

Transgender/gender dysphoria Health Care Needs Assessment: Project proposal

Background

Awareness of transsexualism and gender reassignment has increased greatly in recent years. Alongside this there are reports locally and from elsewhere of notable increases in referrals to gender services. Significant waiting lists have been reported for services in NHSGGC and also in England. These changes in demand need to be further explored to help plan services and ensure equitable access to services.

Aims and objectives

- To carry out a Health Care Needs Assessment (HCNA) that will inform planning of future capacity in NHSGGC gender services
 - Investigate epidemiological evidence of prevalence of transsexualism and gender dysphoria, including changing views of gender amongst young people
 - Attempt to make future projections of demand for services in Scotland
 - Describe models of care for gender services
 - Explore the presence of inequalities in access to services
 - Consider national perspective in collaboration with ScotPHN

Proposed methods

This HCNA will use established and recognised methods (currently used by ScotPHN) and will include epidemiological, corporate and comparative needs assessments. Costs will not be considered at this stage, but could be added later.

Epidemiological needs assessment

- Attempt to make estimates of prevalence, based on literature and preexisting data sources.
- Attempt to make future projections of demand for services based on evidence in literature, current trends in demand, and evidence from longer established large centres.
- Describe current services and patients' pathway through services, including eventual treatments.
- Investigate whether there is evidence of inequalities in access to services, e.g. by geography, using referral data and comparisons with prevalence estimates.

Corporate needs assessment

- Interview staff throughout the UK to obtain expert opinion on current pathway of care, changes in demand for services and potential explanations for these changes.
- Contact and interview relevant trans organisations, e.g. Scottish Transgender Alliance.
- Contact and interview relevant patient groups, if possible.
- In collaboration with ScotPHN, form a discussion group to consider the national perspective of how NHSGGC gender services relate to other areas in Scotland. This group may be made up of representatives from ScotPHN, NSD, Sandyford and regional Public Health representatives.

Comparative needs assessment

- Describe other models of care using evidence from the literature and through contacts with other clinics.

Timescale

- Report by June 2017