

# Leeds Local Medical Committee Limited

Registered Office: 2 Farrar Lane, Leeds, West Yorkshire. LS16 7AA

Registered in England and Wales – Registered number 7287736

Tel: (0113) 295 1460 fax: (0113) 295 1461 email: [mail@leedslmc.org](mailto:mail@leedslmc.org) website: [www.leedslmc.org](http://www.leedslmc.org) Twitter: @Leedslmc

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25 February 2015

Joseph Krasinski  
Lead Emotional Wellbeing and Mental Health Consultant  
and TaMHS Project Manager  
Health and Wellbeing Service  
Children's Services  
Leeds City Council

## By email

Dear Joseph

### Re: TaMHS service and Emotional and Mental Health Services for children in Leeds

Thank you for your email of today's date. As you know, the LMC found the meeting on 29<sup>th</sup> January helpful and we appreciate your input and that of the school representatives.

It is difficult however to be definitive about our current perception of TaMHS, as no comprehensive service is yet in place. The GP pilot scheme is operating in certain areas of Leeds and you informed us that it is working well. However, the information about the scheme has not yet filtered down to all GPs in the pilot areas. We have had reports from GPs in the pilot areas being unaware that they were in the pilot scheme at all. We are also aware of GPs, in the pilot areas, being asked to complete inappropriate questionnaires/assessments, although I understand that you have now sorted out this issue. I understood from our meeting that all the pupil assessments would be carried out by TaMHS staff.

Leeds LMC looks forward to receiving full details of the evaluation of the pilot scheme in due course. The full rollout of the pilot would go some way towards meeting the concerns of the LMC, particularly with regard to access for all Leeds children even if they attend school outside the city and for children attending private schools or being home-schooled. As I understand the full service roll out would also mean that some of the issues regarding the gaps in service between the TaMHS and CAMHS services would be addressed and that the two services would work together to ensure that all patients needs are met. Please could you confirm that the full service will be available in all areas by September 2015?

It is essential that the full rollout happens quickly as we have had issues with children's mental health services and access to such services for 2 years now and despite raising concerns at various levels progress has been very slow in addressing these issues. Although we were reassured to some degree that the TaMHS pilots were progressing well and that some of our concerns were being addressed, there was some frustration that this information had not been relayed to us during our numerous letters, meetings and discussions regarding children's mental health services.

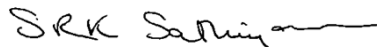
I would also mention that the LMC is continuing to hear reports that some schools are finding it difficult to access adequate TaMHS support for their pupils given the level of need and referrals which school clusters are experiencing.

The emotional and mental health of our children is a critical matter for Leeds and it is worrying to read press reports of increasing numbers of young people in our city experiencing mental health problems.

With regard to the LMC letter of 23<sup>rd</sup> July, we received a response on behalf of the three Leeds CCGs dated 19<sup>th</sup> August and I enclose a copy for your information. I had shared minutes of our meeting with you and the cluster leads with Councillor Coupar and Steven Courtney of the Scrutiny Board. Hopefully this letter will relay our current perceptions of the service further.

I know that the LMC's concerns are shared fully by you and your colleagues and we look forward to continuing to work with you on this urgent matter.

Yours sincerely



**DR RAJ SATHIYASEELAN**  
**Medical Secretary**

Copy: Councillor Flynn, Leeds City Council  
Councillor Coupar, Leeds City Council  
Steven Courtney, Principal Scrutiny Adviser, Leeds City Council

**Enc.**