

REFERRAL CRITERIA WHICH WOULD BE MOST APPROPRIATELY DIRECTED TO EAST LANCASHIRE CHILD AND ADOLESCENT SERVICE – CHILD PSYCHIATRY

East Lancashire Child and Adolescent Service (ELCAS – Child Psychiatry) is a specialist mental health child psychiatry service. It accepts referrals for cases which require complex multi-disciplinary interventions and/or psychiatric input.

It is expected that there will have been a range of primary and Tier 2 interventions before ELCAS become involved in a young person’s care. This intervention may, for example, come from the services of Health Visiting, School Nursing, School Counselling, Schools, Children’s Social Care, Children Looked After Services and Child Psychology Services. If following these interventions you feel input from ELCAS is required then please follow the criteria below which will guide you as to whether referral is appropriate.

Referral Criteria

Presenting concerns accepted	Examples
Complex emotional difficulties Psychiatric disorders	<i>Depression/Low mood Anxiety Disorders Obsessive Compulsive Disorder Eating Disorders – anorexia nervosa/bulimia Coping with the mental health consequences of abuse/neglect Psychosis (under the age of 14) Looked after children where there is evidence of a mental health disorder</i>
Complex relationship difficulties	<i>Complex family issues where there is a mental health component for the young person Enmeshed challenging/damaging family relationships High Risk of Family Breakdown where there is evidence of a mental health disorder</i>
Stress and life-event circumstances	<i>Significant unresolved grief affecting mental health trauma Post traumatic stress disorder</i>
Self Harm	<i>Acts of self harm/self injury Suicidal Ideation</i>
Behavioural difficulties associated with emotional distress	<i>Where combined with other disorders Severe attachment difficulties</i>
Mental health management of developmental and neurodevelopmental issues	<i>Autistic Spectrum Conditions (Where combined with other disorders) ADHD –behaviour and pharmacological intervention Tourette’s Syndrome</i>
Complex psychiatric difficulties which have been resistant to previous alternative intervention	<i>Including young people known to the Youth Offending Service</i>

Exclusion criteria	Examples
Persistent & severe conduct difficulties i.e. Criminal behaviour (in the absence of other mental health disorders)	<i>Fire setting, absconding, stealing, other criminal activity (consider Youth Offending Team - YOT)</i>
Sexually exploitative behaviour or extreme sexualised behaviour	<i>Sexual abuse or grooming of others Preoccupation with sexual interests or behaviour inappropriate to developmental stage (other services such as GMAP are available)</i>
Substance misuse	<i>Alcohol, illegal drug use and use of legal highs (other services such as Early Break are commissioned)</i>
Difficulties which are predominantly school-based (in the absence of significant difficulties at home)	<i>Truancy, school refusal unless there is a mental health component</i>
Mild to moderate psychological difficulties	<i>CPS will consider referrals for young people with moderate to severe difficulties in their life and emotional wellbeing. Including complex issues regarding sleep, toileting, eating habits and Social & Communication Difficulties.</i>
Severe Learning Disability	<i>Children with an EHCP that states they have a moderate/severe learning disability (services can be accessed for CAMHS LD via Central CAMHS [Preston/Chorley] in agreement with the local CCG)</i>

ELCAS- Child Psychiatry accepts referrals up until a child's 16th birthday once they have turned 16 a referral to adult services will need to be considered.

PLEASE NOTE:-

Neither ELCAS or Child Psychology Services (CPS) are emergency or crisis services. In situations of urgency we will be happy to advise, but where there is a high level of risk that cannot be managed or an out of hours response is required, please consider using existing emergency pathways. In these circumstances, you should also consider making a referral to Children's Social Care.