

MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES IN SOUTH WILTSHIRE SCRUTINY TASK GROUP

Response to the South Wiltshire Primary Care Trust Public Consultation Document: *Modernising Mental Health Services in South Wiltshire*

The Task Group would like the South Wiltshire Primary Care Trust proposals agreed in a two step process by the Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

- (1) **The first step** to be a meeting held at the end of the consultation period where the Primary Care Trust will submit a document summarising the results of the consultation and proposed 'direction of travel' including the following views of the Task Group:
 - (a) The Task Group is satisfied with the Consultation Process undertaken. The South Wiltshire Primary Care Trust has visited units, set up cluster and steering groups, sought the views of users and carers or their nominated representatives and has been clear on how feedback from the consultation undertaken will be presented.
 - (b) In principle the Task Group approve the proposed changes in modernising the service to offer a service which places the emphasis on early intervention. In particular welcome greater emphasis being placed on '*Assertive Outreach*' and '*Crisis Intervention*' but need to see evidence that Community Team infrastructure is in place before bed reductions are made.
 - (c) The Task Group would like to see the proposals at paragraph 5.4.8 '*Changing the Model of Day Services for Adults of Working Age*' revisited to consider all day services available to people with mental health needs with any revised proposal to be subject to a minimum 12-week consultation period.
 - (d) Where evidence is referred to in the consultation document it needs to be properly sourced and presented to Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee when it considers the consultation feedback report i.e. paragraph 5.3.2 '*Secondary Care Psychological Therapy Services*'
 - (e) The Task Group supports efforts being made to correct the overhead spend as set out in paragraph 5.6.3 of the consultation document. Research conducted by the University of Kent puts top end overhead spend nationally at 15% against the current 17% overhead spend of the Avon, Gloucestershire and Wiltshire Mental Health Trust.

(2) Following agreement on which proposals are to be implemented, **the second step** to be a further meeting of the Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee which will consider the following issues:

(a) Prior to implementation of any agreed modernisation changes a detailed project plan should be submitted to the Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee setting out:

- Phased plan for modernisation
- Key milestones
- Detailed risk assessment
- Time scales
- Financial implications

(In particular there needs to be some evidence presented on the cash flow implications to cover savings and consideration of a potential short term spend to make long term savings in modernising the service)

(f) The South Wiltshire Primary Care Trust needs to set out how implementation of the modernisation plan will be monitored to provide assurance.

(g) There is a need to clarify the staffing position and to set out how new services proposed will be delivered using existing staff.