

Mental Health Services 2011
Inspection of Mental Health Services
in Day Hospitals

DAY HOSPITAL INSPECTED	Tallaght
EXECUTIVE CATCHMENT AREA	Dublin West, Dublin South East, Dublin South City
HSE AREA	Dublin Mid-Leinster
CATCHMENT POPULATION	80,000-90,000
LOCATION	Sheaf House, Exchange Buildings, Tallaght
TOTAL NUMBER OF PLACES	15 - 17
DATE OF INSPECTION	30 May 2011

Details

Service description

The day hospital serving the Tallaght sector was located near the Adelaide, Meath and National Children's Hospital (AMNCH) in Tallaght. The day hospital and day centre occupied the second floor of a modern building which was bright and spacious. The day hospital opened from 0900h to 1645h daily, Monday to Friday. At weekends service users could attend by appointment or staff on duty could carry out home visits if necessary.

Service users attended for a full day from 1030h to 1500h and attended a mix of group and individual sessions. Lunch was available for all service users in a café located on the ground floor of the building and was funded by the mental health service.

Premises

CHECKPOINT	RESPONSE
Are the premises part of a psychiatric hospital?	No
Are the premises an independent building?	Yes
Are the premises purpose built?	Yes
Are the premises accessible by public transport?	Yes
Is the sector HQ located in Day Hospital?	Yes
How many activity rooms are there for service users?	3
How many service users are attending?	12-13
Is there a facility for providing hot meals?	Yes

Referral procedure

All referrals came through the sector team, by a variety of ways. Referrals were from the out-patient clinic, from the approved centre, from the community psychiatric nurse or from the home based treatment team. A referral form was completed for each person and the programme of treatment was discussed by the multidisciplinary team. The waiting time between referral and appointment at the day hospital was a few days. Depot and daily medication was administered at the day hospital.

Staffing levels

POST	NUMBER WTE	SESSIONS PER WEEK
Consultant psychiatrist	3	3
Nursing staff	3	Full-time
NCHD	5	No dedicated sessions, but available as required
Occupational therapist	1	No dedicated sessions, but available as required
Psychologist	3	No dedicated sessions, but available as required
Social worker	2	No dedicated sessions, but available as required
Activities therapist	0	0
Other – Dietician	1	1

Range of services provided

Service users attended group and individual sessions. Most groups were run by the nurses. Groups were also held on a regular basis by the occupational therapist, sometimes in conjunction with the dietician, for example groups on Stress Management and Healthy Living. The occupational therapist also held individual sessions for individuals and service users also had one-to-one sessions with their key worker. Domiciliary visits were not carried out by the day hospital staff, but members of the home based treatment team visited service users in their homes if necessary. Staff reported that the average length of attendance in the day hospital was between four to six weeks.

All attendees at the day hospital had individual multidisciplinary care plans; these were the same as those used in the approved centre and throughout the service. The clinical files of four service users were examined. All had individual care plans and up-to-date regular clinical notes. Two of the service users had been attending since January 2011, one since February 2011 and one had been recently referred.

Service user input

Service users signed their individual care plan.

Quality initiatives in 2011

- The service had emphasised the Recovery model approach to treatment in the past year.

Operational policies

The service had a number of policies relating to the operation of the day hospital. There was a policy on risk management, admission, discharge, and home visits. Incidents were recorded on the STARSweb tracking system and forwarded to management for review. All attendees had a Risk Of Violence Assessment (ROVA) carried out at the time of assessment. There was an ongoing system of mandatory staff training, and two staff had just recently completed a Psychosocial Intervention Course.

Planning

The service was planning to introduce an Assertive Outreach Team during the summer of 2011 as a result of which, a day hospital service would be available after 1700h.

Conclusions

The day hospital for the Tallaght sector was conveniently located in a modern premises which was easily accessible by public transport. It offered a full-time programme of individual and group sessions for 15 –17 attendees. The service had three to four vacancies at the time of inspection. It was very good to note that all attendees had individual care plans, a system which was in use throughout the service and that policies relevant to the day hospital were in place. It was somewhat surprising to note that although all team members were located on site, none of the health and social care professionals provided dedicated sessions to attendees of the day hospital. Staff reported that the average length of attendance was four to six weeks, but in the case of three of the four attendees whose clinical files were seen, their attendance had been considerably longer than that.

Recommendations and areas for development

- 1. A review of service users in relation to length of attendance at the day hospital should take place regularly.*
- 2. Consideration should be given to establishing dedicated sessions by health and social care professionals in the day hospital.*