

Thrive Model for CAMHS

The Anna Freud Centre and Tavistock and Portman NHS (2014)

The THRIVE model below conceptualises four clusters (or groupings) for young people with mental health issues and their families, as part of the wider group of young people who are supported to thrive by a variety of prevention and promotion initiatives in the community.

The image to the left describes the input that offered for each group; that to the right describes the state of being of people in that group - using language informed by consultation with young people and parents with experience of service use.



Each of the four groupings is distinct in terms of:

Needs and/or choices of the individuals within each group⁶

- Skill mix required to meet these needs
- Dominant metaphor used to describe needs (wellbeing, ill health, support)
- Resources required to meet the needs and/or choices of people in that group
- The groups are not distinguished by severity of need or type of problem.

The middle designation of “thriving” is included to indicate the wider community needs of the population supported by prevention and promotion initiatives

Thrive replaces the tiered model with a conceptualisation of a whole system approach that addresses the key issues outlined above and is aligned to emerging thinking on payment systems, quality improvement and performance management. The framework outlines groups of children and young people, and the sort of support they may need, and tries to draw a clearer distinction between treatment on the one hand and support on the other. It focuses on a wish to build on individual and community strengths wherever possible, and to ensure children, young people and families are active decision makers in the process of choosing the right approach. Rather than an escalator model of increasing severity or complexity, we suggest a framework that seeks to identify somewhat resource-homogenous groups (it is appreciated that there will be large variations in need within each group) who share a conceptual framework as to their current needs and choices.

Getting Advice: Within this grouping would be children, young people and families adjusting to life circumstances, with mild or temporary difficulties, where the best intervention is within the community with the possible addition of self-support. This group may also include, however, those with chronic, fluctuating or ongoing severe difficulties, for which they are choosing to manage their own health and/or are on the road to recovery.

Getting Help: This grouping comprises those children, young people and families who would benefit from focused, evidence-based treatment, with clear aims, and criteria for assessing whether aims have been achieved. This grouping would include children and young people with difficulties that fell within the remit of NICE guidance but also where it was less clear which NICE guidance would guide practice.

Getting More Help: This grouping comprises those young people and families who would benefit from extensive long-term treatment which may include inpatient care, but may also include extensive outpatient provision.

Getting Risk Support: This grouping comprises those children, young people and families who are currently unable to benefit from evidence-based treatment but remain a significant concern and risk. This group might include children and young people who routinely go into crisis but are not able to make use of help offered, or where help offered has not been able to make a difference; who self-harm; or who have emerging personality disorders or ongoing issues that have not yet responded to treatment.