
Scrutiny Management Committee

17th December 2008

Report of the Head of Civic, Legal & Democratic Services

Final Report of the Health Scrutiny Committee – Dementia Review

Summary

1. This report presents the final report from the Health Scrutiny Committee regarding their Dementia Review.

Background

2. In coming to a decision to review this topic, the Committee recognised certain key objectives and the following remit was agreed:

Aim

3. To look at the experience of older people with mental health problems (and their families/carers) who access general health services for secondary care in order to identify where improvements may be required.

Key Objectives

- i. Where patients with mental health conditions access general, secondary health services, investigate whether their mental health problems are recognised and whether the connection is made between them and the required treatment.
- ii. To identify ways in which healthcare professionals may assist patients with mental health conditions to overcome the barriers they face when accessing secondary care.
- iii. To investigate ways of improving the safety of patients with mental health conditions and the secondary healthcare providers who have contact with them.
- iv. To develop initiatives for improving the experiences of mental health patients using general, secondary health care and their families/carers.

Consultation

4. As part of the review the following organisations and individuals were consulted:
 - York Older People's Assembly
 - Age Concern, York
 - Alzheimer's Society
 - York Carer's Forum
 - York Carer's Centre
 - Epilepsy Action
 - York & District Branch of Mind
 - York LINK (Local Involvement Network)
 - Individual Carers
 - City of York Council Social Services Department
 - North Yorkshire & York Primary Care Trust (NYYPCT)
 - York Hospital Foundation Trust
 - Yorkshire Ambulance Service (YAS)
 - Local GPs
 - Local Medical Committee

Options

5. Having considered the findings contained within the final report and its annexes attached, Members may choose to support all, some or none of the recommendations shown in paragraph 7 of this report, and provide their comments prior to the report being considered by the Executive.

Analysis

6. In regard to the aims and objectives of this, the final report attached analyses all of the information gathered.

Summary of Recommendations Arising from the Review

7. The recommendations arising from the Dementia Review are:
 - i. That the York Hospital Trust, in liaison with other appropriate service providers* be urged to develop and implement the Psychiatric Liaison Service (Annex A). The development of this programme to be a benchmark for training and support for staff working with dementia patients who access secondary care.

*The Yorkshire Ambulance Service is to be included amongst the service providers, whilst acknowledging the unique nature of their role.

REASON: To enable the development of the Psychiatric Liaison Service to progress.

- ii. That all service providers be urged to review their arrangements for staff training in relation to recognising and working with those with an underlying condition of dementia. Any such review should include:
- Promoting the use of Link nurses and investigating the possibility of nominating Link clinicians within defined staffing groups.
 - Investigation of the large gaps in training.
 - The utilisation of the variety of sources for training provision including the Alzheimer's Society and other voluntary sector organisations.
 - Investigation into the pooling of resources between service providers.

REASON: To ensure that all staff are adequately trained to care for the needs of dementia patients accessing secondary care.

- iii. That secondary care provider clinicians be urged to acknowledge the positive contributions that can be made by a patient's carer to that patient's ongoing programme of treatment (whilst recognising the issues surrounding patient confidentiality). Clinicians are also urged to take the following into consideration:
- Where it is recognised that there may be an underlying mental health condition to provide written details of any medication and/or treatment plans to the patient.
 - The issue of carers' information being logged on a patient's notes to be urged as good practice and an ongoing dialogue between medical practices and the York Carer's Forum to be maintained to allow for effective databases to be kept.

REASON: To ensure that carers are involved as much as possible whilst still recognising the need for patient confidentiality.

iv.

- a. That all service providers be urged to work with the relevant voluntary organisations (Alzheimer's Society, York & District branch of Mind, Age Concern, Older People's Assembly etc) to develop new initiatives and to promote the awareness of dementia (including the provision of an information leaflet for carers).
- b. That commissioner and service providers discuss the 'This is Me' initiative further with the Alzheimer's Society with a view to adopting it within their individual organisations. The Committee wished it to be known that they were very impressed with this particular initiative.

REASON: To promote and increase dementia awareness and to encourage positive initiatives to be widely and effectively used.

- v. That York Hospitals Trust, where possible, be urged to adopt a flexible approach during a dementia patient's stay in hospital, for example flexibility in hospital visiting hours and flexibility at mealtimes to allow carers to assist patients with eating.

REASON: To involve carers during a patient's stay in hospital to assist them in settling into an unfamiliar environment.

That all relevant parties be urged to resolve the ongoing issues surrounding the implementation of a universal 'Shared Care Record System' (Annex C refers).

REASON: To resolve ongoing issues

- vi. That all service providers (CYC, NYYPCT, YAS and York Hospital Trust) report back to the Committee in 6 months time to inform them of the progress that has been made.

REASON: To ensure that the recommendations are being addressed.

Corporate Priorities

- 8. The review relates to the following corporate priority:

'Improve the health and lifestyles of the people who live in York, in particular among groups whose levels of health are the poorest.'

Implications

- 9. **Financial** – There are no known direct financial implications for the Local Authority associated with the recommendations arising from this review. The Committee were mindful that there may be some financial implications for other health service providers in terms of providing funding to develop the Psychiatric Liaison Service and training of staff.
- 10. **Legal** – Section 3(3) of the 'The Local Authority (Overview and Scrutiny Committees' Health Scrutiny Functions) Regulations 2002' states that 'Where an overview and scrutiny committee requests a response from a local NHS body to whom it has made a report or recommendation, that body shall respond in writing to the Committee within 28 days of the request.'
- 11. There are no known Human Resources (HR), Equalities or other implications associated with the recommendations arising from this review or from this report.

Risk Management

- 12. There are no known risks associated with the recommendation within this cover report or with the recommendations stemming from the review.

Recommendations

13. Members are asked to note the contents of the attached final report and its annexes and provide comments on the findings and recommendations as shown in paragraph 7 of this report.

Reason: To inform the Executive's consideration of the final report.

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Report Approved Date 05.12.2008

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Wards Affected: *List wards or tick box to indicate all*

All

For further information please contact the author of the report

Background Papers:

None

Annexes

- Annex 1 Final Report – Dementia Review
Annex A Psychiatric Liaison Service
Annex B Comments from front line staff at York Hospital
Annex C Response from the Local Medical Committee
Annex D National Dementia Strategy
Annex E Care on a Hospital Ward – Information provided by the Alzheimer's Society
Annex F E-mail from Dr David Geddes
Annex G 'This is Me' Leaflet produced by the Alzheimer's Society
Annex H Extract from 'Essence of Care – Patient focused Benchmarks for Clinical Governance'