

Adults, Wellbeing and Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Date 23 July 2009

Light Touch Review of Mental Health Day Services



Report of Lorraine O'Donnell, Assistant Chief Executive

Purpose of the Report

- 1 To report upon the progress of the Adults Wellbeing and Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee's Working Group response to the ongoing consultation exercise in respect of the review of Mental Health Day Services

Background

- 2 The County Council's Adults, Wellbeing and Health Directorate commenced a consultation exercise of proposed changes to Mental Health Day Services. The consultation period runs from 1st May to 24th July 2009.
3. The Adults, Wellbeing and Health Overview and Scrutiny Sub-Committee identified within their "long-list" of work programme issues for 2009/10, responding to the consultation exercise. Accordingly, it was agreed that a "light touch" review be undertaken to inform that response.

Objectives

4. The Objectives of the review were identified as follows, namely:-
 - To understand the rationale behind the consultation exercise and to examine the relationships and inter-dependencies that exist between the County Council's Day Services Commissioning Team, NHS County Durham and the Tees, Esk and Wear Valley NHS Foundation Trust in respect of their role/duties to improve the mental health and well being of the residents of County Durham.

- To satisfy members that the consultation exercise is sufficiently robust in ensuring that all interested parties have the opportunity to input into the review process.
- To obtain the views of service users, carers and other interested parties in respect of the proposed changes to Mental Health Day service provision in County Durham.

Terms of Reference

5. Building upon the objectives detailed above, the review sought to identify outcomes and make recommendations relating to:-

The need for change

- Identify the reasons why Mental Health Day Service provision in County Durham needs to change.
- Ascertain the National and Local Policy drivers behind the proposed review.
- Understand the relationships between Mental Health Day Service Commissioners and providers and their role in improving Mental Health wellbeing within County Durham.

Community Involvement in the Review Process

- Consider how service users and carers can be involved in the review process and provide their views on the existing service delivery model and the proposed changes.
- Examine the role which the Community and Voluntary Sector have in contributing to improvements to mental health and wellbeing in County Durham.

Developing a response to the Consultation document

- Respond to the consultation document against a framework of questions posed therein.

Progress to date

6. The Light Touch Review Working group have met three times to receive evidence in respect of the agreed terms of reference.
7. At its meeting held on 26th June, the Working group received evidence from Durham County Council's Adults, Well-being and Health Directorate regarding the need for change with specific emphasis on:-
 - the National and Local Policy Drivers behind the proposed changes

- the service improvements that would be delivered under the proposed Community Recovery Service Model.
8. At the same meeting, the Working Group received evidence from NHS County Durham and the Tees, Esk and Wear Valley NHS Foundation Trust which:-
- explained the inter-relationships between the NHS Family organisations and the County Council's Adults, Well-being and Health Directorate insofar as their roles and responsibilities in improving Mental Health and Well-being within County Durham were concerned, and also
 - confirmed both Organisations broad support for the proposed changes to the County Council's In-house Mental Health Day Services.
9. The Working Group then met with Service User and Carer representatives on 3rd July 2009 as well as a representative of the Countywide Forum and MIND. Evidence was taken from these representatives in respect of their views regarding:-
- the existing levels of service currently provided, including day centre based activities,
 - the on-going consultation process in respect of proposed changes to the way in which Mental Health Day Services are delivered, and
 - the proposed "Community Recovery Service" model and the corresponding focus on Individual Care Plans.
10. Both meetings have resulted in the identification of a range of key issues which have been collated into a draft report which, at the time of writing this report, will be considered by the Working Group at its meeting on 21st July 2009. Thereafter, the working group will formulate a series of recommendations for incorporation into a final report which will be submitted as part of this Committee's response to the Consultation exercise.
11. A verbal update on the review findings and recommendations will be given at the meeting and a full report brought back to the Adults Well-being and Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee meeting scheduled for 27th August 2009.

Recommendation

12. Members are invited to receive this report, note the progress made to date regarding the Light Touch Review of Mental Health Day Services and agree to a full report being considered at the Committee's meeting scheduled for 27th August 2009.

Background Papers

Durham County Council Adults, Wellbeing and Health consultation document on the future of Mental Health Day Services.

Working Papers and Notes from the Mental Health Day Services Light Touch Review Working Group meetings held on 26th June and 3rd July 2009.

Contact: Feisal Jassat, Overview and Scrutiny Manager
Tel: 0191 383 3506 **E-Mail** Feisal.Jassat@durham.gov.uk

Author: Stephen Gwilym,
Tel 0191 527 4745 **E-Mail** Stephen.Gwilym@durham.gov.uk
