

Mainstreaming Mental Health Task Group – Update Report For Information

Purpose of Report

1. To update the Committee about the most recent decisions regarding the Mainstreaming Mental Health (MMH) consultation, which was carried out in 2006.
2. Also to bring to the attention of the Committee delays in the implementation of service changes relating to the consultation on mental health services that took place in South Wiltshire in early 2005.

Background

3. When the Wiltshire Primary Care Trust (PCT) took its final decisions on the proposals made in the Pathways for Change consultation in January 2007, it was not in a position to take similar decisions relating to the MMH consultation, which had run concurrently.
4. The PCT stated that, as the main commissioner of the services in question, it wanted to carry out more work to model bed numbers before making decisions about how many beds for older adults would be needed and where they would be in Wiltshire.
5. At the time of writing a meeting of the MMH Task Group and the PCT is scheduled for 10 May. The Task Group has been having regular meetings with representatives of the Avon & Wiltshire Mental Health Partnership throughout the process.

Key Points from the PCT Board Paper

6. The Board of the PCT received an update paper on 17 April, outlining the ongoing work relating to the MMH consultation proposals.
7. This paper reiterates that the national policy direction for supporting older people is to maintain independence in their own homes for as long as possible and to improve choice for patients and carers.
8. The MMH consultation proposed that:
 - A range of primary care mental health services would be provided for mild to moderate sufferers which could be accessed through GPs.

- Specialist community mental health services would operate across district council areas, to include early intervention, crisis, intensive home treatment, assessment and planned care.
 - Specialist inpatient services would be offered where appropriate, but would be linked to physical health and social care services to ensure all an individual's needs could be easily met on site.
9. The MMH Task Group has previously stated its support for these strategic aims and has accepted that in order to realise these aims there must be a reduction in the current level of bed-based services and that the remaining beds may be consolidated on a reduced number of sites.
 10. The Health Overview & Scrutiny Committee (HOSC) contributed to the previous consultation on mental health services in South Wiltshire, and the Task Group agrees that, as there is now one PCT for Wiltshire, any development in services should be part of a county wide approach.
 11. The Task Group had also, during the course of the MMH consultation, requested that the balance of inpatient and community services be benchmarked, to ensure the right level of investment is allocated for the full range of services. The Task Group is pleased to see this now appears to have been carried out.
 12. However, at the start of the MMH consultation the intention was to co-locate beds for mental health patients on the same sites as community hospitals, in order to allow access to an appropriate level of physical health services and the Task Group is advocating an open discussion about the location of these inpatient beds before further decisions are taken by the PCT.
 13. The Task Group has been made aware that, despite earlier decisions being taken in South Wiltshire regarding mental health services, some of the agreed changes have still not been implemented, in particular with regard to the industrial therapy unit in Salisbury, for which alternative services have not, as yet been commissioned.
 14. A copy of the report that went to the PCT Board on 17 April is attached for information.

Conclusions

14. It has taken longer than anticipated to reach decisions about older people's mental health services in Wiltshire and some of the older decisions relating to South Wiltshire have not yet been implemented.

Recommendations

15. That the Task Group continues to monitor progress with the AWP Mental Health Trust and with the PCT, by holding joint meetings at which both parties are present.

16. That the Task Group, on behalf of the Committee, seeks an update from AWP about the status of the decisions taken in relation to South Wiltshire as part of the formal monitoring of implementation process, and reports back to the Committee.

Financial Implications

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

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