

Mainstreaming Mental Health Task Group – Update Report

Purpose of Report

1. To update the Committee on implementation of Mainstreaming Mental Health and a number of related matters.
2. To suggest an amendment to the terms of reference for the Task Group to allow it to consider commissioning as well as service delivery, in line with the guidance for Health Overview & Scrutiny Committees.

Background

3. The Mainstreaming Mental Health Task Group was formed to comment on and monitor the consultation and implementation of Mainstreaming Mental Health by the Avon and Wiltshire Mental Health Partnership Trust (AWP) and Wiltshire Primary Care Trust (PCT).
4. The Task Group has been meeting regularly since autumn 2005 and has provided updates and commentary to the Committee, as well as providing the formal response to the Mainstreaming Mental Health consultation on behalf of the Committee.
5. Meanwhile, further guidance to Health OSCs, relating to the formation of Local Involvement Networks (LINKs) has indicated that Health OSCs may wish to focus more on the commissioning of services, rather than pure service provision. The Wiltshire Health OSC used some support from the Centre for Public Scrutiny to explore this possibility and agreed this was an area the Committee wanted to develop.

Mainstreaming Mental Health

6. Both AWP and the PCT confirmed that, apart from the older peoples' beds in west Wiltshire, the decisions from the Mainstreaming Mental Health consultation have been implemented.
7. This includes a reduction in beds at Green Lane Hospital and the re-distribution of services in the community.

8. The Task Group has asked for further information regarding monitoring the impact of the service changes and it has been agreed that this will be provided. The trusts and WCC will be looking at admission figures to assess whether the community services are providing sufficient support to prevent or reduce the need for admissions
9. The PCT has now decided to carry out an option appraisal to make the final decision on where beds for older adults will be in West Wiltshire. The Task Group understands the choice to be between Charter House in Trowbridge and Melksham Hospital. This is in line with the discussions held at the time of the Mainstreaming Mental Health and Pathways for Change consultations and the number of beds is likely to be 26.
10. The Task Group is satisfied that, if the discussion continues to be about Melksham and Trowbridge and the number of beds across the county remains the same, further consultation will not be necessary. However, if there should be a significant change in the options available it may be necessary to carry out further consultation and the Health OSC would be expected to agree this.

Implementation of the 2005 South Wiltshire PCT Mental Health Consultation

11. At the May meeting of the Health OSC the Committee heard some concerns regarding the implementation of the changes agreed by South Wiltshire PCT following consultation in 2005 and asked the MMH Task Group to investigate further.
12. The Task Group understands that work to re-commission day and vocational services in south Wiltshire is ongoing and is being treated as a priority in the commissioning framework review being carried out currently by Wiltshire PCT and WCC Department of Community Services.
13. AWP confirmed that arrangements have been made for the individual service users who had been attending the Salisbury Industrial Therapy Unit (SITU) and accepts that the new arrangements must provide good quality services to a nationally accepted standard.
14. The shift towards primary care facilities outlined in Mainstreaming Mental Health has happened across the whole of Wiltshire and the PCT has a clear commitment to provide these, including cognitive behavioural therapy. The IT based treatment for depression, called "Beating the Blues" has begun to be widely used and suits many sufferers.
15. The Task Group asked for an assessment of the impact of the closure of the Grovely Rehab Unit which had been the subject of concerns from a local carer. AWP emphasised that the concerns had been for crisis respite support, and that the need for NHS Hospital based rehabilitation was vastly reduced, but that there was still a need for a greater range of rehabilitative supported accommodation across the county, and that it was important that the plans for this in the new joint PCT - Council Strategy were progressed soon.

The Commissioning Framework Review

16. The Task Group discussed the implications for Mainstreaming Mental Health of the Commissioning review being carried out by Wiltshire County Council and Wiltshire PCT and members were satisfied that the principles outlined and agreed in MMH will be continued by the commissioners through the framework.

Terms of Reference for the Task Group

17. With the exception of the older peoples beds in west Wiltshire, the Task Group is satisfied that Mainstreaming Mental Health has been implemented, although members are concerned that some aspects of the South Wiltshire PCT Mental Health Consultation have not been implemented and some key services not commissioned.
18. However earlier in the year the Health OSC, following development work, agreed that in future, and in line with the direction indicated in the emerging Local Government and Patient & Public Involvement in Health Bill, the Committee would put emphasis on the commissioning of services, as well as continuing to contribute to debates on service delivery.
19. The Task Group suggests that, as well as continuing to monitor the implementation and impact of Mainstreaming Mental Health, the terms of reference are amended to allow the group to work alongside the commissioners and service providers to act as a standing Task Group dealing with mental health issues.

Conclusions

20. Most of the Mainstreaming Mental Health review has been implemented with the exception of beds for older people in West Wiltshire.
21. Some elements of the south Wiltshire consultation of 2005 are still outstanding and, although the commissioners are aware and are being picked up by the commissioning framework review, the Task Group is concerned that the main aim of the South Wiltshire PCT Mental Health Consultation, which was to improve services for mental health users in the area, has not been realised and that key services, such as day and vocational services, are still not in place as part of a long term strategy, but are being provided on an ad hoc basis.
22. The Committee needs to consider how it will begin to focus on commissioning by Wiltshire PCT and WCC, as well as service delivery.

Recommendations

23. That the Task Group continues to monitor the final implementation of Mainstreaming Mental Health and to receive information about the impact of the changes from Wiltshire PCT, Wiltshire County Council Department of Community Services and Avon & Wiltshire Mental Health Partnership Trust.

24. That the terms of reference for the Task Group are amended to allow it to continue by focussing on the commissioning of services as well as service delivery and to provide an expert resource to the Health OSC.

Financial Implications

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