

Dear colleagues,

RE: CHANGES TO RISK ASSESSMENT AT LYPFT

For a number of years, LYPFT have predominantly used the FACE Risk Profile as its primary risk assessment tool, with a small number of services using an alternative tool called SAMP. Significant work has been underway in the Trust to review our approach to risk assessment and management, in line with national guidance.

National guidance and the current evidence base makes it clear that risk stratification and scoring (e.g. numbers or categories such as low, medium, high risk) should not be used. In particular, such categorisation, scales or tools should not be used to predict future risks or determine treatment choices and decisions, and a more person-centred and formulation-based approach is encouraged. All Trusts have been asked by NHS England to “review the use of risk assessment tools and scales and develop highly personalised assessment and management of needs, risks and contexts”. It is also part of the national Culture of Care Programme to embrace a personalised approach to risk.

With this in mind, continued use of our existing risk assessment tools was not felt to be in line with best practice, and in addition to our own internal findings, learning and feedback, a change was needed. An alternative risk assessment template has been developed and created within our electronic patient record system, called the Risk Assessment and Management Plan (RAMP). This will replace the use of FACE and SAMP across all services. It is hoped that the new template will bring the following benefits, which will be measured as part of the evaluation process over the coming months and years.

- Removal of risk scoring / stratification, in line with national guidance
- More individualised and person-centred risk assessments and management plans
- A narrative approach which encourages staff to capture context rather than listing risks without meaning
- Formulation driven – analysis of the information and the different factors that influence a person’s risks, with clearer reference to individual risk factors and triggers
- Strengths based – emphasises protective factors as well as risk factors
- Encourages collaborative safety planning
- Encourages concise and summarised documentation so it communicates the ‘must know’ information clearly, accurately and succinctly.
- Simple, accessible and flexible – can be brief while having the flexibility and fluidity to expand for more complex situations

RAMP went live on our patient record system on 25th November 2024, with a transition period to switch over to the new documentation fully by the end of February 2025.

We are sharing this with you for information, but also with an ask for you to consider what this means for your service and any adjustments that may be required to your own processes or practices. For example, please remove any reference to FACE / SAMP within referral forms or criteria. Also please do not expect to see or ask for risk to be defined by categories or scores, as this is no longer being used as described above.

If you have any questions about any of the information within this document, please contact miriam.blackburn@nhs.net