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**Evaluating and Improving
Children & Young People’s Mental Health Services:
a Self-Assessment Tool for System Leaders**

**Rate each statement below on a scale from 0 (strongly disagree)** to **10 (strongly agree)**.
Use the examples to help guide your rating.

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| **Self-Assessment Statements** | 0-10 |
| **Everyone knows where to go, who to contact, and how to access help if/when needed.**0-3 (Poor) Confusion about how to access support; poor communication and strained relationships between teams/services.8-10 (Excellent) Clear, consistent communication channels; everyone is well-informed about where to go and how to get help. | Rating |
| **Children and young people can access services in a timely manner.** 0-3: Long or unknown or hidden waiting lists; urgent cases struggle to get immediate help. Clinical harm regularly occurring.8-10: Outperforming waiting time standards. Routine support within 4 weeks; urgent cases always supported within timeframes. | Rating |
| **Children and young people receive the right level of support based on their needs.**0-3: Over-reliance on specialist services, lack of early intervention, young people ‘bounce’ between teams/services/pathways.8-10: Well-balanced services, no ‘bottlenecks’; with clear pathways and integration from early help to specialist care. | Rating |
| **Children, young people, and families remain engaged throughout their care journey.**0-3: High drop-out rates/re-referrals, families and professionals report children and families feel unheard and unsupported.8-10: High retention rate, and completion rate, evidenced through ROMs, low re-referral rates, high satisfaction and feedback. | Rating |
| **Young people and families are actively involved in decisions about their care.**0-3: Families feel excluded from decisions; not offered choice; feel ‘done to’, unheard, unsupported.8-10: Shared decision making, personalised care plans, young people and families involved in/chair MDT/multi-agency meetings. | Rating |
| **Children and young people achieve the goals they set in treatment.**0-3: Young People’s needs are not met, high re-referral rates (or dissatisfaction in feedback), high incidents of clinical harm.8-10: Young People meet and exceed therapy goals, high numbers of young people avoid, and/or return from, inpatient care. | Rating |
| **Services routinely monitor and use outcome measures (ROMs) and service feedback effectively.**0-3: No collection of ROMs or feedback, frequent complaints, feedback not acted upon or communicated.8-10: Strong satisfaction, ROMs and feedback drive service improvements and personal care plan adjustments. | Rating |
| **Services provide evidence-based interventions aligned with CYPIAPT and NICE guidelines.**0-3: Incorrect or inconsistent use of evidence-base. Young People have limited or no access to evidence-based therapies.8-10: All staff are trained to deliver, and have regular supervision and CPD for, delivering (NICE) recommended interventions. | Rating |
| **Staff receive training, supervision and CPD to support them establish and maintain CYPMH Competencies.**0-3: Competencies not known/Staff feel unsupported and lack key skills and understanding.8-10: Competencies exceeded and regularly reviewed. Consistent & high-quality supervision, training and induction for new staff. | Rating |
| **Staff vacancies are filled in a timely manner to ensure service continuity.**0-3: Persistent staffing gaps lead to long waiting lists and frequently cancelled/rearranged appointments or increasing threshold.8-10: Proactive and planned recruitment; minimal disruption to service delivery; effective use of finances (i.e no agency spend). | Rating |
| **Staff retention is strong, and wellbeing support is in place.**0-3: High turnover; Burnout; Low Morale; High sickness absences relating to work8-10: Staff feel valued, supported, know how to access support if needed, and access to support is high-quality and timely. | Rating |
| **Services are accessible and representative of the local population across all demographic groups.**0-3: Certain groups (e.g., those from ethnic minorities, with additional needs, or from rural areas) struggle to access services.8-10: Services accept self-referral and direct referrals. All groups aware of and access support and/or support is tailored to them. | Rating |
| **Services are well-integrated between health, education, social care, and community/voluntary sectors.**0-3: Siloed working; no information sharing; duplication of, and gaps in, available support. Families do not know who does what.8-10: Strong multi-agency collaboration and shared care planning. Shared information systems. Single referral for all support. | Rating |
| **Transitions between services are smooth and well-managed.**0-3: Young People lost between services, or experience delays and drastic changes in their care without warning or preparation.8-10: Seamless transition with clear planning, joined up (side by side) working, and continuity of care. | Rating |
| **What was your total score?** (maximum 140): | Click or tap here to enter text. |

**How Did You Arrive at Your Scores?**

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| For each question, consider **what evidence or sources** influenced your rating. In how many of the 14 questions did you use or consider: | **None, Some, Half, Most, All** |
| **High Quality, Accurate, Verified, Consistent Quantitative Data** (waiting times, outcome measures, staffing stats, benchmarking data) | Rating |
| **Recent, Representative Service User Feedback** (from children, young people, parents, carers, FFT or other surveys) | Rating |
| **Recent, Representative Staff Feedback** (staff survey results, supervision, exit interviews, Freedom to Speak Up) | Rating |
| **Regular and Consistent Direct Experience** (observations from presence in the service(s), professional judgment) | Rating |
| **Inspection or Audit Reports** (CQC, Ofsted, Healthwatch, NHS Benchmarking, Serious Case/Incident Reviews) | Rating |
| **Other** (please specify):Click or tap here to enter text. | Rating |

 **Confidence in Your Scores**
On a scale of **0-10 (0 = No confidence, 10 = Absolute Confidence)**

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| --- | --- |
| **How confident are you that your ratings accurately reflect your services?**0-3 (Low): Based mainly on gut feeling or limited feedback, and/or from outdated or low quality sources.4-6 (Moderate): Some data or mixed sources, but gaps remain.7-10 (High): Strong evidence base from multiple sources, that is known to be current, consistent and high quality. | Rating |

 **Generate your overall score:** (Maximum 1400)

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| --- | --- |
| **Your total score** [out of 140] **X** **Your confidence score** [0-10] **=** | Click or tap here to enter text. |
| Reflect on your key strengths (which were your highest scores, how do you achieve and maintain them): | Click or tap here to enter text. |
| What are your priority areas for improvement or attention (lowest scoring areas, or an area that most worried you as you scored it): | Click or tap here to enter text. |

**For more resources, or information about available support and training please visit:** [**www.scypf.co.uk**](http://www.scypf.co.uk)