



Tees, Esk and Wear Valleys

NHS Foundation Trust

County Durham CAMHS December 2022

Waits for assessment

217 patients waiting for assessment with an average wait of 20 days; a very positive position which compares very favourably with national benchmarks.

Waits for treatment

There are some significant delays for some forms of treatment, particularly those requiring a psychologist or consultant psychiatrist to deliver, due to shortages in that part of the workforce.

976 patients classed as waiting for treatment.

The average time waiting is 189 days but there is significant range and variation on this depending on the team and intervention required.

We would aim for treatment to commence within 3 months. Nationally this metric counts 'contacts' and sets a target for the 2nd 'contact' to happen within 6 weeks.

TEWV have a strict definition of 'treatment', the contacts, advice and support offered to these patients who are waiting would be considered 'treatment' in other CAMHS services nationally and counted as such.

There are also significant caveats with regards to the data quality; we are currently working through an issue whereby for young people who have been open to CAMHS for a significant period of time (e.g., those awaiting neurodevelopmental assessment), when a 'new' mental health need is identified and a 'new' wait begins, it is measured by our system from the very start of their journey in CAMHS. This issue is affecting approximately 50% of our waiters, skewing the average waits data, making it longer.

This is a key area for ongoing improvement work.

Community Eating Disorders

The Community Eating Disorders service is consistently achieving its targets for access which are monitored nationally.

'Routine' referrals seen within 4 weeks.

'Urgent' referrals seen within 1 week.

Neurodevelopmental assessment service

3,466 patients waiting an average of 346 days.

National lockdowns created a backlog as observations and assessments could not take place in the required settings.

Referral rates increased by up to 300% post lockdowns.

This is a key area for ongoing improvement work.