

Mainstreaming Mental Health Task Group – Mental Health Trust Board
Decisions Recommendations

Purpose of Report

1. To update the Health Overview & Scrutiny Committee (HOSC) on the work of the Mainstreaming Mental Health Task Group following the end of the Avon & Wiltshire Mental Health Partnership Trust's (AWP) consultation on the future of mental health services in Kennet, North and West Wiltshire.
2. To advise members of the outcome of the AWP Trust Board meeting held on 25 August and the recommendations from that meeting that will be put to the Board of the new Wiltshire Primary Care Trust (PCT) in due course.
3. To introduce the paper from the AWP Board meeting of 25 August 2006 which clearly outline the decisions taken by the Board and the recommendations that will be made to the PCT when it is formed.

Background

4. Following an extensive engagement period in 2005, the Mainstreaming Mental Health consultation ran from 7 April to 7 July 2006. Since the end of the consultation AWP has been collating the feedback and using it to inform a set of recommendations for its own Trust Board and those of the Wiltshire PCT.
5. The AWP Trust Board met on 25 August and received a set of initial recommendations for decisions that it initially intended would be taken forward and implemented independently of the Kennet & North and West Wilts PCT's Pathways for Change consultation.
6. The Board was also informed that a further set of recommendations would be made in due course, following the decisions that would be taken by the PCTs in relation to their own Pathways for Change consultation, which ran concurrently with Mainstreaming Mental Health. This is due to the stated intention of AWP to share some sites at New Generation Community Hospitals with the PCTs, the location of which will not be known until Pathways for Change has concluded. However, as stated on the agenda all decisions will now be taken by the new Wiltshire PCT at some point in the future.

7. Following the AWP Trust Board meeting, officers of the Trust met with the Mainstreaming Mental Health Task Group to brief them about the stage 1 recommendations that would be put to the PCT Boards on 14 September.
8. The recommendations that were submitted to the AWP Trust Board on 25 August are attached at Appendix 1, and describe in full the decisions the Board members were recommended to take.

The AWP Board Recommendations

9. The Mainstreaming Mental Health Task Group agreed that the decisions taken by the AWP Trust Board on 25 August to expand community based services and move away from a predominantly bed based service, would benefit service users in Wiltshire by providing greater choice and the ability to treat more people with mild to moderate conditions in a timely manner.
10. The Task Group has also welcomed the move to re-examine the proposal to close Charter House in Trowbridge with immediate effect after staff, patients and carers had raised objections to the original plan which would have seen them relocating twice in a short period of time. However members recognised that the long term plans for the service would be likely to require that unit to eventually close and new provision to be sought elsewhere.
11. The Task Group will arrange further meetings with representatives from AWP as further recommendations are developed.
12. The Task Group has had access to the independent analysis of the feedback from the consultation, carried out by Redbridge Solutions, as well as detailed background documents that outline the thinking behind the recommendations to the Board. Copies of these documents can be made available to Committee members on request.

Conclusions

13. The Task Group is satisfied that the Trust has given due consideration to the feedback from service users, carers, stakeholders, staff and members of the public in reaching its decisions for the future of its community and primary care based services, which it has called stage 1 decisions.
14. The Task Group accepts that a number of further decisions (stage 2) will relate mainly to services to be provided on sites shared with the Wiltshire PCT.
15. The Task Group is aware that, despite the initial assertion from the PCTs of the importance of being able to make decisions regarding Pathways for Change prior to the merger of the three Wiltshire PCTs, which in fact drove the timescale for public consultation, it has now been announced that decisions will have to be taken by the new PCT. The Task Group expresses concern that this further delay will have an adverse effect on the financial position of AWP and will prevent it from being able to take necessary decisions to modernise and define its services.

Task Group Recommendations

The Task Group recommends that:

The Overview & Scrutiny Committee notes the decisions taken by the AWP Trust Board and the recommendations put to the PCT Boards on 14 September.

The Overview & Scrutiny Committee seeks, from the new Wiltshire PCT, a timeframe for decisions on Pathways for Change at the earliest opportunity.

Financial Implications

There are no financial implications for the County Council in this report.

IAN GIBBONS

Head, Democratic & Member Services

Report Author

JOANNA HOWES

Health Scrutiny Officer