

Reading Families' Forum

A voice for families of children and young people with special educational needs and/or disabilities

COFFEE AFTERNOON 20th March 2023 via Zoom

New Keyworker Scheme

Emma Mapes, Keyworking Team Lead, joined Fran Morgan and Ramona Bridgman from Reading Families' Forum and two other parent carers.

The Keyworking team covers Reading, West Berkshire and Wokingham. It is set up for young people up to 18 who are autistic and/or have a learning disability and are at risk of being admitted to a psychiatric unit.

It works with those young people who are in a psychiatric unit or who are in immediate or imminent risk of being admitted. The team can also do consultations on young people who are suffering but not at immediate risk of being admitted to hospital.

If a young person is waiting for an assessment of autism, the Keyworking Team can support them.

With the permission of the parents (or young people 16 years or above and able to give consent) the young person's name will be placed on the new Dynamic Support Register. The DSR includes the young person's initials, NHS number, address, who lives with them and any legal status. This is stored securely.

The Keyworker will identify the gaps in services or blocks to the young person's recovery and, if they are in hospital, check that they are getting the appropriate support they need. Support may include health, education, social care or benefits.

The assessment will hear young people's voice as well as their family and will be holistic - looking at young people's, siblings and families' needs. If the young person can't engage in the work, the Keyworker team will work with the parents. The aim is to reduce pressures and give the young person and their family hope for the future.

The Keyworker Team is independent of CAMHS but can access their records.

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Parent carer forums like the Reading Families' Forum and SEND youth forums.

If your young person is autistic and/or has a learning disability and you have concerns about their mental health, you can contact Emma at keyworkingteam@berkshire.nhs.net.

Emma will follow up issues that parents have raised today.

RB 23/03/23