Cross Boundary Protocol on Good Practice For the Midlands Region

Principles

The main principle of these protocols is that generally the host authority "where the person is" is responsible for the assessment and provision of services to those perceived to be at risk or in need. This principle extends to all service user-groups.

Background

These protocols cover the operation of Emergency Duty teams with respect to Vulnerable adults and children who require a service that has been identified out of hours and who are away from their normal place of residence. They are intended to supplement (and not replace) existing inter authority protocols. They are not intended to be exhaustive. They will provide the basis for settling disputes about responsibility and cover the financial implications of a provision of a service.

Definitions

> • Resident authority: Normal place of residence of service user. Where this is a child and those with parental responsibility live in different authorities, this will be the authority where the child has had a home address for the previous 3 months.

> • Host Authority: The SSD who covers the area where a statutory need for Social Services intervention is identified.

Liaison

Where a service user is identified as needing a service it is important that there is liaison between the Host Authority and the Resident Authority at an early stage. This discussion should establish the nature of previous contact (if known) and any risks involved to the service user or to any service provider. In all cases family members and (where appropriate medical contacts) should be identified and appropriate contact arrangements discussed. The Resident Authority may offer to provide a service. However, in the absence of such an offer the responsibility lies with the Host Authority.

If the service user is a child or Young Person this discussion should include:

- The notification of any orders
- Whether or he/she is subject to any proceedings
- Whether or he/she is on a Child Protection Plan.

If the service user requires a mental health assessment / MCA this should include:

- Information relating to previous hospital admissions/assessments
- Assistance in identifying diagnosis and accessing medical records.
- Assistance with identifying the nearest relative.

Response

Provision of services may vary considerably between local authorities. (For example some areas operate a voluntary help scheme for Appropriate Adults whilst other areas provide the service directly). The response to a request for a service should be the same as if the service user lives in the same local authority.

The Host Authority has the duty to assess the risk and is responsible for managing that risk.

Once an assessment has been made, the Resident Authority may be invited to provide a service. However the responsibility remains with the Host Authority.

Where the Resident Authority is also the Parent Authority, i.e hold PR or provide LAC accommodation, they will be expected to provide a service. (This may include facilitating a return to the Resident Authority). However, if they are unable to do so because of practical difficulties, then the Host Authority will provide the service on their behalf.

A resident Authority will be expected to be responsible financially and the Host Authority can re-claim any costs associated with care and/or transport. In all other cases the Host Authority is responsible for financing the response. In any event this should be discussed and agreed in advance of any expenditure.

Children and Young Persons

Nothing in this document should in itself be construed as overriding the parental responsibility of the natural family.

Out of Hours, children often come to the attention of EDTs as a result of a number of circumstances:

- Being in the need of a responsible parent
- Requiring a Child Protection Investigation

• Requiring an Appropriate Adult

In each of these situations the Host Authority will have the prime role in Determining responsibility, assessing the need and providing the necessary service to resolve the situation. If the resolution of this assessment is to return the child to their Resident Authority, the parent(s) should be invited to collect their children. If they are unable to do so then it is the responsibility of the Host Authority to affect the return.

If the child is looked after or the subject of a care order, this responsibility will Transfer to the resident (Parent) Authority.

(April 2013)

Specific arrangements between Telford & Wrekin EDT and Shropshire EDT

There have been numerous changes in service provision across the county of Shropshire by other agencies which include Health, police and courts. There to ensure balance work within each of EDTs it is important that the following additional arrangements are in place:-

- any referral that needs direct contact from Princess Royal Hospital, Royal Shrewsbury Hospital, Malinsgate police station and Shrewsbury police station will need to go to resident EDT,
- Court referrals and Redwood referrals go to resident EDT given that there is only one court available in Telford and only one place of safety suite in Shrewsbury within whole of the county
- Mental Health Act assessment referrals where the EDT duty worker has personal relationship / connection with the patient will ask the other EDT to complete Mental Health Act assessment on resident EDT's behalf. The other local authority can consider whether they have capacity to support resident EDT.
- Within any of these specific arrangements between Shropshire and Telford EDT it will be important that the resident EDT will liaise with host EDT to consider capacity and negotiate assistance and support.
- Team managers can meet quarterly to review arrangements
- Any dissatisfaction can be raised between team managers and resolved, if this requires escalation this will be raised with identified senior managers across both local authorities.

  Signed Shropshire EDT Senior Social Worker Mike Cripps...

  Signed Telford EDT team manager Helen Jones..

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