

CABINET  
20<sup>th</sup> June 2006

COUNTY COUNCIL  
17<sup>th</sup> July 2006

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**“PATHWAYS FOR CHANGE” AND “MAINSTREAMING MENTAL HEALTH” –  
PROPOSALS FOR CHANGES TO NHS SERVICES  
AND THE POTENTIAL IMPACT TO WILTSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL**

**Purpose of Report**

- 1 To present an addendum to the report submitted for the Advisory Panel on 27<sup>th</sup> April 2006 and to advise members of the possible implications for Wiltshire County Council on social care services as well as the financial implications arising from the proposals of the NHS in the above documents.

**Background**

2. The new proposals centre on treating more people locally in their own homes, in Primary Care Centres and through in-reach services. It represents a fundamental shift in the way that the NHS currently provides its services in Wiltshire in line with the two Government documents, ‘Our health, our care, our say ‘ and ‘Everybody’s Business’.
3. To an extent, the direction and philosophy outlined by the NHS is similar to the vision for adult social services: a focus on preventative care to reduce the number of admissions to a hospital bed; flexible care when and where people need it in order to support them to live independently at home; good value for money; reduction of the overspend.
4. The Primary Care Trusts (PCTs) for Kennet & North Wiltshire and West Wiltshire have presented three options. The decision will be made on which of these paths to follow after the consultation process has ended in July. Within each of these proposals there are some potential specific impacts on the County Council.
5. The same PCTs, in conjunction with Avon and Wiltshire Mental Health Partnership (AWP), have laid out other proposals to deliver change to local mental health services. These proposals also suggest potential impact for the County Council.
6. This report does not include any individual views expressed by members.

## **Main Considerations for the Council**

7. Further detailed information on proposals has been sought from the PCTs and AWP. Some detail has been provided by PCT Directors but further information is awaited. A background document (referred to in the 'Mainstreaming Mental Health' consultation document) has not been forthcoming by AWP. Lack of specific details on the proposals makes it difficult to quantify the full likely impact.
8. Any social care provided to people experiencing a medical incident who are being supported outside a hospital setting will have a direct impact on the service users as a result of our means testing through the fairer charging policy.

### **'Pathways for Change'**

9. All options propose that the existing community hospitals in their present form are closed. with a reduced inpatient facility available through either New Generation Hospitals or by commissioning beds in the nursing home sector. This leaves new Neighbourhood Teams to provide a 24 hour cover to the community and support more patients in their own home.

**IMPACT: Likely demand for increase in social care domiciliary support. and placement in residential/nursing care**

10. All options propose a reduction in current general bed capacity from 158 (excluding the existing 20 stroke beds which will continue) to a maximum of 74 (eight of those being ring fenced for physical health/mental health (dementia) patients).

**IMPACT: More people placed in residential/nursing care and in the community on high packages of social care domiciliary support. Increased strain placed on carers, relatives and friends.**

11. It will depend on which of the three options is chosen whether the future stock of general patient beds is sourced through the private/voluntary nursing home sector, direct from one of the acute hospitals or within a NHS New Generation Hospital.

**IMPACT: If the choice is Option One from the NHS consultation document, there may be an insufficient stock of private / voluntary sector nursing home beds in the market place in some areas of the county. This will push up price, result in unavailability to meet demand for both the NHS and adult social care needs and risk compromising standards.**

### **‘Mainstreaming Mental Health’**

12. The Mental Health proposals indicate that the hospital day service provision for older adults will cease and the work will be incorporated into the work of the community teams.

**IMPACT: Likely requirement to provide day care/respice care and increase the domiciliary care to those in critical or substantial category in order to support the regular carer in his/her caring role.**

13. The Mental Health proposals are for an alternative to the hospital day service provision for adults of working age which will be offered by the community teams through an individual treatment programme.

**IMPACT: More time spent in own home suggests likely requirement for increase of domiciliary care to those in critical or substantial categories in order to maintain them in their own home and to support the regular carer in his/her caring role.**

N.B. There have been some initial discussions with AWP about partnership arrangements for in-reach services to nursing, residential and day services which may reduce any escalation into nursing home placements.

### **Environmental Impact of the Proposal**

14. With the closure of the community hospitals there is likely to be an increase in distance travelled by inpatients and their relatives and friends. This increase might be offset by a corresponding decrease in travel requirement because more people will be treated in their own homes or in centres close to their homes.
15. For those without their own transport, or access to a voluntary mode of transport, there is likely to be a requirement to make available an appropriate public transport system.

### **Risk Assessment**

16. The risks relating to the cost pressures of the NHS have previously been reported to members.
17. These proposals will have a financial impact on the Council. The situation will be monitored. Any further implications will be identified and reported once the final decision has been announced.

### **Financial Implications**

18. The attached appendix shows that the proposals could result in an additional cost pressure of £0.750 million in a full financial year. However, until the consultation process is completed and a decision is made by the PCT about

when the changes will take place, it is not possible to determine when this cost pressure will arise.

19. If the changes commence in the current financial year then other service reductions will need to be made this year to compensate. This can only be determined once the intentions of the PCTs are known.
20. The service and financial implications will need to be built into planning arrangements for 2007-08.

### **Options Considered**

21. To accept the proposals as outlined without challenge, including the service and financial consequences.
22. To respond to the proposals with concerns about the service and financial implications which require further discussions in order to plan and deliver the changes to meet the overall objectives of all public bodies. To seek a funding contribution from the PCTs in order to mitigate the cost implications to the County Council.

### **Reasons for Proposals**

23. To provide sufficient information to members to enable them to formulate their response to the proposals outlined in the two consultation documents, 'Pathways for Change' and 'Mainstreaming Mental Health'

### **Proposals**

24. That the Cabinet is recommended to:
  - (i) Note the likely general impact of the proposals on social care services and the financial implications.
  - (ii) Highlight that impact within the council's response to the consultation exercises.
  - (iii) Seek ways to engage with the PCTs and AWP to mitigate the impact of the proposals on Wiltshire County Council and its service users.

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Unpublished documents relied on in the preparation of this report: