

Adults Wellbeing and Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee



9th September 2010

Update to Overview and Scrutiny following a meeting with the County Durham and Darlington Mental Health Forum.

Report of Rachael Shimmin, Corporate Director, Adults Wellbeing and Health

Purpose of the Report

- 1 To update Overview and Scrutiny regarding issues raised by the County Durham and Darlington Mental Health Forum.

Background

- 2 A progress report regarding the DCC In-House Day Services (Mental Health) was provided for Overview and Scrutiny on 26th April 2010, a letter of response was received from the Forum on the day of that meeting and it was agreed that the matters would be deferred to allow time for the Forum's issues to be raised.
- 3 A response to the points raised in their letter was drafted for Overview and Scrutiny for 23rd June 2010, however it was agreed that in order to allow the County Durham and Darlington Mental Health Forum more time to consider its response the report was withdrawn. This report and answers to the questions is attached as Appendix 2.

Recommendations and reasons

- 4 David Shipman and Karen Vasey attended a Forum meeting on the 2nd August 2010.

5 Progress Update

The meeting discussed a wide-ranging number of issues from the original report, the Forum letter and implementation issues as the Mental Health Day Service has developed in to the new 'Support and Recovery' service.

- 6 In addition, two further feedback sessions have been organised in September, to give the wider 'public' who were involved in the original consultation, information about the new service and the opportunity for further clarification.

- 7 It was agreed at the meeting with the Forum that a framework for regular consultation and engagement, including feedback and accountability mechanisms would be put in place for the future.
- 8 The only issue of significance, which the Forum have asked to be formally noted by Overview and Scrutiny, was a strongly-voiced view that they could not agree with the statistical analysis carried out during the consultation (see point 14 Appendix 2 for the officer response). The service users felt that there was much stronger evidence of opposition to the proposed changes.
- 9 Accepting the specific issue raised regarding point 8 above, service users and officers agreed that it would be beneficial to hold regular liaison meetings and maintain a 'partnership' approach for the future.
- 10 The issues raised as a consequence of the consultation and subsequent implementation of the 'Support and Recovery' model have now been fully explored with the Forum.

Recommendation for Overview and Scrutiny

- 11 Overview and Scrutiny note the progress and support the establishing of a regular forum between the Forum and DCC.
- 12 Overview and Scrutiny formally record the views of the Forum regarding the original consultation and decision making process.
- 13 Overview and Scrutiny receive a further progress report in 6 or 12 months time.

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Appendix 1: Implications

Finance

None

Staffing

None

Equality and Diversity

None

Accommodation

None

Crime and disorder

None

Sustainability

None

Human rights

None

Localities and Rurality

None

Young people

None

Consultation

None

Health

None

Personalisation

None