

## SPSO decision report

**Case:** 202001237, Lanarkshire NHS Board  
**Sector:** Health  
**Subject:** clinical treatment / diagnosis  
**Decision:** not upheld, no recommendations

### Summary

C has an adopted child who has a diagnosis of Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD). A's behaviour is so challenging that both parents fear A will cause serious harm to themselves or to them.

C wished A to be prescribed medication for their ADHD, but Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS) said that they required to carry out a face-to-face assessment before medication could be prescribed. They said they were unable to offer this at present because of COVID-19 restrictions. C considered that A needed urgent input, but the board said that A's need was not considered urgent. The board said that they would see A as soon as they were able to. C complained that the board had failed to assess A's need for CAMHS treatment as urgent.

We took independent advice from a consultant child and adolescent psychologist. We considered that A's need for treatment had been appropriately assessed with reference to COVID-related criteria. We did not uphold C's complaint.

We were, however, critical of the delays in assessment of A's condition and commented that, were it not for these delays, A should by now have had the opportunity of psychiatric review and clinical treatment.