ability. One of the key aims will be to ensure equity of access to education and training across both facilities, particularly in relation to vocational training, building on the positive steps already taken across the two facilities.

Colleagues from the Department of Education (DE) and the Education Authority (EA) delivered a presentation at the June Programme Board meeting in relation to next steps to inform the development of the new model. This set out the complexities of developing a shared model, and highlighted the timescales involved. In the interim, consideration is being given to whether any education or training can be shared in advance of the introduction of the new common model. It is anticipated that an education working group will meet over the coming months to progress all elements of this workstream.

PACE and Remand Admissions

Work to develop proposals to reduce unnecessary PACE and remand admissions to the Juvenile Justice Centre continues. A Task and Finish Group has held a number of bi-laterals with relevant stakeholders, reviewed various research papers and analysed information on individual PACE admissions over five years. The next phase of this work will involve further discussions with stakeholders, and a more detailed analysis of the circumstances of admissions to the Juvenile Justice Centre, to inform plans across a number of areas.

Step Down and Satellite Support

A Task and Finish Group has been established to develop more detailed proposals for the on-site step-down unit to support young people in reintegrating to their community after time in secure care. Scoping of step down provision in other jurisdictions has been undertaken to inform the proposals. This has included a review of online information as well as engagement with DfE and Tusla to hear more about plans for the development of on-site step-down from secure care in England and in the Republic of Ireland. The Group has also met with two Secure Children's Homes in England to learn from their experiences in providing on-site step-down provision.

Programme Workstream Updates continued...

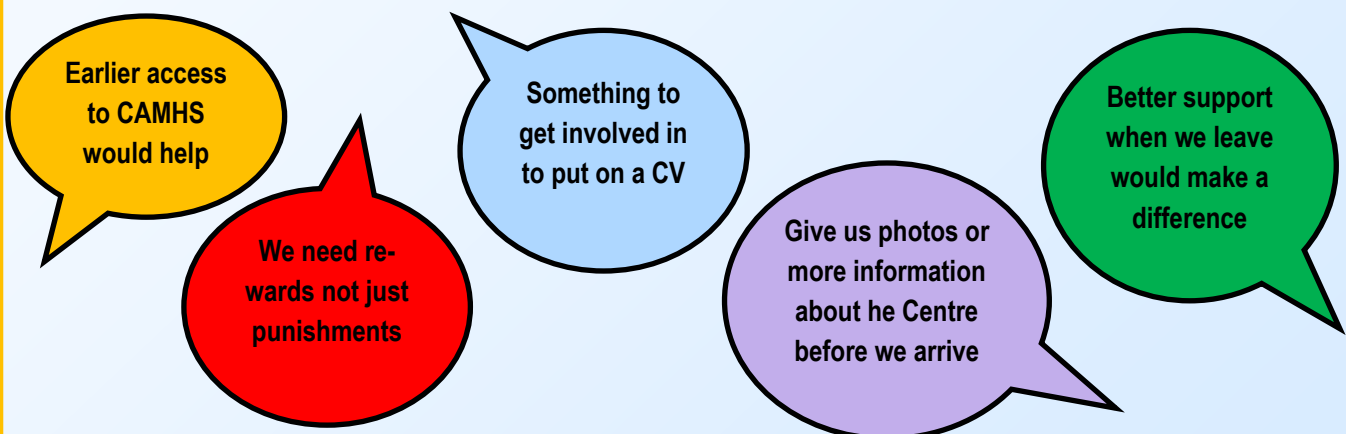
Secure Care Standards

Secure Care Standards will support a shared vision of secure care providing relationship based, trauma-informed therapeutic care for children and young people who cannot safely remain in the community. The Standards will apply across the Juvenile Justice Centre and Lakewood and will fully complement the NIFITC. The standards will not only guide practice in both centres; they will also guide future inspection activity.

Participation and Engagement

The Programme Team continues to work on the development of proposals to support the engagement and participation of children and young people with the work of the programme, with the aim of implementing a new model of co-production with young people as the programme progresses. Proposals were considered by the Stakeholder Reference Group in June, and this was followed by discussions with individual members of that Group to help refine the proposals. These will be taken to the Programme Board in due course.

In advance of the new arrangements being implemented, the Programme Team was keen to ensure that voices of young people were heard at the early stage of developing new shared standards. In our last edition, we told you how we had consulted with young people in Lakewood on the potential new standards. More recently, during July, we carried out a similar consultation exercise in Woodlands. Young people in both locations were very willing to engage, and gave lots of really useful advice and feedback, such as:



The Programme Team are preparing a report on the engagement with young people, and you will be able to access that on our website once it is complete.

There has also been engagement with Lakewood team leads regarding the development of standards.

Programme Updates

Northern Ireland Framework for Integrated Therapeutic Care (NIFITC)

Following from the publication of [Connecting Care: An Overview of the Northern Ireland Framework for Integrated Therapeutic Care \(NIFITC\) for Care Experienced Children and Young People](#) in January this year, a further publication has been drafted detailing the eleven building blocks supporting the NIFITC. The draft document has now been shared with Health and Social Care (HSC) Trusts for consultation.



Progress continues to establish the NIFITC Implementation Teams as well as the NIFITC Working Groups. In addition, six focus areas have been identified as part of the initial phase of NIFITC implementation in children's residential care. Working together with HSC Trusts, guidance is currently being developed for these six areas.

As noted in our update on the MDS, plans are also being developed for NIFITC implementation across Lakewood and Woodlands, as well as the establishment of a learning and development subgroup of the Regional NIFITC Strategic Steering Group which will progress the development and delivery of relevant training provision.

Interim Multi-Agency Panel

Since its establishment in September 2019, the Interim Multi-Agency Panel has provided a regionally consistent, multi-agency decision making forum for all children in Northern Ireland who may require a secure care environment. The Panel recently submitted a report on its work from September 2021 to March 2022, to bring it into line with normal reporting timescales. The report highlighted that:

From September 2019 to March 2022, 202 young people presented to the interim Multi Agency Panel for admission to secure care.

The highest proportion of referrals to the interim Multi Agency Panel relates to young people in residential care.

The main issues presented to the Interim Multi Agency Panel include substance misuse, repeated missing episodes, and putting others in danger.

In discussion with a range of stakeholders and in consideration of the work of the Interim Multi Agency Panel, the Programme Team continues to progress the development of options in relation to placing the interim Multi-Agency Panel on a permanent basis; including whether the Panel should be established in legislation.

Recent Engagement

The Justice Minister Naomi Long visited Woodlands on 21st September and met with young people and staff at the Centre. You can find out more about the Minister's visit to the Centre on the [Department of Justice website](#).

The Programme Stakeholder Reference Group met remotely on 13th June.

- Members met to discuss the work of the programme and consider draft proposals on engagement and participation of young people with the work of the programme.
- Members also received a presentation from the Department of Health and the South Eastern Health and Social Care Trust on the *Signs of Safety* practice method.

The Programme Board met remotely on 23rd June.

- Members met to discuss the work of the programme and consider the draft programme implementation plan.
- Members also received a presentation from the Education Authority in support of the development of a shared model of education and training across Lakewood and Woodlands.



Find Out More

You can find more information about the Programme on the [Department of Health](#) and the [Department of Justice](#) websites.

Or you can contact us via:

RegFacilitiesProgrammeTeam@health-ni.gov.uk for more information or suggestions for future editions of *the Link*.

