

Research Brief for:

## **Enhanced Housing Support Model for Young People with Acute Mental Health Needs**

### **Setting the scene**

Look Ahead are a supported housing provider with almost 50 years' experience in the homelessness sector and who deliver a wide range of supported housing services for young people.

In partnership with the Wates Family Enterprise Trust we, are seeking to commission a research partner to understand and suggest children and young people community based mental health solutions which deliver improved clinical outcomes and improved user experience.

We are seeking a research partner to assess the extent to which young people who are in mental health crisis are being placed in sub optimal environments; where that is happening and why; and seek to explore whether community-based housing interventions can successfully address this problem.

We would like our research partner to help to define the research approach, geographical area, and outline the expected length for the project to be completed. They will also be encouraged to recommend individuals to sit on the steering group.

Bidders are invited to submit comprehensive proposals that include, at a minimum:

- Previous experience
- Methodology
- Ethics
- Personnel
- Equality, diversity and inclusion
- Incentives (if applicable)
- Budget

Proposals should be no more than four sides of A4 and should be submitted to [evazeeb@lookahead.org.uk](mailto:evazeeb@lookahead.org.uk) by 7 Feb 2022.

### **Project Summary**

Evidence shows that being able to support people with mental health needs in the least restrictive setting, i.e. the community, is both better for patient outcomes and more cost effective than long-term hospitalisation. It also offers advantages for individuals, such as being able to maintain regular contact with friends, family and the wider community. Through this project, Look Ahead want to work with the wider sector to better understand the needs of young people aged 16-24 with mental health needs, especially those in crisis who currently cannot be adequately supported in the community. We

want to contribute meaningful research around potential solutions to these issues in order to create better outcomes for young people facing in-patient admissions, potentially far from home.

## **Purpose**

Look Ahead believe that developing an enhanced specialist pathway model could support young people with complex/challenging needs to receive care and support required closer to home; at lower cost; and with better outcomes. Incorporating a strong therapeutic offer with enhanced support, such a service could have a huge impact on the lives of young people, offering them a safe and stable home during a time of crisis and the support to transition to independent living. Look Ahead would like to undertake a research project to quantify the need for such services, understand exactly what it should look like to meet the needs of this target group and create a compelling social and economic case for such provision.

Project implementation will involve:

- Creating a steering group of senior Look Ahead staff, external experts in social care, mental health and child and adolescent mental health services to oversee and guide the research process and selection of an external research partner;
- Commissioning an external research partner to consult with NHS commissioners, Social Services, CAMHS (Children and Adolescent Mental Health Services), other providers and support staff and young people and their families to scope the current community-based support offer and pathways available;
- Using these findings to suggest what an ideal community supported living environment would look like for these young people and analyse the financial viability/ case of establishing such a service model;
- Creating and sharing a research report with the findings

## **Project Aims**

Through this project we aim to:

1. *Quantify the need for and raise awareness of the lack of adequate support services for young people experiencing acute mental ill health* – we will gain a clear understanding of what provision is currently available for young people experiencing severe mental health problems and which groups of young people are not accessing the support they require/ the right support. Using these findings, we will identify and highlight where there are gaps in provision.

2. *Recommend new, innovative services that better support young people with acute mental ill health* – With our research partner we will examine how the gap in provision could be more effectively met with new service models and what an excellent community-based support environment for young people experiencing severe mental health problems should look like. This may include recommendations for incorporating a strong therapeutic offer and enhanced support focusing on the

specific needs of young people. By analysing the costs and potential cost savings of such a service model we will highlight the potential social and economic return on investment.

*3. Improve outcomes for young people with acute mental health needs* - The research report outlining our findings and recommendations for innovative services that better support young people with severe mental ill health will be used to influence policy and key decision makers to focus more resources on this service provision. Where we have gained specific insight into a level of need in a geographic area, we will also look to pilot services which meet this need together with local clinical experts and social care commissioning using our housing stock.

### **Audience**

To maximise the impact of the research, we will ensure a comprehensive dissemination plan that could include promotion to:

- Local authorities
- Health and Social Care commissioners
- ICPs
- CAHMS
- Policy Makers
- Voluntary sector partners

### **Methods, sampling and analysis**

We invite bidders to submit and justify their ideas for the most appropriate and effective methodology, which should include both desk-based research and field work, with qualitative and quantitative elements.

### **Research outputs**

- An interim research report, summarising findings to date and highlighting high need local authorities
- Raw Data and Health Economics
- A final research report including an executive summary

### **Line management**

The researchers will be line managed by Rosa Napolitano, Executive Director of Business Development and Innovation at Look Ahead.

### **Research advisory group**

A research advisory group will meet at three monthly intervals to review the progress of the research. The group will comprise of:

- Chris Hampson, CEO, Look Ahead Care and Support (Chair)
- Stephen Firn, Board Director, Look Ahead Care and Support
- Felicity Mallam, Wates Family Trust E Director
- Rosa Napolitano, Executive Director of New Business and Innovation, Look Ahead
- Lynn Gradwell, Director of Young People, Look Ahead
- Angelina Morgan, Director of Mental Health, Look Ahead
- Other representatives from partner agencies TBC

### Timescales

Activity	Date
RFP released	27 January 2022
Bid submission	7 February 2022
Bid evaluation	w/c 7 February 2022
Notification of scores	w/c 17 February 2022
Ethical assessment of winning bid	February 2022
Final verdict	March 2022
Contract begins	March 2022
Research advisory group meetings	Every 2-3 months from contract start
Interim report produced and submitted	5 months after contract start
Final report and research outputs produced and submitted	7 months after contract start
Dissemination	8 months after contract start

### Budget

The financial envelope for this research is c. £24,000 - £27,000 inclusive of VAT, which includes staff costs, travel and overheads. Dissemination costs will be covered by Look Ahead. Bidders are expected to submit a comprehensive budget with their proposals.

### Right to publish: intellectual property

All research outputs and related documentation will be the intellectual property of Look Ahead. The successful bidder will be permitted to publish materials only with Look Ahead's prior approval.