

Cover Report - Proposal to Redesign Older People's Mental Health Services and Enhance Provision of Community Care and Support

Summary

1. This report presents Members with a report from Leeds and York Partnership NHS Foundation Trust on proposals to redesign older people's mental health services and enhance the provision of community care and support. Their report is at **Annex A** to this report. Members are asked to consider whether the proposed redesign is a substantial variation to service.

Background

2. The background and further information in relation to the proposals is set out within the paper produced by Leeds and York Partnership NHS Foundation Trust and is at **Annex A** to this report.

Consultation

3. **Annex A** seeks agreement from this Committee for Leeds and York Partnership NHS Foundation Trust to proceed on the basis of a one month formal consultation period during September and October. Their rationale for a one month consultation period is that they believe that:

'...this is not major service change; it is a reconfiguration of existing services and no service elements will be discontinued.'

4. Consultation with patients and the public will take place as set out within **Annex A** unless this Committee believes these proposals constitute a substantial variation.

Guidance on Substantial Variation

5. Health Scrutiny powers around service reconfiguration are focused on the impact of any proposed change/development and the robustness of any associated consultation arrangements.
6. The Department of Health Guidance on Health Scrutiny (published in July 2003) provides assistance to Health Overview and Scrutiny Committees by setting out some guiding principles when considering the nature of proposed service changes and/or developments.
7. The guidance states that, in considering whether proposals are substantial consideration should be given to the general impact of any change on patients, carers and the public who use or have the potential to use a service. Specifically, it is suggested that the following should be taken into account:
 - **Changes in accessibility of services** – both reductions and increases on a particular site
 - **Impact of proposal on the wider community** – including the economic impact and other issues, such as transport and regeneration.
 - **Patients affected** – changes may affect the whole population or a small group (patients accessing a specialised service). If change affects a small group it may still be regarded as substantial, particularly if patients need to continue accessing that service for many years.
 - **Methods of service delivery** – altering the way a service is delivered may be a substantial change.

Options

8. Members have the following options:
 - Option 1** Agree this is not a substantial variation of service and the consultation proposals set out in Annex A to this report are acceptable
 - Option 2** Agree the proposed redesign of this service does constitute a substantial variation to service and the full 12 week consultation period should be implemented

Analysis

9. The Associate Director, York and North Yorkshire Services from Leeds and York Partnership NHS Foundation Trust will be in attendance at the meeting to present the report and answer any questions that Members may have.
10. As mentioned in **paragraph 3** of this report and in **Annex A** Leeds and York Partnership NHS Foundation Trust do not believe that this is a substantial variation to service and are therefore proposing a one month formal consultation (a 'substantial variation' usually requires a longer consultation period).
11. Members are asked to consider all the information received to date and confirm whether they are happy with the proposals set out in **Annex A** or whether they feel the proposals to redesign this service constitute a substantial variation.
12. In weighing up the situation Members should be aware that a 'substantial variation or development' of health services is not defined in Regulations. Proposals may range from changes that affect a small group of people within a small geographical area to major reconfigurations of specialist services involving large number of patients across a wide area. The key feature is that there is a major change to services experienced by patients and future patients. However a useful guide to follow is that set out in **paragraph 7** of this report.
13. Members may wish to ask the representative from the Trust about the changes they intend to make to the service and also about the proposed consultation process i.e. what it will be asking, who it will be asking it of and how the results from the consultation will be used to inform the redesign of this service. This is to enable Members to gain greater clarity on whether they feel the consultation process proposed is commensurate with the proposed changes. If, after this discussion, Members are satisfied that the proposals and the consultation period set out in **Annex A** are suitable then Leeds and York Partnership NHS Foundation Trust will be able to implement their consultation plan attached at **Appendix 1** to this report.

14. However, if Members feel that the service redesign constitutes a substantial variation to service then they should advise Leeds and York Partnership NHS Foundation Trust of this at today's meeting in order that they may consider changing their consultation plan to include a formal 12 week consultation period (the Committee would need to be able to justify its reasoning if they form the view that this is a substantial variation). If it is agreed that a proposal is a substantial variation the Trust must formally consult with the Overview and Scrutiny Committee and other stakeholders, including service users. Cabinet Office guidelines recommend that full consultations should last a minimum of 12 weeks; however it is possible for Health Overview and Scrutiny Committees and Health Trusts to reach agreement about a different timescale for consultation (even if the changes are deemed to be substantial); what is important is the quality of any consultation undertaken

Council Plan 2011-2015

15. The issues discussed within this report are directly associated with the theme of 'Protecting Vulnerable People' as set out in the Council Plan 2011-2015.
16. However the various health organisations working within the city are required to consult with the Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee on some of the more significant service changes.

Implications

17. **Financial** - There are no financial implications for City of York Council associated with the recommendations set out in this report.
18. **Human Resources (HR)** – There are no HR implications for City of York Council associated with the recommendations set out in this report.
19. There are no known other implications associated with the recommendations set out within this report.

Risk Management

20. There are no known risks associated with the recommendations within this report. However, Members should assure themselves that the most appropriate kind of consultation takes place in relation to this redesign of service.

Recommendations

21. Members are asked to consider the information received in the agenda papers and at today's meeting and decide whether they agree with Leeds and York Partnership NHS Foundation Trust that the proposed changes do not constitute a substantial variation of service.

Reason: To ensure that the most appropriate consultation period is set for the proposed redesign of service.

Contact Details

Author:

Tracy Wallis
Scrutiny Officer
Scrutiny Services
Tel: 01904 551714

Chief Officer Responsible for the report:

Andrew Docherty
Assistant Director Governance and ICT
Tel: 01904 551004

Report
Approved

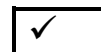


Date 29.08.2012

Specialist Implications Officer(s) None

Wards Affected:

All



For further information please contact the author of the report

Background Papers:

None

Annexes

Annex A

Report from Leeds and York Partnership NHS Foundation Trust - Proposal to redesign older people's mental health services and enhance provision of community care and support

Appendix 1

Consultation Plan